NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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ADVERTISEMENTS, to a limited number, will be inserted in the WEEKLY HERALD, the European and California Editions.

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NO NOTICE taken of anonymous correspondence. We do not return rejected communications.

Volume XXXI.....No. 16

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—SOLON SHINGLE.

LUCY RUSHTON'S NEW YORK THEATRE, Nos. 728 and 730 Broadway.—THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel.—THE BALLOON WEDDING.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel.—ETHIOPIAN SINGING, DANCING, &c.—BREAK NECK ACT.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—SINGING, DANCING, BURLESQUES, &c.—STEPHENS' ESCAPE; OR, ENGLISH RULE IN IRELAND.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—THE OLD SCHOOL OF MINSTRELSY, BALLADS, MUSICAL GEMS, &c., at the Fifth Avenue Opera House, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth st.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—DAN BRYANT'S NEW STUMP SPEECH—NEGRO COMICALITIES, BURLESQUES, &c.—LAUGHYOUCANSIE.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY—BALLADS, BURLESQUES AND PANTOMIMES.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

DODWORTH HALL, 806 Broadway.—DE CORDOVA'S LECTURE—"THE LAW—PIDGE VS. MIDGE."

New York, Tuesday, January 16, 1866.

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION.

Receipts of Sales of the New York Daily Newspapers.

OFFICIAL.

Name of Paper	Year Ending May 1, 1865.
HERALD	$1,095,000
Times	368,150
Tribune	252,000
Evening Post	169,427
World	100,000
Sun	151,079
Express	90,548
NEW YORK HERALD	$1,095,000
Times, Tribune, World and Sun combined	$871,229

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

Advertisements for the WEEKLY HERALD must be handed in before ten o'clock every Wednesday evening. Its circulation among the enterprising mechanics, farmers, merchants, manufacturers and gentlemen throughout the country is increasing very rapidly. Advertisements inserted in the WEEKLY HERALD will thus be seen by a large portion of the active and energetic people of the United States.

THE NEWS.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Wilson reported from the Military Committee his bill increasing and fixing the regular army, with amendments, and it was recommitted. As amended it provides for five regiments of artillery, twelve of cavalry and fifty-five of infantry, ten of the latter to be Veteran Reserves and colored troops. Mr. Wilson also reported favorably from the same committee a bill to establish a national military and naval asylum, and introduced a bill, which was referred, providing for the appointment of a board to examine all army officers and drop or retire incompetents. Petitions were presented in favor of increased tariff, protection to various kinds of domestic industry, for allowance of prize money to certain officers who took part in the destruction of the rebel ram Albemarle, for presentation of copies of all public documents to the public schools of the country, for the retention in service of the Veteran Reserve corps, for an equalization of bounty between the early and late volunteers for the army, and for negro suffrage. A resolution was introduced, and referred to the Naval Committee, providing for the expulsion from the national Naval Academy of a cadet from Kentucky, named James J. Wheeler, who, it is alleged, served in the rebel army, and that hereafter no person of a similar character shall be appointed to either that institution or the Military Academy. Mr. Howard, of Michigan, offered a resolution, which was laid over, recommending that Jeff. Davis and Clement C. Clay be immediately brought to trial on charge of complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln and the starvation of national soldiers. Mr. Chandler, of the same State, offered a preamble and resolutions, which were also laid over, requesting the President, on account of Great Britain having failed to recognize our claims on her for damages committed by rebel pirates, to withdraw our Minister in England and issue a proclamation for non-intercourse with that country. A resolution was adopted instructing the Military Committee to report on the expediency of creating brevet ranks for men who have served with distinction in the army. The bill for the facilitation of commerce between the States, with an amendment providing that it shall not interfere with any existing contract between the government and any railroad, was taken up, and Mr. Foote spoke in its favor. The consideration of the bill to give the voting privilege in the District of Columbia to negroes was resumed, but, without much progress being made on it, was further postponed till to-day, after which the Senate held an executive session, and confirmed a large number of Presidential nominations, including Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson as District Attorney for this city, and then adjourned.

In the House of Representatives a number of resolutions of instructions to committees were adopted. The Ways and Means Committee were directed to report on the expediency of several proposed amendments to the Internal Revenue law, and whether insurance companies, for the better security of the insured, should not be required to invest in government securities and to deposit a certain percentage of their capital and receipts in the national Treasury. The Public Buildings Committee were directed to make an inquiry relative to the expediency of erecting a new Presidential Mansion, the Banking Committee to report on the propriety of permitting national banks to change their places of business from one State to another, and the Judiciary Committee to investigate a proposition to require foreigners, before becoming naturalized, to be able to read. Mr. Conkling, of this State, offered a resolution, which was referred to the Reconstruction Committee, for an amendment to the constitution similar to that already proposed by Mr. Blaine, basing Congressional representation on the number of inhabitants, excepting such persons as are denied political rights on account of color or race. Mr. Broomall, of Pennsylvania, offered a preamble and resolution, which were tabled, suggesting that, as the white men of the District of Columbia had voted on the question of giving the suffrage to black men, the blacks be permitted to vote on allowing it to the whites. In accordance with the request of the House, the bill to facilitate commerce between the States, the one which affects some of the large railroad monopolies of the country, was returned from the Senate; but there was no definite action on it. On motion of Thad Stevens, the Judiciary Committee were instructed, by a vote of eighty-two yeas to seventy-seven nays, to report on the expediency of repealing the lawyers' test oath. The credentials and a memorial of the Representatives from Arkansas were presented. The bill to grant negro suffrage in the District of Columbia was taken up and discussed in a spirited manner till the adjournment; but no vote on it was reached. During the course of the day's proceedings Mr. Kasson, of Illinois, took occasion to refer to the late charges of the *Daily News* of this city that the widow of President Lincoln carried public property away with her from the White House, and to pronounce these statements slanderous and unqualifiedly false.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Senate of our State Legislature assembled at seven o'clock last evening, and but very little business was done. Bills were noticed to abolish all laws relative to the present canal contract system, and to amend the assessment laws in relation to non-residents. A resolution was adopted calling upon the State Engineer to report the names of all persons holding repair contracts on the State canals, the date of the commencement of such contracts and the time when they will expire.

In the Assembly a resolution was introduced and referred providing that the New York city tax levy shall be reported by the 18th of March and taken up for consideration on some day not later than the 1st of April. Two bills of no general interest were passed, and some of a like character were introduced. The Speaker announced the Committee on Joint Rules. Bills were noticed to grant State aid to the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, to amend the general Manufacturing law, to confirm certain action of the Union Telegraph Company directors, and for other purposes of minor interest.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The cold weather which commenced on Sunday continued yesterday; but it lacked to a very sensible and agreeable extent the severity of temperature with which last week was ushered in, and the mercury did not reach zero. From two till six in the morning four degrees above zero was about its figure throughout the city, though in some particular localities a lower point was reached. At nine o'clock it had risen to six degrees above, and at three o'clock in the afternoon to twenty-four degrees. At nine o'clock at night it had fallen back to twenty-two degrees above, and at ten o'clock to twenty. At about half-past ten a snow storm, which had been threatening throughout the afternoon and evening, set in, and at the hour at which we go to press snow continues to fall, affording a fine prospect of good sleighing. We give elsewhere telegraphic reports of the character of the weather throughout the country.

With the renewal of the skating season yesterday there was an immensity of good sport at all the ponds, both public and private. There was a grand time last evening at Sylvan Lake, Hoboken, there being an immense attendance.

From the War Department records it appears that over three hundred and one millions of dollars have been paid by government in bounties to volunteers in the late war. The total number of men who enlisted was two millions and four hundred and sixty-one thousand, of whom about seven hundred and thirty-one thousand received no bounty from the national government.

The additional Paris correspondence relative to the Mexican question which we give this morning shows how the interest in the matter is increasing there, and how anxious the French government is to prevent it causing an entanglement with the United States. Our correspondent says that Louis Napoleon is not only anxious, but is even now preparing, to withdraw his troops from Mexican territory. The Paris *Journal des Débats*, in an article published in its issue of the 25th ultimo, reasoned that the danger of collision between the American troops in Texas and the imperialists on the opposite bank of the dividing stream was imminent, and thought it would be much better for France to withdraw altogether than to risk a war with the United States. Meantime the troubled condition of affairs on the Rio Grande at and around Matamoros continues, and it is said that the majority of the inhabitants of that town are leaving, principally for San Luis Potosi, carrying with them their specie and other movables of value. Some of the men of the command which the American General Crawford has enlisted for the Mexican republican service recently undertook to capture an imperial gunboat near Matamoros; but the accidental discharge of a musket gave the alarm, led to an exchange of shots from the Texan and Mexican sides of the river, and frustrated the scheme.

We publish this morning the instructions issued by the Secretary of the Navy of Chile to govern the conduct of the commanders of the privateers of that republic during the continuance of the present hostilities with Spain.

The Hon. Marcus L. Ward is to be inaugurated as Governor of the State of New Jersey, at Trenton, to-day. Extensive preparations have been made for the ceremonies, and a fine military display is promised.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday and transacted a large amount of routine business. Resolutions were introduced and laid over directing the paving of portions of East Thirteenth, East Thirtieth and East Thirty-third streets and of Second and Third avenues with Belgian pavement, and directing the payment to F. L. A. Boole of the sum of nine thousand six hundred and fifty dollars for legal disbursements in the matter of the several investigations of charges against him as City Inspector during the past two years. A communication was received from the Counsel to the Corporation transmitting a report from Mr. Murray Hoffman in relation to the affairs of the Public Administrator's office, which was referred to the special committee having the subject in charge.

Judge Barnard, sitting in Part 1, of the Supreme Court, yesterday ordered that twenty-two jurors personally summoned and not answering to their names be fined twenty-five dollars each.

An important motion was argued yesterday before Judge McCunn at the special term of the Superior Court. It involved the right of city railroads to change the six cent fare, and was brought by one Mr. Moneypenny, under the Extortion act of 1857.

The case of McCabe against the proprietors of the *Sunday Mercury*, which is an action for alleged libel in publishing certain statements regarding the character of a member of the Hedding Methodist church of Jersey City, was called for trial at a late hour yesterday afternoon by Judge Jones, of the Superior Court, and a jury was sworn. The opening of the counsel for plaintiff will begin at eleven o'clock this morning.

In the Marine Court yesterday, before Judge Gross, Peter Wilson, a seaman of the ship Caprera, brought an action against Captain Anderson, of that vessel, for alleged cruel treatment. The case is not yet concluded.

Captain Peabody, of the ship Neptune, recently charged with cruel treatment of his passengers and crew, has been required to give an aggregate of twenty three thousand five hundred dollars bail to answer the complaints, eleven suits having been brought against him.

The trial of John Goodman, charged with stabbing Daniel McDonald, on the morning of the 7th of November, at a liquor store corner of Thirty-ninth street and Second avenue, was commenced yesterday in the Court of General Sessions. The case will be resumed to-day.

The case of Jose Fernandez y Gonzales, one of the persons charged with the murder of Jose Garcia Otero, in the City Park, Brooklyn, on the evening of the 23d of November last, came up for trial in the Kings County Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday morning. A panel of five hundred jurors had been summoned out of which to select a petit jury of twelve men. After examining the fifty-seventh, twelve were found who had not formed an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused, and they were sworn in, after which the court adjourned till ten o'clock this forenoon.

Coroner Lynch, of Brooklyn, yesterday took up the examination in reference to the murder of Robert Mitchell, mate of the schooner John Boynton, who was shot on board that vessel while it was anchored on the 23d of December last off Riker's Island. The names of the persons suspected of having been concerned in the crime are Patrick Conroy, Patrick Conway and Thomas Shea. The testimony of three witnesses having been taken the Coroner adjourned the further examination until to-day.

The inquest in the case of Mrs. Gilroy, who died from exposure and want of proper treatment on board the ship Neptune, was continued yesterday. The drift of the testimony was to the effect that those in charge of the ship had done for her all that they could do under the circumstances. The case is still under investigation, and the examination of witnesses will be resumed this morning at eleven o'clock.

An inquest was yesterday held at the New York Hospital over the remains of Patrick Dunlap, whose death, as alleged, was caused by stabs inflicted on Friday last, at 150 Washington street, by Edward Johnson. On the conclusion of the evidence and the rendition of the jury's verdict to the above effect, a warrant was issued for the arrest of Johnson, who is yet at large.

A meeting of property owners opposed to the proposed widening of Ann and Fulton streets, from Broadway to Fulton ferry, was held yesterday at Powers' Hotel, in Park row. Speeches were made by several gentlemen, and arrangements were made for giving practical effect to their opposition by bringing the matter before the Legislature and the courts, and by endeavoring to induce the Common Council to rescind the ordinance authorizing the work.

Cooper Parris and Abraham Greenthal were arrested at 184 Seventh street on Saturday evening on charge of having been concerned in the robbery, on Thursday last, at 36 Walker street, of over three thousand dollars' worth of raw silk, and were yesterday committed to the Tombs for examination. All the stolen property was recovered.

A fire occurred early yesterday morning at 354 Greenwich street, and extended to No. 352, but was extinguished after damage to both buildings to the amount of about two thousand dollars had been done. A fire at No. 6 Duane street yesterday afternoon did damage to the extent of one thousand dollars. Our telegraphic despatches report several fires in country towns. Fires in Oswego and Binghamton, N. Y., on Sunday, destroyed about eight thousand dollars' worth of property in each place. Seventy-five thousand dollars' worth of property was destroyed in the late fire at Talladega, Alabama.

From the report of the City Inspector it appears that the total mortality for the past week was 440, of which 223 deaths were from acute diseases, 175 from chronic diseases, and from external and other causes 42. Of the deaths 100 were men, 89 women, 143 boys and 108 girls. There was a decrease of 70 compared with the corresponding week of 1865, and an increase of 8 over the preceding week.

At a large meeting of merchants held in Boston yesterday arrangements were made for presenting a handsome testimonial to Captain Burke, of the bark Fredonia, for his noble action in the rescue of the passengers and crew of the ship Gratitude, the circumstances of which were fully described in yesterday's HERALD.

A Savannah despatch informs us of the wreck on the 5th inst., on the Florida coast, of the brig Neva, of Machias, Me., and the burning on the Ocmulgee river, on the following day, of the steamer Asher Ayres, with the loss of six lives in each case.

The prize fight between James Kerrigan and Morris Phelan, for two hundred dollars a side, for which arrangements have been some time in progress, is expected to take place this morning somewhere in the State of Pennsylvania; but the particular locality has been, of course, kept secret.

A citizen of New Orleans has, it is said, invented a new style of telegraph, which uses neither electricity, insulators, battery, chemicals nor poles.

The stock market was, on the whole, firm yesterday. Governments were dull. Gold closed at 139½.

There was no decided change in the aspect of commercial affairs yesterday, though there was rather more firmness, in sympathy with gold. Groceries were steady. Cotton firm. Petroleum was steady. On 'Change flour was unchanged. Wheat and corn were dull and nominal. Pork was firmer. Beef was steady. Lard was steady. Whiskey was dull, but unchanged.

Progress of President Johnson's Southern Policy—Cheering Signs and Movements.

It is a remarkable fact that, while Northern journals of the copperhead genus discover from day to day in the proceedings of Congress a fixed purpose on the part of the radicals to Tylerize the administration, the leading radical newspaper organs are beginning to recognize the good results and cheering prospects of President Johnson's Southern policy. Thus the *Tribune*, for example, has at length discovered that the work of reconstruction in progress at Washington is but the shadow of the substantial work going on throughout the South; that whites and blacks, landowners and laborers, are harmoniously co-operating for profitable crops of cotton, sugar, rice, tobacco and corn the coming season; that negro suffrage need not be enforced as the first essential to Southern restoration, and that there is every prospect that all the Southern States will be represented in Congress before the close of the present session.

Such admissions and calculations from a radical journal of the straitest sect very broadly indicate the resistless advances and the final success of the restoration programme of President Johnson. His work goes prosperously on, while the two houses of Congress are discussing constitutional amendments, and imagining dangers from the old secession spirit, still supposed, by such narrow-sighted politicians as Thaddeus Stevens, to be predominant in the South. But so it is that often, while philosophers, reformers and political tinkers are perplexed with the disorders resulting from great revolutions, they are quietly settled by the laws of self-preservation and self-interest operating upon the people directly concerned. Self-preservation suggests to the Southern whites the necessity of a good understanding with the blacks with whom they are intermingled, and self-interest teaches the saving policy of mutual concessions between the two races. When, too, as in the South, the numbers on each side are about equal, and the labor of the blacks is urgently demanded to rescue not only themselves, but the whites, from destitution, we have the strongest securities for the protection of the black race.

What means, then, this late letter of General Grant, in which he says that "for the present, and until there is full security for equitably maintaining the safety and rights of all classes of citizens in the States lately in rebellion, I would not recommend the withdrawal of the United States troops from them," and that "while such a force is retained in the South I doubt the propriety of putting arms in the hands of the militia?" This means that, as the late rebel States are now governed partly by their State laws and officers, and partly by a superintending federal military authority, enforced by federal troops, the communities thus situated are necessarily, more or less, in a disordered and unsettled condition. They cannot be otherwise, and especially when we take into the account the vicious and ignorant from the rebel armies turned loose among an impoverished people. Hence, until order shall have been fully re-established, General Grant recommends not only that sufficient movable bodies of federal troops be retained in the States concerned to maintain order, but that the militia of said States shall not be brought out, because their presence in contact with the United States troops must inevitably revive something of the bitter hostile feelings of the war among the militia made up from the late rebel armies. It must be so among hot-headed young men who have been taught nothing else but the divinity of African slavery, the baseness of the abolition Yankees, and Southern wrongs and Southern rights.

But these intractable arcana of mischief will disappear with the restoration of the Southern States to their proper relations to the federal government. A half dozen reckless roving vagabonds in a region just emerging from the chaos of a great revolution may give the appearance of prevailing insubordination to half a dozen counties. Against such exceptional disturbances the evidence is overwhelming that the responsible and influential men of the South, and the great body of the intelligent whites, have in good faith submitted to the issues of the war, and are honest in their professions of submission. But however well disposed the people of Alabama, for instance, may be to prove their loyalty, appearances will occasionally be against them so long as their local laws and civil officers are regulated by federal decrees and federal soldiers.

In the face of all these drawbacks, however, such has been the success of President Johnson's conciliatory policy of Southern restoration that the leading organs of the Northern radical school are beginning to recognize it. Let the reconstructors of the South in Congress try a little of his policy of faith in the honesty of Southern submission, and they will soon discover that neither the harmony of the Union nor the political interests of the party in power will be endangered from the readmission of the now excluded States to both houses, without any further conditions of security in the federal constitution. There is sufficient security for the Southern blacks in the constitution as it now stands.

The Police Commissioners—Better Work Instead of Greater Power.

The recent report of the Metropolitan Police Commissioners is a very curious document. In every paragraph it asks for more power, and in most cases this increased power is requested over departments not usually placed under police control. The Commissioners propose to build new station houses in various precincts in this city and Brooklyn at a considerable expense. They desire to be authorized to license pawnbrokers, junk dealers, auctioneers, carts and cartmen, hacks and hackmen, omnibuses and omnibus drivers. They wish to have charge of all sanitary measures. They request that a fund shall be provided to bribe offenders whom they are unable to arrest. They are in favor of the abolition of all target companies and the establishment of a military brigade of policemen. They want to superintend tenement houses and cheap lodging houses. They urge the passage of a law giving them power over the concert saloons. They suggest that the police should be intrusted with the excise licenses, and that all places where liquor is sold should be placed under their supervision. The Commissioners are like Oliver Twist on a grand scale. They have produced a report which, on the score of modesty, is certainly unrivalled. They have no confidence in the Mayor, no confidence in the police justices, no confidence in anybody but themselves. We are sorry to say that the facts do not quite justify this self-conceit. Many of the suggestions which they make in their report are undoubtedly excellent, and we should be inclined to endorse them if the Commissioners made a better use of what power they have. But under present circumstances we are rather disposed to hold them to a more strict accountability for their sins of omission than to confer upon them that almost exclusive jurisdiction of the city which they appear to desire.

In this city crimes of all kinds are alarmingly upon the increase. In Williamsburg burglars have rendered whole neighborhoods almost untenable. In Brooklyn a man was recently murdered in a public park at eight o'clock in the evening, within a stone's throw of a station house, and the police knew nothing about it until his body was accidentally discovered. The street in which Deputy Carpenter and Superintendent Kennedy and one of the Commissioners reside is so infested with thieves that householders are obliged to take the most extraordinary precautions. Footpads patrol our parks and public places. Pickpockets take undisputed possession of our city cars. We may trace the causes of this increase of crime to the demoralization of the age; but for the remedy we look to the police. We regret to add that we generally look in vain. Our police force is a great improvement upon the old *régime*, but it is still capable of much better work. D'Argenson, the famous lieutenant general of the ancient police of Paris, declared that he kept his gendarmes for show, but depended upon his detectives for the real efficiency of the public service. We have a fine array of showy gendarmes to escort ladies across Broadway, but we need more detectives and more *esprit du corps* between the detectives and the patrolmen. The present detective force is very capable, but it is not large enough to do what is required of it. Every night you may find the detectives distributed among the various theatres, while the rest of the city is left unprotected. We should have detectives enough to prevent crime as well as to hunt down criminals. The patrolmen, too, should be men of more intelligence, and promotion from the ranks should be made the reward of merit, instead of being influenced by the favoritism of politicians. When our police turn out for a parade nothing can be more admirable than their display; but for some reason or other they fail to prevent the increase of crime. The Commissioners should attend to this; for upon them rests the responsibility. Instead of asking for increased power and for control over all sorts of outside departments they should apply their talents and their energies to improving the efficiency of the force. Let them perform their present duties to the complete satisfaction of the public, and all the new duties which they are so eager to assume will perhaps be devolved upon them in course of time. If the Mayor and the police justices and the sanitary authorities and the Excise Commissioners neglect their appropriate work or do it badly we shall call them to account for their misconduct; but as long as the Police Commissioners do not regulate their own department in the very best possible manner we shall hesitate to supersede all other officials to give the Commissioners new departments to superintend.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR OPERA HOUSES IN THE WEST.—It appears that several changes in the internal revenue are being discussed in Congress, and that it is contemplated to place the burden of taxation upon articles of luxury and necessity. Among them is one article which members of Congress probably regard in the double light of a luxury and a necessity—namely, whiskey. When the tax of two dollars a gallon was imposed upon this domestic manufacture at the time that the Internal Revenue law was passed a few years ago, exempting from the tax the whiskey then on hand, several large fortunes were made by the holders of the article. Among those who held very large quantities of whiskey were Crosby, of Chicago, and Pike, of Cincinnati, and, singular to say, both of these lucky speculators invested their suddenly acquired fortunes in opera houses—two of the finest establishments of the kind in the United States. The West is thus in a large measure indebted to the whiskey tax, with its exemption clause, for a long progressive step toward civilization. Another opportunity is now likely to occur, in the imposition of an additional tax on whiskey, for the construction of other opera houses in the West.

The Southern People on the Right Track.

What the South now most needs in order to give practical effect to the reconstruction policy of the President, which can be most effectually aided by attending to the industrial resources of the Southern States, is to bring the land as rapidly as possible under cultivation, and by every means to make up for time lost during the war, in raising cotton, sugar and other staples, and restoring all the appliances of industry and labor which have been dormant for the past four years. That the landowners and leaseholders of farms and plantations in the South are awake to their interest in this matter is evident from the fact that they have established agencies here to divert the labor and capital of European emigrants to Southern farms. Several of this class, it appears, have been recently sent to Memphis, Charleston and Savannah. The States on the border of the Mississippi river afford good opportunities for this kind of enterprise. Numbers of capitalists in the West have recently leased cotton plantations on the Mississippi, but they have been heretofore deterred from working them from one cause or another, the principal difficulty, it would seem, arising from fears of negro insurrections that were threatened, but which never took place. The fact is that the negroes in the Southwestern States, such as Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas and Mississippi, as we learn upon excellent authority, are well disposed to labor at a fair price, and are actually working more zealously than many of the white race.

There can be no doubt, we think, that the South offers fine opportunities for the investment of capital. Before the war the resources of this section of the country were never half developed. The obstructions presented by the old aristocratic prejudice against labor, and the millstone of slavery which hung upon the neck of industry, have both been removed by the results of the war, and the richest soil and the best mineral deposits probably to be found on the continent are now open to all who are enterprising enough to develop them. It is essential, above all things, that the cotton crop should be cultivated to order to restore wealth to the Southern States. The war has established this, among many other valuable facts, that no part of the world can supply the place of the Southern States in the growth of the indispensable staple, cotton. We recognize, then, in the movement on the part of the Southern landowners to invite industry, labor and capital to their section, an evidence that they comprehend, and are ready to use, the very best agencies whereby they can build up the South. Such means are of vastly more importance to the interests of the South in its efforts to reinvigorate itself than anything which the politicians can accomplish. One acre of Southern soil redeemed from its four years barrenness, one railroad put in operation, one cotton mill set to work, is worth the labors of a dozen reconstruction committees, or six months of windy Congressional debates, and we are glad to see that the Southern people are beginning to understand that fact.

The Mexican Question—Do the French Intend to Leave?

We give to-day a letter from Paris and an article extracted from the London *Times* on the Mexican question, which are worthy of particular attention. They discuss the probability that the French troops will be withdrawn at an early day. There has been lately a quite positive modification in the character of the expressions on this subject that come from Europe. It was not a great while ago that the expressions of European letter writers, of the European press and of French diplomacy, though smooth and flowing enough on the surface, were much less satisfactory if subjected to analysis. Late in the last year Mr. Seward said in an official letter:—"No communications, formal or informal, which have been received from the government of France seem to justify us in expecting that she is likely soon to be ready to remove, as far as may depend upon her, the cause of our deep concern for the harmony of the two nations." This was his acknowledgment that then, though so much had been written, France had never said a word to justify the thought that she intended to withdraw her troops. Neither had she said any such word in the last French official letters made public. On the contrary, she made positive declarations of a quite different nature. She informed us that she would not withdraw her troops until we did what, in the circumstances, it was absurd to require—that is, surrender the very pith of the principle that led us to remonstrate against the occupation of Mexico, and give up our whole position in the dispute. This is the only interpretation that can be given to the note in which M. Druyn de Lhuys states the only condition upon which France will leave Mexico—that condition being that the United States should recognize Maximilian and guarantee the stability of the imperial establishment. "Should the Cabinet at Washington," wrote the French Minister, "decide to open diplomatic relations with the Court of Mexico, we would see no difficulty in entering into an arrangement for the recall of our troops"—recognize Maximilian and we will leave the country. And the inevitable inference left was that they would leave it on no other terms. France would withdraw if the United States would take the position held by France as sponsor for the Emperor and relinquish the policy that it had enforced by every steamer.

Such was the declaration a little while ago. Now we are assured on every hand that the French will positively leave the country soon. Our own correspondent says by May. The Paris correspondents of the London papers say as soon as he can find a pretext that will allow him to go without humiliation. And, after all this the London *Times* now

sels us to move softly, not to get in a rage, and all will be well. In thus counselling us it even leaps to a broad admission of the infrangible character of the Monroe doctrine "in the nature of things," and finally sees that that doctrine has a very positive basis. These are its words:—"European interference in the affairs of America is impossible in the very nature of things, and if the Americans will but quiet for the while a not unnatural sensitiveness they will find all their difficulties on this score disappear, probably without the necessity of any serious exertions." France has been told repeatedly and distinctly that the continuance of her troops in Mexico would disturb the harmonious relations, not to say the peace, existing between her and the United States. She sufficiently appreciates this, as we believe, and we certainly are not disposed to press the point too sorely. Our cause does not require that she should be urged to any undignified haste in her motions. We can afford to give due time, as we have shown. But what the country requires is to be beyond all question sure that it is really the purpose of France to retire from Mexico soon. We do not want to be put off and quieted down with specious statements, made only for such a purpose. We want to know that all these stories of the Emperor's intentions are not part of the soothing system adopted to prevent interference until such time as something in the Mexican matter may turn up favorable to Maximilian, or until it shall be judged safe to leave that would-be Emperor to stand alone. We may be informed of this when the French Legislature meets next month. In the meantime we may remember that just about the time all this pleasant news was leaving Europe freshly arrived French troops were landing at Vera Cruz, and troops were moving to drive Juarez from Chihuahua.

The Docks and Piers and the Tribune Warehouse Job.

The Mayor in his recent message to the Common Council informed us that the revenues from the wharves and piers which are the property of the Corporation are pledged to the Sinking Fund for the payment of the interest on the city debt, and that when he as Recorder, and by virtue of that office one of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, was applied to by the Pier and Warehouse Company, or what is better known as the *Tribune* Job Association, to lease several of the most valuable piers of the city for a term of fifty years upon a mere nominal consideration, he recommended that no action should be taken upon the application—meaning, of course, that he saw through the whole scheme, and was convinced that it was one of the legislative jobs by which the city was to be despoiled of a portion of its property to benefit a few unscrupulous speculators.

We are aware that the city derives very little revenue at present from the wharves; but that is no reason why they should be given away to any and every one who has permission of the Legislature to ask for them. We agree with the Mayor when he says that "New York, the greatest commercial city on the continent, has not a single wharf or pier which is not a disgrace to it." But we would ask, is there no way by which they may be restored except by surrendering them a free offering to monopolists and greedy speculators. We think there is. Let the law regulating the rates of wharfage be so amended that the fees from vessels will be sufficient to pay a reasonable interest on the cost of rebuilding and keeping them in proper repair, and eventually they will return a fair revenue to the Sinking Fund, to be applied to its legitimate purposes.

It is very evident that the rates, as now established by law, are too low. Previous to the war dock builders and laborers could be hired for from one to two dollars a day. Labor is now two hundred per cent higher, the price of material has advanced in the same proportion, the taxes on private wharves have more than doubled, and yet there has been no increase in the rates of wharfage. The consequence is that the docks have been permitted by lessees and private owners to go to decay, and in some instances, where they have sunk or been carried away by the ice, the tide now ebbs and flows over the stone heaps upon which they were built, because it will not pay to reconstruct them.

They should not be permitted thus to remain a disgrace to the city, and the Legislature, instead of giving designing men a *carte blanche* to plunder the Corporation of its property, should endeavor to protect it and make it yield a revenue for the purpose of enabling the city to keep faith with its creditors. We do not think our merchants and shipowners, whose interest it is to have good and safe docks, would oppose the raising of the wharfage to paying rates; but they would unquestionably object to surrendering to a company the control of the piers, or of placing themselves at the mercy of a complete monopoly.

We have no doubt if rates of wharfage were established even approximating the charges upon vessels in other ports we would soon have docks fully equal to those of any commercial city in the world, with the exception, perhaps, of those of London and Liverpool, where more strength and durability are required; and, as Mayor Hoffman says, they could be made to yield a revenue not only sufficient to pay the interest on the cost, but eventually to pay the whole of such cost.

Our City Railroads and the Six Cent Fare.

SUPERIOR COURT—SPECIAL TERM.
Before Judge McCunn.

Gustavus Moneypenny vs. the Sixth Avenue Railroad Company.—This is a most important action, involving in a somewhat novel form the right of the above-mentioned corporation to charge passengers six cents fare for conveying them along its route. The plaintiff, Mr. Moneypenny, rode on the cars of the Sixth Avenue Railroad Company several times, and was on each occasion required to pay the conductor six cents. He took a note of each occurrence of this sort, and finally brought an action against the corporation, under the act of 1857, which imposes a penalty of fifty dollars on railroad companies for charging more than three cents fare for any distance less than a mile, and for each offence, to be recovered by the party so charged and compelled to pay. The total amount thus sought to be recovered as penalties is $1,100. The plaintiff, in each case of riding on the cars, sets up that he rode less than a mile, and therefore that his case is brought within the statute. The defendant, in answer to this complaint, set up a license from the Common Council of this city to charge five cents for carrying passengers, and to this the plaintiff demurs.

The case was argued at considerable length yesterday by Mr. [illegible] and Mr. John Slosson for defendants. Mr. G[illegible] was c[illegible] gr[illegible]