# FINANCIAL.

## The Sinking Fund Systems of Great Britain.

### Their Origin and Progress from 1717 to 1837.

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The foundation of the present national debt of Great Britain, which is larger than that of any other nation, was laid in the latter part of the year 1692, during the reign of William and Mary, one hundred and seventy-four years ago. On the 15th of December of that year, the House of Commons authorized the financial minister to borrow from the people for the use of the crown one million of pounds sterling. From that time the debt went on increasing in magnitude through the contest with Louis the Fourteenth of France, when it rose to fifty millions of pounds; through the war of the Austrian succession, when it reached eighty millions, and on through other wars and difficulties with continental nations, until during the administration of the first William Pitt, it had attained what was then thought to be the enormous proportions of one hundred and forty millions of pounds sterling, or less than seven hundred millions of dollars. The unsuccessful war to keep the American colonies in subjection added one hundred and thirty-three millions to the debt, and the great struggle with republican France and the Napoleonic war raised the debt to its culminating point; and when the beaten Emperor was finally and securely placed upon the island of St. Helena the national liabilities of England, consisting of funded and unfunded stock, aggregated eight hundred millions of pounds sterling, equal to four thousand millions of dollars.

The first sinking fund system of Great Britain was inaugurated in 1717 by Sir Robert Walpole, who was then First Lord Commissioner of the Treasury. The debt was then comparatively a mere bagatelle. Parliament, in accordance with the recommendation of Mr. Walpole, enacted that all the public funds bearing a higher interest than five per cent should be redeemed or converted into an annuity not exceeding five per cent, and that the surpluses arising as well from the proposed reduction of interest from six to five per cent, as from the excesses of the several taxes appropriated to the payment of interest, should be solely and unalienably applicable to the discharge of the principal of the national debt. The fund which was thus created was denominated a "Sinking fund."

Ten years thereafter, in 1727, a further reduction of interest on the public stock, from five to four per cent, took place, by which this sinking fund was made to yield £1,200,000 per annum. In 1733, Mr. Walpole, thinking no doubt that his system was working too well, succeeding in getting an act through Parliament, granting him permission to rob the sinking fund of half a million of pounds ostensibly for current expenses. The ice was thus broken. Depredations having been permitted to be made upon the admirable working of the system, it soon became comparatively valueless, and from 1733 to 1776, it can be said to have existed only in name. From the time of its adoption down to the breaking out of the war of the American revolution, it had contributed to the redemption of but twenty millions of the public debt.

It was charged upon Mr. Walpole that his system was used to foster corruption, and as evidence of the fact, a letter of his was published, in which he informed Cardinal de Fleury that he was compelled to subsidize King George II., and play Bank of England notes into the hands of one-half the members of Parliament, in order to maintain the successful workings of his own ideas, and to keep down the war spirit which was then inclined to be rampant. In one of his letters, Mr. Walpole said:—"Gold is a metal that has a prodigious effect in cooling hot blood and martial spirits. There is no impetuous warrior in the Parliament but a pension of two thousand pounds would make exceedingly gentle." The pensions thus referred to, were abstracted, it was alleged, from the sinking fund, and thus the main objects of Mr. Walpole's creation were defeated by his own acts.

The system itself could not be charged with any lack of machinery to do the work designed for it, but the numerous outrages that were permitted by special acts of Parliament to be perpetrated upon it, caused the public to distrust and to denounce the scheme as one fraught with injury to to the finances of the nation.

In 1786 William Pitt became Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Immediately after his instalment into the office of head of the finances he set about working up a plan for the extinguishment of the national debt, which was then about five hundred and thirty millions of pounds. He brought forward a bill in Parliament for the appropriation of one million annually to the sinking fund, and in order to secure its reversion to its legitimate purposes, he stipulated that two hundred and fifty thousand pounds should be applied quarterly to the purchase of stock for the period of twenty-eight years, at the end of which time he calculated that the sinking fund would receive an income of four millions a year. Mr. Fox was at that time the great leader of the opposition, and he proposed that whenever a new loan should be made the sum in the hands of the sinking fund Commissioners should be deducted from the amount of the loan; for example, if six millions was authorized to be borrowed, and there should be one million in the sinking fund, the Commissioners should take that amount of the loan, so that in fact only £5,000,000 would be borrowed. As this amendment did not materially interfere with the ideas and plans of Mr. Pitt he accepted it, and the act was passed. In 1792 Parliament added £200,000 to the £1,000,000 previously appropriated, which would have made the annual revenue to what has since been termed the "Old Sinking Fund" £1,200,000. But Mr. Pitt was not satisfied with this. He prevailed upon Parliament to pass another act which provided that upon all sums thereafter borrowed by the government, in addition to the taxes necessary to pay the interest, one per cent should be imposed, to be applied to the redemption of the principal. This was termed the "New Sinking Fund," and it became the basis of Mr. Pitt's popularity as a financial minister. Under this system £10,508,000 of the public stock was redeemed in the year 1800, and in 1801 government bonds to the amount of £17,000,000 more were paid off. The system was a pet with Mr. Pitt's, and during the whole term of his administration he applied himself assiduously to the keeping of it in working order and to laying by one per cent annually for the discharge of the public debt. For a period of twenty years it worked harmoniously with all the ramifications of trade and finance, and seems to have given general satisfaction both to the government and the people. From the commencement of the present century to the year 1814, when the financial affairs of the nation fell into new hands, the following sums were appropriated from the sinking fund to the redemption of the government stock:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1800 | £10,550,094 | 1808 | £16,064,962 |
| 1801 | 10,713,168 | 1809 | 16,181,589 |
| 1802 | 10,491,325 | 1810 | 16,656,643 |
| 1803 | 9,436,889 | 1811 | 17,884,234 |
| 1804 | 13,181,667 | 1812 | 20,733,354 |
| 1805 | 12,800,620 | 1813 | 24,246,059 |
| 1806 | 13,789,097 | 1814 | 27,522,230 |
| 1807 | 15,341,799 | | |
| Total in fifteen years | | | £235,623,939 |

It must not be understood by those not familiar with the financial history of Great Britain that the national debt of that nation was diminished to the extent of the above amount; on the contrary, owing to the enormous expenses which attended the carrying on the war with France the obligations of the government increased during the above period from £451,695,764 to £799,288,486. Great praise, however, was bestowed upon Mr. Pitt for the wisdom and ingenuity he displayed in all his financial arrangements. It was claimed that his policy tended to check extravagance, to keep down the spirit of speculation, and above all to teach the government the necessity of preserving its faith and credit; and it was further considered, as we learn from contemporaneous history, that his sinking fund system actually saved the nation from impending bankruptcy. In those days there were financial croakers, but they formed a very small portion of the intelligent classes. On the part of those dissatisfied writers it was contended that Mr. Pitt's scheme caused the funds to fluctuate in value, and to animate a desire for stock jobbing; that it withdrew capital from agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, to be employed in the more idle, unproductive and precarious business of speculation; that money brokers, stockjobbers and gamblers accumulated large fortunes, while the public were impoverished, and that the amount paid into the sinking fund was just so many millions a year taken from the people for the purpose of keeping up the price of stock.

In 1816 the Right Honorable Nicholas Vansittart succeeded Mr. Pitt, who had held the position twenty-seven years, as Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was well known that Mr. Vansittart had no more exalted idea of the new sinking fund system than merely to make it, like Mr. Walpole, subservient to his use. After permitting its accumulations to be applied to its legitimate purposes for six or seven years, he began to make inroads upon it. He first attacked the policy, and contended that the amount thus raised should be turned over to the current expenses of the government instead of being appropriated for the redemption of stock. He pointed to the sinking fund as being an engine of vast power, which he subsequently practically proved, and he thought there was great danger of the national debt being reduced too rapidly through its operation, and by such argument he succeeded at least in convincing himself that the whole system should be abolished or have only a nominal existence. Accordingly in 1824 he raised the flood gates of this heretofore almost sacred fund, and changed the course of its current. The following table shows the amount of public stock redeemed under the administration of Mr. Vansittart from 1815 to 1837, a period of twenty-three years:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1815 | £22,559,683 | 1827 | £2,886,528 |
| 1816 | 24,001,033 | 1828 | 7,281,414 |
| 1817 | 23,117,841 | 1829 | 4,964,807 |
| 1818 | 19,460,982 | 1830 | 2,732,162 |
| 1819 | 19,648,469 | 1831 | 3,496,216 |
| 1820 | 31,191,702 | 1832 | 7,364 |
| 1821 | 24,518,885 | 1833 | 1,439,261 |
| 1822 | 23,605,981 | 1834 | 2,561,866 |
| 1823 | 17,966,680 | 1835 | 1,042,111 |
| 1824 | 4,828,530 | 1836 | 2,232,142 |
| 1825 | 10,583,132 | 1837 | 1,962,671 |
| 1826 | 3,313,534 | | |
| Total for twenty-three years | | | £256,443,294 |

The sinking fund system having received its death blow from Mr. Vansittart, the people became tired of it, and other means were talked of for the purpose of reducing the national debt, but nothing practical was found. The public finally became used to the burden, and even acquiesced in the sentiment that a great national debt was a great national blessing, or as the Southern rebels used to say, a blessing in disguise. All that was finally left for the extinguishment of the national debt was the old "world without end" annuity system, which only served to pension off annually a few old fogies.

## THE GREAT MASTODON DISCOVERY.

### OUR TROY CORRESPONDENCE.

TROY, Nov. 11, 1866.

The scientific world is quite likely to be thoroughly aroused by the recent discoveries in the domain of natural history at Cohoes, the manufacturing village immediately adjacent to this city. During the process of an excavation some weeks since, on the site of a mill to be newly erected, a mammoth jaw bone was found about one hundred feet from the banks of the Mohawk river, embedded at a distance of sixty-five feet below the surface of the earth, and being taken up at once, excited the attention of the naturalists not only of this vicinity, but likewise far and wide. The length of the jaw was thirty-two inches, twenty inches in width, and weighed somewhat more than forty-six pounds.

On Thursday last the remains of a complete skeleton of a huge mastodon were discovered eighteen feet further down in the same excavation, and the attendant naturalists of Yale and Union Colleges and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of this city, are fully confirmed in the opinion that the frame can be made quite perfect. The remains have been carefully gathered together in the mill of the Harmony Company, cleaned and oiled, and it is expected that they will be viewed and pronounced upon during the coming week by Professor Louis Agassiz, the learned naturalist and savant of Harvard University. The jaw of the mastodon is four feet nine inches in length from the mouth to the cranium, to which a portion of the back bone and jaw are still connected. The cranium rises very like that of an elephant. The two tusks each measure eight feet in length, and their true position is well marked on the upper jaw. The hip bone is five feet long and weighs one hundred pounds, while the shoulder blades measure ten feet nine inches, and weigh about fifty pounds each. The under jaw already alluded to as having been found some weeks since, precisely fits the upper jaw now exhumed, and the ribs are found to be four feet and a half in length, and, as before stated, the fossilists are of the opinion that the completed frame will form a most essential and grave contribution to the science of natural history.

The measurements show that the animal must have stood at least fifteen feet in height, and have been a little upwards of twenty feet in length, independent of the tusks already stated to be each eight feet in length. Professor Marsh, of the Yale College Scientific School, gives it as his well grounded opinion that the remains discovered are those of a great North American Mastodon, comparing in all its parts fully with the description of the animal given in the scientific works as follows:—"The animal has the vaulted and cellular skull of the elephant, with large tusks in the upper jaw and heavy form. From the character of the nasal bones and the shortness of the head and neck it has been concluded it had a trunk."

Whenever similar remains have been discovered on this continent, the fact has never failed to awaken the deepest interest, not only in this country but in Europe. Fragments were first discovered as early as the year 1705, and in 1801 the first comparatively complete skeleton of a mastodon was found somewhere in Orange county, I am told, and immediately transported to London, returned and kept on exhibition in Philadelphia for some years. Dr. Warren, of Harvard College, is said to be in possession of a large part of another frame, and in 1845 it is stated that a large and valuable collection of mastodon bones were found on the banks of the Mississippi river, and having been wired together were exhibited throughout the country and in London as the great Missosourium. Harvard University is also in possession of a mastodon skeleton, independent of that belonging to Dr. Warren, and it is alleged that specimens of the primeval species have been found in several of the States, but in no instance anything like as perfect as the one now developed at Cohoes. Scientific investigations upon this controverted subject have been widely extended and marked by great industry, and as this event shows, they have been characterized by much success and truthfulness.

One author says:—"The food of the mastodon was entirely vegetable, as is proved by the remains of twigs of coniferous trees, and other vegetable matter found between the ribs; and the animal was doubtless fond of resorting to marshy or boggy places, in search of succulent plants, where it was often mired in the very places where its remains have been extracted during the nineteenth century." Another writer remarks:—"The geological position of the remains of this species (mastodon) has long been and still is a subject of dispute among geologists; in a few instances they are said to have been found below the drift, in the pliocene, and even in the miocene; but they have generally been obtained from the most pliocene or alluvial formations at a depth of five to ten feet, in lacustral deposit, bogs, and beds of infusorial earth. Some have thought that the mastodons became extinct since the advent of man on the earth. According to Lyell, the period of their destruction, though geologically modern, must have been many thousand years ago. The same causes probably acted in their extinction as in the case of the fossil elephant, perhaps partly climatic changes or, more probably, some great convulsion on the surface of the globe at an epoch anterior to man." A distinguished natural historian says:—"One of the principal deposits of mastodon bones appears to have been the Big Bone Lick in the north part of Kentucky, near the Ohio, whence the mastodon has been called 'the animal of the Ohio.' None of the remains have the appearance of having been rolled, but seem to have been unmoved since the death of the animal; and it is worthy of remark that those which were found at the river of the Great Osage, which runs into the Missouri a little above its confluence with the Mississippi, were in a vertical position, as if the animals had been bogged or buried in the soil."

Parkinson, in his Organic Remains, adds:—"The country in which these remains (mastodon) are found, is like an immense plain, bordered on every side by mountains. On digging into the morasses, where these bones are found, the following strata are generally met with:—One or two feet of peat, one or two feet of yellow marl, with vegetable remains, about two feet of grey marl, like ashes, finally a bed of shell marl. In the grey marl the bones are generally found."

The soil in which the discovery at Cohoes was found answers Parkinson's description in the above quotation exactly.

It thus appears that a great and permanent contribution is about to be made to science, and that in the bosom of the State of New York has been found the most important discovery tending to elucidate natural history made in many, many years.

## PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

List of Americans registered at the American banking houses in Paris for the week ending October 26:—S. J. Spiegelberg, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. D. Keyes, Frederic L. De Forest, Jas. G. De Forest and wife; Major General de Frobriand, wife and daughter; J. C. Blodgett and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Easton, Miss Easton, Charles H. Thomson, D. H. Haight and family, Charles Toppan, Alfred Pell and family, Mrs. A. Holland and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Lippincott, Geo. S. Partridge, Colonel W. H. Coyle, F. P. James, Charles A. Edwards, Miss Mary P. Edwards, A. N. Greenleaf and family, John A. C. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Babbitt, Mrs. B. C. Hirst, L. M. Thorn, Parke Godwin, Thomas R. Clark and family, Mrs. C. Vanderbilt, Mrs. L. Barker, W. R. Vanderbilt, from New York; George A. Fiske and wife, Mrs. F. Tilton, Geo. Whitney, Franklin Burgess, Nathan Appleton, M. Wight, C. D. Lamb, C. H. Putnam and family, Mrs. E. T. Bancroft and daughter, J. F. Nichols, Boston, Burnet Landreth, J. T. Johnson, A. P. Phelps, James P. Tate, J. P. Lesley, Franklin Fell, Mrs. Wm. J. Fell, Mr. and Mrs. Redwood, F. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Freshmeth, Mr. and Mrs. F. Collins, Miss E. D. Collins, Miss A. M. Collins, Jos. H. Reede and family, Philadelphia, Mrs. W. P. Lynde and family, Milwaukee, J. S. Carpenter and family, New Jersey, Dr. and Mrs. James P. White, Jos. P. White, Jr., Miss Dobbins, Buffalo, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Coyle and daughter, Frank D. Coyle, Washington, W. W. Kendall, Kentucky, Dr. J. D. Smith and daughter, Chicago, Miss Hooker, Hartford, A. P. Peabody, Cambridge, Francis Forbes, Rochester.

# AMUSEMENTS.

### The Metropolitan Entertainments.

Madame Adelaide Ristori's return to the city, the acting of Mr. Charles Dillon at the Broadway, the fine representations at the German Thalia theatre and New York theatre, a new play at Tony Pastor's, a Ristori evening in Brooklyn, with various Minstrels' excellencies, give promise of a pleasing and profitable week in the theatrical world.

RISTORI'S RETURN.

Madame Adelaide Ristori opens a season of six nights at the French theatre, commencing this evening. Manager Grau names Monday, Wednesday and Friday as Ristori's evenings in New York and next Thursday as the Brooklyn evening. This evening the Madame appears in the great tragedy Adrienne Lecouvreur. On the 20th of November Ristori will give an evening of recitations at the new Steinway Hall, for the benefit of those who do not like to visit the theatre. These entertainments were very popular in Paris.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

At the Broadway theatre the great tragedian, Mr. Charles Dillon, is meeting with all the success that could be expected; appearing as he did at a time when political electioneering excitement was at its height, he has come out of his first week with much *éclat* and pleasure to the management. This and to-morrow evening Mr. Dillon appears in his own dramatization of Louis XI., played by him with marked success at the Lyceum, London, during the season contemporary with the prolonged run of the rendering of the same subject by Boucicault at the Princess, Charles Kean personating the wily old King. Lovers of sterling acting should see Mr. Dillon. Friday next Mr. Dillon will take a benefit, appearing as Macbeth.

GERMAN THALIA THEATRE.

At this establishment, in Broadway, this evening, will be given the fine five act drama Der Spiegler, with an excellent cast.

NEW YORK THEATRE.

At the New York theatre, in Broadway, near Eighth street, this evening and during the week, the very successful favorite five act passions drama, Griffith Gaunt, or Jealousy, will be repeated with all the fine accessories bestowed on its production.

THEATRE FRANCAIS.

At the Théâtre Français, West Fourteenth street, on Tuesday evening—opera night—will be produced the three act opera, Midsummer Night's Dream, Le Songe d'Une Nuit d'Eté, with magnificent scenery, new costumes and appointments and full orchestra and chorus. The artistes engaged at the house will repeat this opera Monday, November 19, for a charitable purpose, in Philadelphia, at the Academy of Music.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.

Tony Pastor appears to have made the production of new plays a specialty at his opera house in the Bowery. This evening he is to place on the boards another new drama, entitled Uncle Sam's Veterans, in which the Soldier's Return, the Genius of Liberty and the grand tableau of Washington Crossing the Delaware, will be exhibited. The Ethiopian comedian, Master Tommy, makes a first appearance, Tony Pastor opens a portfolio of new songs, and some excellent dances are announced.

M. HARTZ, THE ILLUSIONIST.

This gentleman draws crowded audiences to Dodworth Hall, Broadway, where his feats and wonderful performances are fresh and astonishing as at the commencement. The extraordinary phenomenon of a human head floating in the air will be witnessed with the other tricks.

KELLY AND LEON'S MINSTRELS.

The company performing at the new hall No 720 have achieved a decided success; and seats are now secured some days in advance. This evening the performances commence at a quarter to eight o'clock in order to permit the production of a fine novelty on the minstrel stage entitled Kelly & Leon's Original Excursion Trip Round the World. The naval combat between the Kearsage and Alabama is represented. Other good things follow.

BUDWORTH'S MINSTRELS.

Mr. Budworth has arranged to produce this evening at the new Fifth Avenue Opera House another sensation in the spectacle of a a wonderful illusion called A Trip to the Moon—a very grotesque and laughable performance. The Fenian Scare, Echoes from Fatherland, Hunting a Prima Donna, with other attractive pieces and songs follow.

CHARLEY WHITE'S MINSTRELS.

The members of Charley White's Minstrels' and Combination Company are cast with care in the military drama entitled The Female Clerks of Washington, which will be produced with startling effects this evening. Miss Eva Brent is still at the house in song. Striking Off brings out Warren and Winship. The characteristic ballet entitled La Cicilienne engages a host of young ladies.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.

Messrs. Birch, Wambold, Bernard and Backus are amusing as ever, with their company in great force and spirit, at their hall, No. 585 Broadway. A very ample bill will be exhausted by the production of the pleasing illusion called The Shadow Pantomime.

DE CORDOVA'S HUMOROUS LECTURES.

This lecturer will commence a series of entertainments at Irving Hall to-morrow evening, when he will give an original production entitled "Miss Jones' Wedding—No Cards." There is nothing in Mr. De Cordova's efforts of a damaging nature, excepting it may be as regards waistcoat buttons and stay lacings, and nothing approaching vulgarity or what is styled flashy. On the contrary he occupies high moral ground and only strives to please and better those who go to hear him.

THE PARK THEATRE, BROOKLYN.

Mrs. F. B. Conway has arranged to continue on the boards of the Park theatre, Brooklyn, every evening during the week, the successful spectacular drama, The Sea of Ice, which has proved so attractive. Mrs. Conway has an entirely original and startling drama in preparation, which will soon be produced at the establishment, with fine effect and the strength of the numerous company.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, BROOKLYN.

The famous piece The Shadow Pantomime, or a Trip to the Moon, enters the last days of its representation at Hooley's this evening. A well selected bill embraces a great many other good things.

WEAVER'S OPERA HOUSE, WILLIAMSBURG.

Mr. Harry Leslie, the favorite pantomimist, has achieved a decided success at this house, and continues on the boards with Eph. Horn, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Queen, and the other "lights" of the programme.

BROOKLYN CHORAL UNION.

A new musical society has been established in Brooklyn under the above name. At a meeting in the Academy of Music the following gentlemen were appointed officers of the new society:—John Greenwood, Chairman; E. B. Moore, Secretary, and F. L. Dalton, Treasurer.

### First Sunday Concert at Steinway Hall.

The audience at the first Sunday concert in Steinway Hall last evening was far larger than ever before assembled in that hall, not excepting even the opening night. Three thousand people at a concert is a rare sight in this city, and we can safely place last night's audience at that number at the very least. Not only was every seat occupied, but a large proportion of the audience had to content themselves with "standing room only." It was a good natured audience, too, for everything on the programme was encored. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Theodore Thomas, played the Rienzi and Wassertrager overtures, and the entire Bateman troupe assisted in the concert. It seemed as if the sight of the immense audience inspired all the artists to unwonted exertions. Signor Fortuna surprised us in the aria, "*Alla Pace*," from *Il Giuramento*. His voice was much stronger and he threw more fire and animation into it than at any previous concert since his debut here. Mr. Carl Rosa is deserving of much praise for his artistic rendering of that *chef d'œuvre* of violin difficulties, the *Chaconne*, by Bach. We have spoken before of this piece, the score of which is a curiosity and a *terra ignota* to any save a first class violinist. Both Brignoli and Parepa received an ovation which was well deserved, and beyond doubt sincere on the part of the audience. The former sang one of his best pieces, the charming reverie, "*Sogna*," by Schira. It is a simple, plaintive theme, set off with orchestration such as one seldom meets outside the opera. Mme. Parepa achieved a fresh triumph in Handel's magnificent air "In Guiltless Blood." It is in oratorio alone that the grand volume of her voice and its richness of expression obtain full scope, and it is a treat to hear her in one of Handel or Haydn's sublime arias. Signor Ferranti sang the "*Pro Peccatis*" of Rossini's *Stabat Mater* pretty well, although he seemed entirely out of his element, and we expected every minute a *fra, la, la* refrain to burst forth. Mr. Mills played a selection from Chopin's imaginative concerto in E minor with the taste and finish of a true artist. The well known prayer from "Moses in Egypt," with orchestra and piano, was sung by Mme. Parepa and Signori Brignoli, Ferranti and Fortuna. To-night the first Monday popular concert will take place, the following artists assisting:—Mrs. Marie Abbott, soprano; Messrs. Pease and Colby, pianists; Mr. Letsch, trombone, and Thomas' orchestra.

### Miscellaneous Musical and Theatrical.

The Richings' opera troupe was last week in Richmond. On Thursday night La Somnambula was brought out, and on Saturday night Fra Diavolo. The Richmond press speak in enthusiastic terms of the performance of the troupe.

The Mendelssohn Quintet Club of Boston, with Mrs. H. M. Smith, soprano, and B. J. Lang, pianist, give a concert in Providence, R. I., on the 13th instant.

At the Howard Athenæum, Boston, on the 12th instant, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Florence appeared in Inshavogue and Mischievous Annie.

Marietta Ravel, pantomimist, has just closed a week's engagement at the Opera House, in Troy, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul performed in comedy and gave impersonations at the Academy of Music, Providence, R. I., on the 8th and 9th instant.

At the Mobile (Alabama) theatre, on the 6th, Miss Anna Hathaway performed the parts of Henry St. Alme, Hamet and Mathilde de Merie in the French Spy.

The Webb Sisters were at Greenlaw Opera House, Memphis, on the 7th.

Edwin Adams on the 7th appeared in Macbeth at the New Memphis theatre.

## CORONERS' INQUESTS.

### The Supposed Suicide of Mr. Simpson—Investigation Before Coroner Gover.

Coroner Gover yesterday held an inquest at No. 272 Eighth avenue, over the remains of Mr. William Simpson, proprietor of a drug store located at the above number, who died on Saturday afternoon from the effects of a dose of laudanum, supposed to have been taken for the purpose of self-destruction. Deceased was a gentleman of excellent character, but from domestic unhappiness or other causes he had become addicted to the excessive use of intoxicating liquors, although for several days previous to his death he had abstained from drink. He became very despondent on Friday last, and late that night swallowed a quantity of laudanum, of which fact he soon afterwards informed his wife. Below will be found a copy of all the important testimony taken in the case:—

Ann Simpson, being duly sworn, deposed and said:—Deceased was my husband; he had been in the habit of drinking for some time, but up to three months since he had been temperate, since which time and up to last Sunday he had been drinking freely; since last Sunday he has not drank any that I know of; on Friday he was very desponding; about twelve o'clock night before last he came up stairs; I was in bed, which he did not seem to be pleased with; he took a small bottle out of his pocket which contained laudanum and did that he would swallow it; he left me and came down stairs; I followed him and found the small bottle of laudanum on the mantelpiece; I put it in my pocket and went up stairs; in ten minutes time I returned and saw a shelf bottle of laudnaum on the table; he said he had taken some out of the large bottle; he lay down on the lounge and went to sleep; I went to bed; between seven and eight o'clock yesterday morning I came down stairs and found him still sleeping and in the same position; he was breathing very hard; I did not disturb him; about half-past twelve o'clock I found him still sleeping; I then tried to wake him up, but could not; I then became alarmed and called one of the clerks out of the store; he also tried to rouse him, but without success; about two o'clock I sent for a doctor, and by the time the doctor arrived, which was at three o'clock, deceased had just breathed his last; deceased had on several occasions, when drunk, threatened to destroy himself, but never when sober.

William L. Taylor, one of the clerks in Mr. Simpson's employ, deposed to having his attention called to the condition of deceased, about two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, by Abram Griggs, also a clerk for Mr. Simpson; at that time deceased was lying on the lounge, breathing very laboriously and pulse very feeble. The witness immediately started for a physician, but before one arrived Mr. Simpson was dead. Mr. Taylor was not aware that deceased had taken laudanum until he returned from dinner; the witness says it was concluded by himself and the other clerk to go for a doctor.

Mr. Griggs testified that at nine o'clock on Saturday morning Mrs. Simpson told him that during the previous night deceased attempted to drink laudanum out of a small bottle, but she knocked it out of his hand before he could drink any, and also said that he had not drank any liquor.

The case was then submitted to the jury, who rendered the following verdict:—"That William Simpson, the deceased, came to his death by taking an over dose of laudanum on the 10th day of November, 1866."

Mr. Simpson was forty-six years of age and a native of Scotland.

### Found in the Water—Suspicion of Foul Play.

Last Tuesday evening Francis McAleer, a man about twenty-five years of age, suddenly disappeared from his home and was seen no more by his friends. Yesterday morning Officer Pettit, of the Sixteenth precinct, found the remains of McAleer floating in the dock foot of Twenty-sixth street, North river. Coroner Gover was notified and caused the remains to be removed from the water, after which rumors were in circulation to the effect that McAleer had been assaulted by persons with whom he had been at enmity and then thrown overboard. On making inquiries it appeared that deceased and an acquaintance had had a misunderstanding concerning a young woman to whom both were very partial, the result being a quarrel. Some of the friends of deceased were subsequently cautioned against letting him appear in the neighborhood of Tenth avenue and Twenty-third street, as certain parties had threatened to "fix" him if they caught him there. The remains, by consent of the Coroner, were removed to the residence of deceased's brother, No. 206 West Sixteenth street, where they were partially examined by Deputy Coroner John Beach, M. D. Some scratches and contusions were apparent about the face and head; but whether received before or after death remains to be determined. A post mortem examination and an inquest will be held on the body to-day. The body was far advanced in decomposition.

## NEW JERSEY INTELLIGENCE.

### Jersey City.

THE FAIR AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH.—Among the prizes to be drawn at this fair is the celebrated horse Sandcrab, once famous throughout the United States. He was presented to the pastor of St. Peter's church for this fair by Mr. Timothy Egan, of Bright street, Jersey City.

### Communipaw.

THE STOCK YARD RETURNS.—During the past week there were received at the stock yard 631 head of cattle, 3,410 hogs and 4,103 sheep. The new horse market is just completed, and sales will take place there from this day forward.

### Fort Lee.

CONFIRMATION.—The sacrament of confirmation was administered by Bishop Bayley at eight o'clock yesterday morning to sixty children. The prelate was highly pleased with the progress of religion in the parish, which has now the advantage of the labors of the Sisters of Charity, who have taken up their abode in the late parochial residence. Schools have been established for children of both sexes in the parish, which comprises Hackensack, Englewood and Fort Lee.

### Newark.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES YESTERDAY.—The Rev. Dr. Poor preached an eloquent discourse last evening in the Central Methodist Episcopal church, upon "Church Unity." He argued in favor of there being more of a united action in Christian work, showing the great benefits to be derived from the joining of hearts and hands in the great undertaking of saving souls. He was listened to throughout with attention. Rev. Mr. Atkinson delivered a sermon last evening in the Franklin street Methodist Episcopal church, upon the subject, "Lessons of the Canvass." Considerable attention was paid the speaker, although the abandonment of the Gospel for the forwarding of political faith was not much admired.

STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.—On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next the New Jersey Sunday School Convention will meet in the First Presbyterian church, at Newark. Delegates are expected from all portions of the State, inasmuch as interesting subjects will be brought before the body for discussion. One of the principal features of the assemblage will be the Bible, intermediate and infant class instructions. On the morning of the 14th the county secretaries will meet, and in the afternoon the Convention will be opened by a prayer meeting, conducted by the Rev. D. Coles, D. D., after which the usual reports will be read and addresses delivered. On Friday the several Sabbath schools will hold meetings in twelve church edifices—St. Paul's, M. E., Third Presbyterian, Second Reformed Dutch, Fifth Baptist, Central M. E., High street Presbyterian, Warren street M. E., First Baptist, Trinity Episcopal, Second Presbyterian, Plane street Presbyterian and the Roseville Presbyterian. At the children's meetings interesting exercises will be held; among others a hymn will be sung, written by "Marion Harland" (Mrs. E. P. Terhune), of Newark.

BREAKING UP OF A DISORDERLY HOUSE.—On Saturday night a squad of police, headed by the chief, made a descent upon a disorderly house kept in Broome street, between Marshal and Court, and arrested twenty-nine of the inmates. They were very much surprised at their capture, but, on being brought to the stationhouse, paid a fine of $5 each. The proprietor was fined $50, but not having the ready cash he gave bail for his appearance at trial.

ASSAULT.—Jeremiah Rawley was arrested on Saturday night for committing an assault on James Smith, at 26 Centre street. It seems that while Mr. Smith was walking quietly down that street he was accosted by Rawley, and struck on the head with a bottle. The assailant was committed.

### COURT CALENDARS FOR THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—PART 1.—Nos. 2673, 2689, 2589, 2241, 2477, 2599, 1836, 871, 2091, 2567, 2655, 2327, 1173, 1527, 2183. Part 2.—Nos. 2746, 2509, 2810, 2460, 2486, 2816, 2876, 2906, 2882, 2774, 2862, 1490, 2634, 1174, 1546.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—PART 1.—Nos. 1527, 1556, 1541, 1543, 1287, 1546, 1640, 1649, 1690, 1696, 1697, 1321, 1140, 1534, 1652. Part 2.—Nos. 1700, 1625, 1344, 581, 649, 950, 1062, 1608, 1773 to 1780.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS—Grand Larceny—The People vs. William Clark, Christian Bakei, Thomas Thayer, Garrett Hollenbeck, Edwin Pollock, John Howe, Reuben Deves and Andrew Watson. Burglary in the Third Degree—Thomas Lynch, George Smith, John Williams, Henry C. Mountford. False Pretences—William Gillespie. Robbery—Wm. McGreary and Thomas Tighe. Felonious Assault and Battery—Joseph Billy and Paul Christiansen.

## BROOKLYN INTELLIGENCE.

A NEW BUSINESS FIRM.—At about one o'clock yesterday morning William Jones and Peter Levoy entered into a copartnership to relieve the money drawer of Rozell & Block, of No. 433 Fulton avenue, of its contents. Succeeding in this, they went to No. 277 Myrtle avenue, and robbed the till of John McGlinn. They were afterwards arrested, and are now awaiting an examination before Justice Morehouse.

MORE LIGHT.—Ann Delanty, an Irish servant girl of eighteen, was arrested on Saturday afternoon, and is held for examination before Justice Corswell, charged with stealing a pair of spectacles, worth $10, from Martha Ehle, No. 622 Pacific street.

SUNDAY ARRESTS.—John Quigley was arrested on Saturday afternoon, for stealing lead pipe. Andrew Slate, Michael McLaughlin and Bernard McLaughlin came to grief, on the evening of the same day, for breaking open an oyster saloon. George Williams was taken into custody for having a piece of carpet in his possession of which he could give no satisfactory account. All will have their cases examined into to-day.

FIRES LAST EVENING.—About half-past five o'clock last evening a fire broke out in the stable rear of 149 Smith street. The fire, which was discovered in the hay loft, is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. There were five valuable horses in the stable at the time, which were owned by gentlemen residing in the neighborhood, besides several valuable sets of harness and other property. The damage done the building is about five hundred dollars; insurance unknown. The property was more or less damaged. The flames communicated to the adjoining stable, owned by Mr. Thompson, in the rear of 147 Smith street, in which place there were three horses. In both instances the horses were rescued by Mr. Francis Mahoney, residing at the corner of Court and Atlantic streets, to whom the owners are indebted, to a great extent, for the safety of their property. One of the horses was slightly injured by the fire. The firemen were promptly on the ground and prevented further destruction of property.

### THE CONSEQUENCE OF MISCEGENATION.

#### A White Man Murdered at the Instigation of His Wife by a Negro with whom She Had Been Criminally Intimate.

[From the Detroit Free Press, Nov. 9.]

The circumstances connected with the late murder of August Shulz reveal a cool bloodedness of crime, so to speak, totally unparalleled in the history of criminal statistics. There was no excuse for this heartless deed. How could there be? The victim was a young man in the prime of manly vigor; one who sought by honest labor to provide for himself and family by the sweat of his brow, and had honestly carried out his intention up to the hour of his death.

Through the kindness of Deputy Sheriff Close we are enabled to lay before our readers a full and comprehensive statement of the murderous affair. After hearing of the dreadful crime he started on his mission with a full knowledge of the main facts, but of the details he knew nothing. Arriving at the house of the brother of the murdered man, he there gained an insight into the nature of the horrible murder, and based his operations, which may be summed up as follows. The statement below may be implicitly relied upon, it having been gained from the lips of the parties themselves, through personal interview:—

THE MURDER.

About two months ago, according to statement, Mrs. Shulz first broached the idea of getting her husband out of the way to the negroes, Walker and Piney. Walker, who is a muscular man, and a cool, calculating villain, favored the project, and having an eye to the possession of Mrs. Shulz, soon suggested the means—that of killing Shulz some time when he was passing from his own house to that of his brother, and between which that of Walker is situated. The first intimacy between Walker and Mrs. Shulz occurred about two months ago. The parties lived about half a mile apart, in the bush, off the Pontiac road. Mrs. Shulz was in the habit of going to Walker's for water, and while on this errand became acquainted. From this sprung up a criminal intimacy, which has resulted in the commission of a horrid crime, the main facts of which are already known. It was projected about five weeks ago that Mr. Shulz should be murdered, and Mrs. S. left her home on a visit to her friends in Redford with the understanding that the bloody deed should be accomplished before she returned. The negro Walker was to perpetrate the murder, but when the opportunity offered his heart failed him. Shulz was drawn into his trap, but when the foul act was rife for accomplishment Walker was too much frightened to strike the fatal blow. This passed and Mrs. Shulz returned to find that her heart's desire had not been accomplished. She then upbraided Walker for cowardice, and under the sting he committed the horrid deed. On Saturday night, while Shulz was passing from his own house to that of his brother, he was met in the garden patch of Walker and Piney, and there brutally shot down and beaten to death by the hell-hearted ruffians. The shot from the musket took effect in the back of his head, but did not immediately kill him. Walker clubbed the weapon and finished the bloody work by nearly beating his brains out while lying insensible from