WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 1865.

MEDIATION IN THE SPANISH-CHILEAN AFFAIR.

The government has been advised that representations made to Spain in favor of peace with Chile have so far prevailed that the good offices of France and England have been accepted upon the terms proposed by them and the United States.

EMBARKATION OF SECRETARY SEWARD.

Under the advice of physicians the Secretary of State and Assistant Secretary embarked last night on board the United States steamer De Soto for a short voyage in the warmer latitudes of the South Atlantic. They expect to be absent two or three weeks. William Hunter, Chief Clerk of the Department of State, has been appointed Acting Secretary of State during the interval, and H. N. Conger, Commissioner of Emigration, has been appointed Acting Assistant Secretary.

NEW YEAR AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

The Presidential reception at the White House to-morrow will probably not be so brilliant as under more favorable conditions of weather, but, nevertheless, promises to be an extensive and imposing affair. Several hundred military and naval officers are in the city, in addition the diplomatic corps, and the inevitable concourse of citizens, who will of course all be there.

THE EULOGY ON PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

A rumor is gaining considerable credit and general publicity in Washington that Secretary Stanton will not deliver the eulogy upon Abraham Lincoln before the two houses of Congress on the 12th proximo, but has decided to make a formal declination of that honor next Friday, upon the reassembling of Congress. No reason is assigned.

THE DESTRUCTION OF LIGHTHOUSES BY THE REBELS.

The estimates of the Lighthouse Board for the completion of repairs to lighthouses damaged during the rebellion call for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars more, making a sum total of three hundred thousand dollars which the rebellion cost us in the single item of lighthouses.

OPPOSITION TO ARMY AND NAVY PROMOTIONS.

A large number of remonstrances have been sent to the Senate Military Committee against the confirmation of the brevets which have been so indiscriminately conferred upon officers by the head of the War Department. Many of these officers have, no doubt, performed meritorious clerical service during the war, at Washington or elsewhere; still, the old army officers who have served in the field all through protest against granting the lion's share of honors to that class. So in the navy there is much bitter complaint, among seniors who have not had the opportunity for distinguishing themselves, against the new naval custom of jumping meritorious juniors over their heads, thus affecting their rank and standing for life. These elderly seadogs think the difficulty could be obviated if Mr. Welles would distribute a few brevets among them judiciously.

MRS. C. C. CLAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Mrs. C. C. Clay, having returned from a visit to her husband at Fortress Monroe, called at the White House this evening and obtained an interview with the President. She is indefatigable in her efforts to secure a parole for her husband, with reasonable prospect of success.

THE MASSACHUSETTS ENLISTMENTS.

The military commission appointed to inquire into the alleged enlistment of foreigners by the State of Massachusetts took testimony in this city a few weeks ago, proceeded to Boston and secured all there was available in that city, and have returned to Washington. Another visit to the "Hub," however, is considered inevitable. As yet nothing is known of the testimony accumulated.

WAR CLAIMS OF THE BORDER STATES.

The border States which have claims against the government for money paid their militia, called out at the request of commanders of departments, and employed in defence of their States against rebel raids, complain that injustice is done them by Mr. Blaine, Chairman of the Committee on the War Debt of Loyal States, by the following circular, issued to Governors from the border States, ask reimbursement for moneys actually expended for their militia, and desire to keep this question entirely separated from the one indicated in the circular. The latter class of claims will prove too large to be ever paid besides working unequally on States, and actually giving a premium to such States as paid enormous bounties to keep their citizens at home and thereby protect their industrial pursuits while the border States were being devastated by war. The circular speaks for itself:—

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15, 1865.

SIR—I am instructed by the Select Committee on the war debts of the loyal States, to request from you at the earliest practicable period a succinct statement of all money advanced or expended by your State in support of the late war for the preservation of of the Union; also the expenditures made by counties, cities, towns, townships and other municipal corporations, and where these cannot be given with accuracy, the most reliable and well considered estimate may be substituted. Be pleased to state with care the amount of these expenditures for which debts have been contracted and still exist, distinguishing the State debt proper from municipal debt. Let it also be clearly set forth for what purpose the expenditures were made and debts incurred, whether for the general defense in the furnishing, transporting and payment of soldiers, or for bounties to volunteers, or for any other object connected with the support of the war. It is not expected that the statement will embrace any claims your State may have filed against the general government for auditing and allowance under existing law. By furnishing the above statement, properly authenticated, you will greatly facilitate the labor of the committee. Very respectfully yours, &c., JAMES G. BLAINE, Chairman."

THE PACIFIC SQUADRON.

The following letter has been received at the Department of State:—

UNITED STATES CONSULATE, PARAMARIBO, Dec. 4, 1865.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you that I received a letter from Mr. Leland, Consul pro tem at Cayenne, this morning, wherein he states that the United States steamers Vanderbilt, Tuscarora and monitor Monadnock, under Commodore Rodgers, arrived at that port on the 27th ult., and took in four hundred tons of coal, and left on one for the Pacific on the 30th. He further states that the monitor behaves beautifully at sea. The Governor and other authorities at Cayenne showed all favors to the commanders and officers, and exchanged national salutes. I am your most obedient servant, HENRY SAWYER, U. S. Consul.

Hon. WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

MILITARY MATTERS.

General Grant proposes sending staff officers to the principal military departments as soon as the holidays are over, to see what further reduction of troops and materials of war can be made in the several localities. The workings of the Quartermaster's Department is likely to receive especial attention, with a view to lessening expenses. Major List, of the staff, has just returned from Chicago.

NATIONAL BANK IN NEW ORLEANS.

The Louisiana National Bank of New Orleans, capital $1,000,000, has been authorized by the Comptroller of the Currency.

The total circulation of national banks is $237,371,000.

THE CHURCHES AND PASTORS OF THE CAPITAL.

The congregations at the different churches to-day were unusually large. The discourses from the pulpit were mostly made up of appropriate reference to the close of the year and the blessings of tranquility and plenty now vouchsafed the nation upon the commencement of 1866. These sermons, it is regarded, will compare favorably with any of a kindred character delivered throughout the country. Some of the most talented divines known among the religious denominations are to be found in the pulpits of the capital.

THE ENGINEER CORPS.

The consolidation of the Bureaus of Topographical and Fortification engineers of the army into one "engineer corps" at the commencement of the war and its happy results are suggesting to some of our national legislators the wisdom and propriety of enlarging their scope of duties, by intrusting to them the surveys of our coasts and lakes, and thus dispensing with the extra and needless expense of the Coast Survey Office, besides eliminating from the government pay rolls sundry savans and pensioners who are now more ornamental than useful. The Engineer corps of the army are fully competent to survey and map out our lake and coasts, and to them rightfully belong these duties.

THE DANGERS OF PETROLEUM.

Admonished by the disasters which have resulted from the burning of petroleum, the Secretary of the Treasury has directed Collectors of Internal Revenue to see that every precaution is used in the storage of this combustible matter, and wherever applications are made for the storage of the same within the limits of any town or city to forward to the department a statement that the warehouse if established will not in case of fire endanger the lives and property of the persons doing business in its vicinity.

PERSONAL.

Major James R. O. Belrne, of New York, in the Provost Marshal's Department, has received two brevets on the President's order, and has been assigned to duty at the White House.

1866.

Opening of the New Year in the Metropolis.

THE RELIGIOUS SERVICES LAST NIGHT.

WATCHING THE OLD YEAR OUT.

RINGING THE NEW YEAR IN.

Receptions by Municipal Dignitaries.

The Programme of Festivities for Day and Night.

&c. &c. &c.

Yesterday the elements quietly wrapped the old year in a shroud of white, and the dark and sullen sexton, Midnight, buried him out of sight, but, unfortunately, could not bury his attendant horrors with him. This morning ushers in his stead a new year, which rises with princely form indeed, "bearing upon his baby brow" the crown of Peace. To-day a year ago we were in the midst of a war which then appeared interminable; now the opposing power has been crushed, the ruin he accomplished has been partly reconstructed, and we are again on the broad road of Union and prosperity.

The new year was ushered in in this city yesterday and last night with all the usual ceremonies. In the various churches appropriate allusions were made to the dying year, the majority of the sermons taking the form of a retrospect of the great national events of the eventful era just passed. At the Church of the Pilgrims and the Methodist church on Lexington avenue and Fifty-second street watch meetings were held, and the old year sung out and the new year sung in with all the appropriate ceremonies.

According to a long established custom the bells of old Trinity church rang the old year out and the new year in. Mr. James E. Ayliff performed the following programme, commencing fifteen minutes before twelve P. M.:—

1. Ringing the Changes on eight bells.
2. Hymn—Praise the Lord, ye Heavens Adore Him. Hardn.
3. Hymn—Quiet, Lord, My Froward Heart. Guardini.
4. Watchman, Tell us of the Night. [Intimation for the clock to strike twelve.]
5. A Happy New Year to Thee.
6. Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean.
7. Carol—See! the Morning Star is Dwelling.
8. My Lodging is on the Cold Ground.
9. Scotch Melody, from Guy Mannering.
10. The Soldier's Return.
11. Yankee Doodle.
12. Home, Sweet Home.

The Mayors of New York and Brooklyn announce in their cards, which we publish below, that they will receive their friends as usual to-day.

THE RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Watching for the New Year at the Church of the Pilgrims.

The advent of the New Year was celebrated with many interesting ceremonies at the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Pilgrims, Forty-eighth street. Evening services commenced at the usual hour and were prolonged till midnight. Prayer was conducted by the pastor, Rev. S. A. Baker, and was of the most earnest description. Several members of the congregation then stood up and related their experiences and the manner in which they had been rescued from perdition and placed on the path to heaven. The subject of the sermon was, "My times are in thy hand"—Psalms, thirty-first chapter—and the sermon was a review of the history of our country for the past year. Another sermon was preached at a late hour, the text being taken from Matthew, twenty-first chapter. When the hour of midnight arrived the new year was greeted with a universal shout from the congregation, and then an exciting scene of congratulations, hand-shaking, embracing and merriment took place. After indulging for some time in this reunion, the congregation separated.

Watch Meeting at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Fiftieth Street.

At the above church a large crowd of earnest worshippers passed the last hours of the year 1865 in heartfelt prayer. The exercises were not of the usually regular character, each member of the congregation being at liberty to lead his fellows in prayer. The prayers were most appropriate to the occasion. Thanksgiving was offered to the Almighty for the mercies vouchsafed to His people during the year just drawing to a close; for His bringing us as a nation through the trial and trouble of civil war, from the jaws of death and dissolution and restoring us a united people worshipping at His footstool; in restoring to the light of liberty three millions of human beings, and in showing His mercy and inestimable goodness to each and all of us.

Short addresses were made by the pastor and elders on the fearful importance of the occasion. It was fraught with great moments to all. How many had at the commencement of 1865 been in the full enjoyment of health and strength who now slept in the silent graves, and how many, too, would sleep that sleep which knows no waking before 1866 will have passed away! These addresses were listened to with attention, and the words seemed to sink deep into the hearts of many present.

The last moments of the old year were spent in silent prayer, and the scene, as the finger on the dial pointed to the meridian line, was one of interest. So soon as the last stroke of the bell told the advent of 1866 all sprung from their knees and shouted a welcome to the infant year. The minister congratulated his flock, and his flock one another, and so was the new year hailed.

THE MUNICIPAL RECEPTIONS.

Mayor Hoffman's Invitation.

A CARD.

The Common Council having tendered to Hon. John T. Hoffman, Mayor elect, the use of the Governor's Room, in the City Hall, for that purpose, he will be happy to receive his friends and fellow citizens there on New Year's Day, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock.

Reception by the Brooklyn Officials.

Mayor Wood, the retiring officer, and Mayor Booth, the new incumbent, will receive their friends from ten to one o'clock to-day (New Year's), at the Mayor's office, City Hall. Chief Engineer John Cunningham will receive his friends at his office, City Hall, from ten to two o'clock. J. Oakley Nodine, the Street Commissioner, will receive calls at his office, City Hall, from ten A. M. to one o'clock P. M.

THE PROGRAMME OF AMUSEMENTS.

New Year's at the Theatres.

Old Father Time has been veritably "taken by the forelock" in 1866 by the managers of the undermentioned fashionable and well conducted places of amusement, who have determined to introduce the New Year to-day to their hosts of patrons with play, and song, and dance—in fact, "beaming all over with smiles"—the very form in which it should be presented to a happy and contented people. It will be seen from our resumé that most talented companies will play most excellent pieces in the theatres; that wit, song and humor will abound in the music halls; that riders, acrobats and other performers, possessing amazing nerve and graceful elegance, will be marshalled at the circus; that Leslie will be out on his rope and in his dances; indeed, that between the actors, the muse and the equilibrists, the only difficulty will be for the people to determine in what particular place they wish to enjoy themselves after having bid a "Happy New Year" to their friends.

THE BROADWAY THEATRE.

The favorite and popular comedy, Sam, will be performed at the Broadway this evening, the performance to conclude with the impersonation, in two acts, of Mose, Mr. F. S. Chanfrau will sustain both characters. He will be supported in fine style by the numerous and talented company engaged in the establishment. It is scarcely necessary to inform our readers that Mr. Chanfrau will positively close his flattering engagement of fifteen weeks' duration at this house next Saturday (January 6) evening, so that if any among us have not yet seen Sam they must visit him during the holidays of New Year's, when they will meet him in company with the renowned Mose. We shall next week have the pleasure of welcoming back to our metropolitan boards that admirable comedian, Mr. John E. Owens, who commences his long announced engagement at the Broadway on Monday, January 8. He is to make his appearance in a new version of the play of The Poonah's Lawyer, in which his great character part of Solon Shingle is preserved and still further developed, while the objections to the trivial framework of the old piece are removed. Had this been done before Mr. Owens appeared in it in London the English critics, who are "death" on the unities, would have been more enthusiastic in their appreciation of the piece. In order to accommodate public curiosity Mr. Wood announces that the box sheet for the sale of reserved seats will be opened on Wednesday next, January 3.

MISS LUCY RUSHTON'S THEATRE.

Sheridan's comedy, The School for Scandal, will be presented again at Lucy Rushton's New York theatre this evening. Miss Rushton has many novelties in preparation, but the comedy just named is so favorably received by the crowds who throng her new and elegant house in Broadway that she has determined to permit it to remain on the boards for some time longer. Miss Rushton plays Lady Teazle. Her company is first class, embracing many New York favorite performers. During the evening the orchestra will perform the following pieces:—Overture, Zampa; Quadrille, L'Africaine; Valse, The First Flirtation. A selection of American popular airs is also on the bills.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.

Tony Pastor opens the New Year with a grand matinee, to be given at his opera house in the Bowery, at half-past two o'clock this afternoon. The company will perform again in the evening. The Bowery favorite, Josh Hart, will appear at Tony Pastor's to-day, his first night in four years, as will also Miss Laura Leclaire, in the original drama The Victim, with imitations of actors and a terrific broadsword combat. Miss Lizzie Donaldson will make a first appearance on the wire volante. Honest minded persons need not be alarmed when we tell them that the Bulls and Bears will be on the boards, but only in play, by Reeves and Warren. Tony Pastor's bill for New Year's is varied with nice discrimination.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

The new Fifth Avenue Opera House will be open for a New Year's matinee at one o'clock this afternoon. The company will perform in the evening, as usual. A rich treat awaits the visitors on both occasions. The eminently successful and immensely funny and laughable farce, the Black Statue, will be played. The young favorites Willie and Charlie Guy make their first appearance at the establishment to-day. The Challenge Dance, Scenes in an Apple Orchard, with a Holiday and Festival Dance, have also been arranged.

THE NEW NATIONAL CIRCUS.

Will three exhibitions satisfy the pleasant crowds who will seek to enter the National Circus in the Bowery? Mr. Montpellier doubts it, but has done his best for New Year's Day. The magnificent cavalcade of the circus will be out in their performances at half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon, half-past two in the afternoon and half past seven in the evening. The matinees will be brilliant, and afford excellent opportunities of witnessing the performances before making "calls." Santa Claus will distribute presents to the children. Geo. Derious, the extraordinary "man monkey," will be out in the laughable afterpiece of The Adventures of Mungo. The Conklin Brothers will appear in their wonderful sensation gymnastic feats; Bobby Williams, the famous clown, will go on with his chin-chopping, and the numerous star riders will perform most daring feats of horsemanship.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS

have issued a very interesting programme for this evening at their hall on Broadway. The entertainments will be varied, as usual, and the company in full voice for New Year's. Grafted in the Army, Beautiful Daisy, Comic Duty, Little Mary and City Life will be given. Crowds go to see and hear the monster concert Tinpan on-on—Conductor, Signor Dano Bryanti; Reckon I'm in Luck, Mr. Dave Reed, and Dan Bryant as the Stump Orator. Old Times Rocks will introduce the whole troupe in their holiday dances.

THE THEATRE COMIQUE.

The New Year's matinee at this house, No. 720 Broadway, will commence at two o'clock in the afternoon. The performances will be exciting and amusing. In addition to Harry Leslie's feats on the tight rope and his knee dance the following artistes, among others, will appear:—Miss Rosini Gerald, the vocalist; Miss Francis, in comic songs; Rody Maguire and I. P. Batterson.

The Two Buzzards will be played afternoon and evening.

THE SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.

This pleasing house, on Broadway, will be crowded on New Year's evening, as it has been since its opening. Birch, Wambold, Bernard and Backus are there, joyous as they have been every evening during the season. After various songs and dances, to-day New Year's Calls by Adel-Greasy and Norma will be given. Norma, Henry Rice, Adel-Greasy, W. Bernard, Othello and Macbeth, by Billy Birch and Charley Backus, and Mrs. McGowan's Reel, by J. Cooper and W. Fields, are in the programme also.

THE GRAND STREET THEATRE.

This very spacious, fireproof house, situated at the corner of Grand and Crosby streets, will be open this afternoon and evening with a fine array of artistic talent. The company will perform in dramatic pantomimes and ballet. A splendid New Year's holiday programme is offered. This new establishment is to be conducted with much care. Indeed, the proprietor sets out with the promise that "a due regard shall be had for morality, decency and respectability"—an excellent resolve with which to inaugurate a new enterprise on such a happy day, and the disregard of which has entailed sad consequences on society as well as on some of his would-be professional brethren.

THE FAKIR OF VISHNU

intends to celebrate New Year's evening in Odd Fellows' Hall, Hoboken, New Jersey. The Fakir is a wonderful fellow—mirth, wonder and future attending on him and his audiences. This evening he opens in Hoboken his popular gift *soirees magique*, and will give away one hundred beautiful presents in addition to his exhibition of a cataclysm of wonders.

Singular Case of Suffocation.

FOUR PARTIES RENDERED INSENSIBLE—TWO OF THEM DEAD—AN AFFAIR OF MYSTERY, ETC.

A very mysterious case, involving the death of two parties and endangering the lives of two others, was brought to light yesterday. It appears that a Mrs. Rosanna Gahey, aged sixty-five, her son Francis, aged twenty-six, and her daughter Nancy A., aged twenty-four, and her grandson Francis, aged four years, all occupied a small room in the tenement house 597 Grand street, and that about one o'clock yesterday morning the son Francis, who is a baker, came home and went to bed. The other members of the family had already retired. At daybreak nothing was heard from the family, and at ten o'clock Thomas Gahey, a brother of Francis, called at the house, but, observing the shutters still closed, concluded the parties were sleeping longer than usual, and went away. Thomas Dunn and another party subsequently went to the door, but found it locked. About half-past two Mrs. Cosgrove, a lady residing at 599 Grand street, went to the house to call on Mrs. Gahey, and knocked at the door, but no one answering, she tried the latch and found the door open. She went into the room and saw Mrs. Gahey, the daughter and grandson lying in bed, and the son sitting in a chair, and all, to every appearance, dead. She ran out and gave the alarm. Officer Brodhead, of the Thirteenth precinct, came in, and on examination found the old lady and grandson were dead. The young man and young woman were still alive. Dr. Bilvin, police surgeon, and Dr. Galvin were called in, and succeeded in restoring the two parties to partial consciousness. They were unable, however, to give any explanation of the circumstances. The only theory that could be arrived at was that as the room was very small and very tightly closed up, and a small cooking stove in it contained some fire, a sufficient amount of gas from the stove must have remained in the room to produce death. Coroner Gover was notified, and will hold an inquest on the bodies to-morrow, when all the facts will be elicited. At present the affair looks rather mysterious.

The Defalcation.

THE CASE OF THE LATE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR.

It is ascertained that in the accounts of estates rendered by the Public Administrator to the Surrogate up to the 30th of December no defalcations exist, with the exception of a small amount alleged to have disappeared from the estate of Richard Coogan, deceased, which was immediately placed under examination before an auditor by direction of the Surrogate. The loss of assets confessed by Dr. Bradford in his letter to the Common Council must therefore fall upon estates which are still in the Public Administrator's hands, where they are left by the provisions of the law for one year before an account is rendered by him to the Surrogate. An examination of the Public Administrator's office has been carefully made by Mr. Hoffman, who has possession of it by the appointment of Mr. Develin, and public curiosity on the subject of the defalcation there will doubtless be promptly satisfied. General Davies, the new Public Administrator, will enter upon his duties to-day.

Suicide of an Artist.

BOSTON, Dec. 31, 1865.

A young man, named Richard Owens, a landscape painter, shot himself dead with a pistol last evening, in Bruce's window shade store, on Washington street, where he was employed. He had but lately arrived in Boston, and it is said he was from Zanesville, Ohio. He had exhibited manifested symptoms of insanity.

SERVICES YESTERDAY.

Discourse by Rev. Dr. Buckland at Calvary Baptist Church—Sermon by Rev. Mr. Montgomery at the Church of the Incarnation—Sermon by Rev. W. A. Bartlett at the Elm Place Congregational Church, Brooklyn—Dedication of a New German Methodist Church in Fourteenth Street.

Discourse by Rev. Dr. Buckland at Calvary Baptist Church.

There was a large attendance at Calvary Baptist church, in Twenty-third street, yesterday morning. A discourse on the new year was preached by Rev. Dr. Buckland. The reverend preacher commenced his discourse by quoting from the tenth chapter of Hebrews, thirty-second verse—"Call to remembrance the former days." From this text he preached an eloquent discourse. God had so ordained it that we should mark time by different periods. One of those periods had just passed away. The history of the human soul for a single year, could it be written or told, would indeed be highly interesting. It would contain angelic lessons to us all. The history of a family for a single year also contained interesting lessons of cherished principles, joys and sorrows. In the same way was it with the history of the church. Let them look back to the events which transpired in that church during the year. Let them enter with zeal into the future. If he had one desire on earth it was that this congregation should excel in religious faith, so as to enlist the power of the Almighty in their favor—to forward the missionary work—to organize their Sabbath schools and other Christian labors. God had crowned their efforts with success. As a church they had done well. One third of their indebtedness had been removed. Elements of moral disease had been peacefully removed. Nothing marked the favors of God to a church more than this. Good and faithful men had been sent to teach them the Gospel. He shrank from endeavoring to draw any from other churches, but he would be very happy to have as many as possible come within the folds of his congregation. God had shown them during the past year how generously he could protect and cherish those whom he loved. Their attendance had been regular, and those who were ever at the feet of Christ would be surely imbued with the real and religious ardor so necessary for salvation. One great evil of our day was indifference to attending the house of God. People should not ruin their souls by attending to business more than to the care of their souls. He (the reverend preacher) would urge his congregation to be punctual in their attendance at church. He thanked God for the earnestness and progress of the year. In this city of attractions the strongest exertions should be made to bring all to the church. What were the beneficial churches in this city? Were they not those where the Gospel had been preached plainly and earnestly? Not those where attractions were set forth and sermons preached to please the senses and tickle the ears. The year 1865 would ever be great in history. While the whole country would look back to it as the peace year, the members of his congregation could claim it as the period when they found Christ. He would beg of them to come that day and enter earnestly into the work of God; to commence the new year with profit to themselves and to their souls. He would address those who were come to rest. They had found peace everlasting. Those whom they had been called upon to mourn during the past year had left a noble record behind them. A brother who had died one year ago was but one year in glory. There was rapture in the skies that day over what brought tears in their eyes here below. Some had died suddenly, others far away, others faded like a flower; but the thought should comfort all that they had been so long in glory. We had no need to mourn for those who now had mansions of bliss above. Let the year that now closed give all more devotion for the kingdom of God; so that they could join those who had gone before. He would ask them at the close of this year if they were ready to meet their God. If not, would they expose themselves to be weighed in the balance of God's justice and found wanting? After some further remarks the reverend gentleman concluded.

Services at the Church of the Incarnation.

The services at the Church of the Incarnation, corner of Lexington avenue and Thirty-fourth street, last evening were of an interesting character, the occasion being the annual visit and appeal for aid by the children of the Protestant Episcopal Orphan Asylum. The congregation, however, was unusually small. After the usual prayer, which was devoutly listened to by all present, several of the orphan children, accompanied by the organ, sang the Forty-third hymn, Common Prayer, entitled, "While shepards watched their flocks by night," in a manner highly creditable to their musical training. The Rev. Dr. Montgomery then ascended the pulpit, and, taking for his text the fourteenth chapter and eighteenth verse according to St. John—"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you"—made a most urgent and affecting appeal to his hearers in behalf of the orphans, the specially beloved of Christ. He spoke at considerable length, setting forth the claims of the Orphan Asylum as the most benevolent of all institutions. Here children are trained in the love and fear of God, clothed, fed and found employment as soon as they are able to maintain themselves. In conclusion, he said the Orphan Home of the Protestant Episcopal Church speaks for itself. You see before you the little ones who are cared for. Their physical condition may be favorably argued from their bright eyes, rosy cheeks and general healthful appearance. Out of one hundred and sixty-eight children of that institution but one death occurred during the past year. The managers are now in much need, and have in the treasury at the present time only enough of money to sustain the asylum for two months. It requires $1,200 per month for its support. They now appeal to this congregation for that aid which they have a right to expect from us.

The collection was then taken up, and a fair sum was realized considering the limited number present, shortly after which the congregation dispersed.

"The Jubilee of the New Year."

DISCOURSE BY REV. WM. ALVIN BARTLETT AT ELM PLACE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BROOKLYN.

The Rev. W. A. Bartlett preached last night to a large congregation in his church in Elm place, Brooklyn, on the subject of "The Jubilee of the New Year." His text he selected from the Second Book of Samuel, twelfth, verse of the seventh chapter—"Then Samuel took a stone and set it," &c. In elucidating his text the reverend gentleman said that Samuel's power with God had redeemed Israel from his wrath. The power of a pure character with Heaven had not been considered by the enemy, and Israel was redeemed through the mediation of a just man. There were epochs in the life of every nation evidently providential. Our last struggle was full of this demonstration, and the most unbelieving had at length come to have faith in the Divine interposition. It was becoming to recognize the spiritual and material benefits which were the gift of God. The year was truly a jubilee year with the present congregation. They had turned an important corner in their history. An American Christian had a rich inheritance from the past. The deduction of the losses from the gains of life left us facilities and enjoyments whose possession were pleasure. The inevitable law that "God gave to him who hath" operated in grace as in thrift. God had made us getters, and if we had nothing it was through our own fault. All of God's dealings first recognized man's free agency. Like certain elements and agents in chemistry which changed the nature of other things without changing themselves, so God, by His grace, acted upon his creatures without altering himself. For the year which was to begin during the night they should lay their plans. In congregational matters his hearers were advised to consideration of their future as a society. In the church a stranger should be invited to the pews. A church should always be hospitable. It had been unfortunately the case, too, that many of the clergy of other churches had selected subjects of a popular character. As for the present congregation, the time rule would be to scout narrow prejudices—not to differ on immaterial points, nor to hold by a constrained creed. A church thus directed was one of harmony, and the one which Christ intended. A union of elements was not always one of strength. On the contrary, such union might be a multiplication of infirmities, and the more that was added to some churches the less there was of them. Of the means which God gave his creatures for the purpose of serving him there was none which the reverend speaker could commend more earnestly than the Sunday school. In the future their church should contribute to the great enterprises of benevolence. He concluded with wishing the death of sin and selfishness with that of the old year, and hoped that, as their pastor, they might long be spared to each other.

New German Methodist Church.

In Fourteenth street, near Ninth avenue, a new German Methodist Episcopal church, of which the Rev. Mr. Blinn is the pastor, was dedicated yesterday with appropriate services, and a full congregation was in attendance. The number of German Methodists in this city is limited; they are, however, a very worthy and most respectable class of people. The congregation for which the new edifice in Fourteenth street has been erected has been in existence for some years, and formerly worshipped in a wooden building in the vicinity. This is the second church which has been built for the German Methodists. Another German Methodist church is located in Second street, on the east side of the city. The new church in Fourteenth street is a neat structure, which has been built at an expense of about ten thousand dollars, besides the furniture, which costs about a thousand dollars more. The lots are valued at six thousand dollars. When the congregation met yesterday morning they lacked eighteen hundred and fifty dollars in paying for the property. The whole amount, however, was raised during the day. During the morning service an impressive sermon was preached by Bishop Janes, who took his text from the fifth chapter of St. Matthew, the fourteenth and fifteenth verses. The Bishop's discourse embraced an exposition of the conservative and progressive variations of Christianity, and it was an able elucidation which was most appropriate to the occasion. The pastor, the Rev. Mr. Blinn, the Rev. Mr. Hayter, the Rev. Mr. De Puy, assistant editors of the *Christian Advocate and Journal*, and Rev. Mr. Hildreth, pastor of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal church, in Thirty-fourth street, assisted in the services. The Sunday school connected with the church met at two o'clock in the afternoon, when about two hundred children were present. During the afternoon service a sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Hildreth.

THE SLEIGHING.

The Sleighs—The Horses—The Ladies—The Gentlemen—The Flirtations—The Fairies—The Fun—The Park—The Bloomingdale, &c.

There was sleighing in New York yesterday. It was the first of the season, and not the less appreciated on that account. How shall it be described? Was it only the silly tinkling jingle of innumerable little bells and the motion of vehicles along the white tapestry of nature? Not so. It was a great deal more. It was the occasion of hope fulfilled in long anticipated mirth, jollity and enjoyment. It was the occasion of healthful and inspiriting exercise. It was the time to behold the glowing cheek, the smiling countenance and the graceful forms. It was the occasion of the display of furs, fancy dresses and the emblems of wealth and comfort. It was sleighing which yesterday enlivened our Park in midwinter, and which called forth a handsome commemoration as a parting tribute to our old acquaintance, the Old Year, which now lives only in mixed memories. There was life in the Park yesterday. It was gay. The scene there was almost a complete novelty, so rarely can we participate in or even behold it. The verdure of flowers and the garb of emerald spring; the gay aspect of summer, with its deeper mantle of rich vegetation; the varied and beautiful coat of autumn, and the withered, wild and grand pall of sable winter, were all excelled in the pure and speckless white mantle of the Park yesterday, which attracted the rich and the gay, the curious and the philosophic, the young and the old, to share and admire its enchanting loveliness. What would we do without our Park? Boston would taunt us with her organ, Philadelphia with her threadbare, angular, interminable streets, and Baltimore with her monuments. But we have our Park; so we can laugh at them all, and we felt it proudly yesterday. Then look at the turn out at a moment's notice. Where but in New York could you see the equal of that? Look at the elegance, beauty, lightness and almost animation with which sleigh after sleigh, from the cutter to the largest of the moving beauties, whiz past you on every carriage way of the glorious Park. Look how the soft snow heads beneath the shining slides, and is reflected in the silver mounting of sleigh and harness. Then look at the horses, as they trip along at 2:40, 2:50, 2:30, and all that. Look at their charming forms, their proud arched necks, their thin agile limbs, their graceful motions. See how they go prancing through the feathery snow, tossing it anew to the element from which it came in jets and columns of sparkling diamonds, pearls and amethysts. Look at the bright feathers, tassels, ribbons and all the sprightly adornments which properly ornament both horses and vehicles, and show that there are cloudless homes, happy spirits and tasteful minds in the republic's grand metropolis. Above all, behold and consider the freight with which the sleighs are not loaded, but embellished. There are the youth, the beauty, the spirit and fashion of the gayest and perhaps greatest city of the world. Look at the happy smiles; do not listen to, but look at the love whispers that pass between the joyous sleighers. See how archly, from behind that "empire hat," with its rim of furs, coat of crimson velvet and gay trimmings, peep the soft, fascinating, shining, globular, dark or blue eyes of an American Venus. Look how the stiff mustache, the firm eyes and the arched eyebrows bow, quiver and fall back before their glance. Isn't it interesting? See how the same lady charmer tucks her buffalo robe around her tiny feet, moves gaily in her seat, waves her tapering, lovely hand to another gentleman who whizzes past in the passing sleigh, and now he, with the most prompt and super gallantry, becomingly returns the wave, innocent, but after all mischievous salutation. Look at the long, careful glance of her companion, and how soon she perceives it, laughs, shakes her head, as though tossing the spray off her hat, and then whispers something to her friend, which recalls the smile in which she delights to behold him, while both enjoy the passing joke with equal fervor and sincerity. Isn't that interesting? But come on, we must drive faster; we have, I fear, been too long near our young lady, who, after all, is but the type of one thousand others who are at this moment, 3 P. M., December 31, 1865, sleighing in the Park, New York. Let us drive on and see more. Look at the young lady driving that tandem sleigh. Look at her scarlet trimmed jockey hat and flowy feather, and how stately she responds to the motion of the springing sleigh and bounding ponies. Ah, there! There is a race. Another tandem is before her. See how all give them the road. The other is beating her. The horses in the first are larger. But how skilfully both the young lady drivers handle the reins. How sensitively and quickly they respond to every motion of the horse. How they do go. Listen to the merry music of the bells. What a glorious scene. Our sleigh cannot follow fast enough to see more. How we would have delighted to have seen the flushed faces of the young ladies, and lent each a hand, or perhaps given her one, and that could have done her no harm and would have been a favor all round. But all the sleighs in the Park are not fast ones, and as we are very anxious to see our lady friends on New Year's Day we had better not risk too much. Let those two charmers go, there are plenty more. See how they sound past. Look at that young lady driving that splendid double team, with the blue silk hat trimmed with ermine, and the blue brocade silk dress. She is master and mistress of the situation. She wants no particular gentleman companion. Every one who sees her is an admirer—so she thinks, and she is nearly right. She has thrown down her buffalo around her small, lovely feet and symmetrical ankles, and her cloth look flies back in the December breeze. Her face is more than handsome. Did you ever try to tell what a handsome lady's face looked like? If you did, you did not succeed. It does very well to talk of bewitching smiles, oval face, glowing cheeks, Roman nose, arched eyebrows, dimpled chin and all that, but after all you did not succeed. No, nor you never can. The reality of the face of a lovely woman is inimitable—indescribable. Look at the reality then; say if you are not confounded and confused—you are. So we will never attempt to describe a pretty lady's face. Are we right, ladies? We thought so. Now we are sure of it. We have driven all over the Park now, slowly, to be sure, but this was chiefly because certain things were to be noticed which we have noticed, and partly because we think a great deal of the team which carried us, and which we never drive more than half of 2:40.

We are now on the Bloomingdale road. The shades of night are falling. There are tandems in no end, three and even four in hand frequently, double and treble teams and splendid sleighs. Some have a lady only, some a gentleman only, some have two ladies and two gentlemen, and some have a gentleman and two ladies. They are all happy, the gentleman last alluded to being, however, unfairly celebrated. Splendidly they skip along. They look like fairy travellers. Description is impossible. We pass through the Park once more. It is as lively as ever. It is no part of earth. The twilight has fallen upon it. It is a dash of fairy land—where mirth, health and joy have full carnival there.

We are in Fifth avenue, in full view for the great dry corner of Fulton and Nassau streets, with its historic recollections, and we are filled with happy memories of the day and mixed ones of the year. Some gleam of hope and a determination to be happy in the next year sparkles in our elated imagination. There are crowds of sleighs gliding down the avenue and, like us, or turning from the pleasures of the day. We know few of the sleighs that we meet or pass, or that we have met or passed through the day. Such fast drivers as Bonner or Perkins we never either saw or heard of and do not know. As we pass further down the city we see fewer sleighs, and those are of a different kind from the ones in the Park, the Bloomingdale road or Fifth avenue. Reflections come fast upon us. Could London or Paris present in their parks such a scene as New York did in them this day on any occasion? They have their costly toys of emperors, queens, large standing armies and all that, but New York rises above all this in the nineteenth century, and beats the brightest displays they can make with all their gaudy relics of less civilized ages to give them a shadowy but imperious order. All the sleighers will have a happy New Year. Ah, will every one be happy? The poor and the distressed were not among the sleighers. Will they be happy? Many who visited the Park yesterday and enjoyed the delights of a sleigh ride will do much to make themselves a happier New Year than they will otherwise have, by practically remembering those who cannot be happy unless they are thus remembered. 1st 1866 be marked by charity, benevolence and peace.

The sleighing was good yesterday, the snow being of a sufficient depth and in that peculiar condition which is most favorable to the dashing sport. There is a prospect that it may continue to-day or perhaps to-morrow. Gentlemen, have your sleighs ready this morning. The ladies are ready and waiting upon you. Didn't the snow come in good time?

Brooklyn City News.

THE CELEBRATION OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY—CONVENTION OF IRISH SOCIETIES.

An adjourned meeting of the various Irish societies of Kings county, to make arrangements for celebrating the next anniversary of St. Patrick's Day, was held at the large hall No. 168 Fulton street, Brooklyn, yesterday (Sunday) afternoon, Alexander Campbell, President, in the chair, John Mulvey, Secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The rolls of the societies represented in the convention were then called, when the following named delegates responded to their names:—

Father Mathew T. A. Society No. 2—Delegates—Charles J. Johnson, F.