

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

VOLUME XXXI. No. 345

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—St. Mark of the Soldiers of Fort.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway, opposite New York Hotel.—LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON.

THEATRE FRANCAIS, Fourteenth street, near Sixth avenue.—GALATHEE—GREYEVILLE.

GERMAN THEATRE, No. 84 Broadway.—DAS BRÄUWEIN.

GERMAN STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—MRS. UZZEL'S GARDEN IN THREE GREAT ACTS.

STEVENS HALL, Fourteenth street.—THE OPERATOR OF SASSER BY THE CROSIAN CHORUS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 25 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel.—IN THEIR OWN SINGING, DANCING, AND BURLESQUE.—THE NEW COMEDY.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Fourth street.—BROWNE'S MINSTRELS.—THE MINSTREL COMPANY. SINGING, DANCING, AND BURLESQUE.

KILBY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 72 Broadway, opposite the New York Hotel.—IN THEIR OWN SINGING, DANCING, AND BURLESQUE.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 21 Bowery.—GROSS VIOLETTA.—MRS. MURPHY'S BALLY.

CHARLEY WHITE'S COMBINATION TROUPE, 311 Broadway.—A VARIETY OF LIGHT AND LAUGHABLE ENTERTAINMENT.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Broadway.—ETHEL'S MINSTRELS. SINGING, DANCING, AND BURLESQUE.

SEVEN'S OPERA HOUSE, Williamsburg.—ETHEL'S MINSTRELS. SINGING, DANCING, AND BURLESQUE.

FREEMASONS CHURCH, corner of Grand and Crosby streets.—THE GREAT MEXICAN FAIR IN AID OF THE HALL AND ARTS.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, Twenty-eighth street, between Lexington and Third avenues.—GRAND FAIR, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENING.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—LECTURES BY THE OXY-HYDROGEN MICROSCOPE.

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expedient of offering to the general government a portion of Union or Madison square as a site for a Post office, was introduced. A motion calling up the report of the Board of Aldermen relative to disposing of a portion of City Hall Park for that purpose, was voted down. A communication from the Mayor was received, vetoing the resolutions to pave a portion of Third avenue with the Belgian pavement.

The Brooklyn Board of Aldermen at their last meeting, directed the Street Commissioner to procure working plans and estimates for building an avenue across Wallabout bay, thereby practically connecting Williamsburg with the main city.

The steamship Britannia, which left London on the 4th of November, arrived at this port yesterday, having been five weeks at sea. She lost her propeller, rudder and sternpost during a heavy gale on the 15th ult., and was compelled to make the rest of her voyage under canvas.

An investigation was held yesterday at 300 Broadway, on the burning of the Williamsburg ferryboat Idaho, on the 26th of November last. Dr. Dalton conducted the examination on the part of the Board of Health. Christian Wagner, who was a passenger on board of the Idaho at the time of the disaster, and several other witnesses were examined. The pilot of the boat testified on the part of the company.

Another audacious bank robbery was perpetrated yesterday morning at the office of the Royal Fire and Life Insurance Company. A tin box, containing about \$200,000 worth of coupon bonds and registered securities was taken from the vault by one of two young men, who stated that they wished to ascertain the rate and conditions of life insurance policies.

The case of Benkert & Hutton against Augustus Schell was before Judge Smedley in the United States Circuit Court, before again yesterday. In the absence of an important witness the hearing of the case was postponed till Wednesday next.

The final arguments in the case of the United States against Rowe and others were delivered yesterday before Commissioner on Newton, in Brooklyn. The decision in the case was reversed. The case of the United States against Messrs. Devlin, Tilton and Levin was adjourned until day at half past nine o'clock. Before Commissioner Jones, the case of the United States against John Devlin was adjourned until to-day.

In the Supreme Court, Chambers, a stay of proceedings was yesterday granted in the case of Jeremiah O'Brien, now under sentence of death. This will have the effect of at least delaying his execution for a considerable time, and may result in a new trial being granted. Application was also made for the release on bail of William R. Babcock, one of the parties alleged to have been implicated in the Lord bond robbery. Decision reserved.

In the Superior Court, yesterday, before Judge Menell, a boy named Schrier, fourteen years of age, sought to recover \$20,000 from the Forty-second Street and Grand Street Railroad Company for the loss of his left leg and the permanent disability of his right foot. After hearing the evidence the Court dismissed the case.

Dr. William R. Massey, who was assaulted by two unknown men on the 31st, died in Bellevue Hospital on Saturday. The murderers are still at large, but vigorous efforts are being made to discover them.

The American and Mexican Mail Steamship Company do not intend withdrawing their line. The renowned steamship Manhattan, E. W. Turner, commander, will leave this port on Saturday next for Havana, Sinal and Vera Cruz.

The stock market was buoyant yesterday, Northwest leading the upward movement. Gold closed at 137 1/2.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our special telegram from Vera Cruz, dated December 4, by way of Mobile December 10, contains news of great importance. The Suseuhanna, with Sherman and Campbell on board, arrived off the city on Thursday, and the parties on board communicated with the American Consul. No one came ashore, however, and the courtesies of the French commander were declined. On the night of Monday, the 2d instant, the vessel sailed for Havana, where it arrived on Friday last. General Sherman and Minister Campbell were to leave on Saturday for Monterey, by way of Matamoros. Contemporaneously with the arrival of the Suseuhanna at Vera Cruz a proclamation was issued declaring that Maximilian would not leave the country, but would remain in the ruins of government. In the meantime the Emperor's baggage is being shipped preparatory to leaving. General Sheridan arrived at Brownsville on the 6th, and placed General Sedgwick under arrest. He also ordered the release of Ortega. Escobedo ordered Canales to Monterey to take a command in the force operating against San Luis, and ordered Cortina to report in Chihuahua under arrest for decorations committed.

Our Panama correspondence is dated December 2. The aspect of political affairs in Colombia is highly interesting. Mosquera seems determined to hold his office as President for life, and has boldly advanced the idea of declaring the government a monarchy. The blacks and the lower class of natives favor his proposition, and at a public meeting he was hailed, with the title of "Thomas I." A recent edict directed all the mails, including those which are only sent to the coast, to be sent to the local post offices for distribution. This will cause a serious delay in the transmission of mails between New York and California. The Peruvian and Chilean fleets were preparing for a long sea voyage. Their destination is thought to be an Atlantic port, and the papers say it is either Montevideo or Buenos Ayres. The general opinion is against a withdrawal from the war with "pain ultio" in spirit of retaliation.

The opponents of the government have been defeated in the Chilean Congress. A disastrous fire, destroying the market place, occurred in Santiago on the 24th inst. The Cyclone, which was reported to have been captured by the Spanish, arrived at Valparaiso on the 10th ult. There was no news of interest from Central America. Rear Admiral Pease had arrived at Panama, where he was awaiting the arrival of Admiral Dahlgren, who relieved him in command of the South Pacific Squadron.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce have prepared a memorial to Congress in regard to the China mail service. They request that the contract with the Pacific Mail Company be modified so that twelve trips to China be required yearly instead of thirteen, and that the subsidy of \$300,000 for mail service to Honolulu be increased to \$350,000.

Our dates from the Rome-American Telegraph expedition are from Petropavlovsk, Kamtschatka, on the 5th of August. General Binkley was to have sailed for San Francisco the 30th day. The Pacific Steamship Company's Hawaiian ship is the North Pacific during the war, and on a presentation of the bill to the British government it was promptly settled.

Our Honolulu correspondence is dated October 29. Queen Emma arrived in the Vanderbilt on the 22d, and was received with the usual honors.

The Fenian prisoners at Sweetwater entered a plea of not guilty at their arraignment yesterday. A special plea in each case was filed denying the jurisdiction of the court; it will be argued to-day. A committee, with instructions to try and arrange a new reciprocity treaty with the United States government, is to be sent to Washington during the week. Lord Mackay left yesterday for England, and Sir John Michael was sworn in as Administrator during his absence.

Our correspondence from Montgomery, Ala., gives in substance the discussion in the Legislature on the question of adopting or rejecting the constitutional amendment.

Two more deaths have resulted from the Thomas Kelso disaster, making five in all thus far. Two of the injured will probably not recover.

Mrs. Theresa Lieberman, the wife of a brewer in Cairo, Ill., mutilated her two children, ages seven and nine, with an axe, on Sunday, and then cut her own throat, nearly severing her head from her body. One of the children will probably recover, and the condition of the other is considered precarious. The woman had never been subject to fits of ferocity, but complained of heavy headaches a short time before the occurrence.

A defective boiler in the Buffalo Gas Works exploded yesterday. One man was killed and two horribly mangled.

The case of the Missouri suit was resumed in the Supreme Court at Washington yesterday. A motion was made for a reargument of this case in Chief Justice's court, that it was put in writing and filed it would be considered.

A severe gale visited Lake Ontario on Saturday and Sunday. One vessel was driven ashore. No other disaster is reported, most of the lake craft being laid up.

A fire in Ottawa, C. W., on Sunday, destroyed the Post office, telegraph office, and three stores and warehouses. A man named Robert McKay was burned to death. An extensive dyehouse in Winlock, Vt., was burned down yesterday. The loss is estimated at \$60,000. Several hundred hands are thrown out of employment. Several business houses in Columbia, Tenn., were also destroyed by fire on Saturday. The [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

The Latest Phase of the Mexican Difficulty.

Our special correspondence from Vera Cruz, up to December 4, published in another part of the paper, presents the Mexican difficulty under a new phase. Our correspondent, faithful to his duty, presents the facts as to what had occurred and as to the confusion of ideas that existed in the "heroic city" about General Sherman, Minister Campbell and the Suseuhanna, their destination, what they were going to do and what they were not going to do, as well as about the purposes of Maximilian and the Emperor Napoleon. He throws some light also upon the intrigues and probable designs of the different parties, including those of the old Miramon-Marquez church party. He gives us, besides, a proclamation, or pretended proclamation, which had been circulating several days in Vera Cruz, stating that Maximilian had determined to sacrifice all for the Mexicans, "even to the extent of shedding his last drop of blood in defence of the nation." It was stated subsequently in the best informed circles (imperial) that Maximilian would return to the city of Mexico and fight out his imperial role to the last.

Looking at all the circumstances surrounding Maximilian's situation, at the tenor and phraseology of this pretended proclamation and at the fact that no name is signed to it, we strongly suspect it is a satirical hoax, got up by some ingenious Mexican, secretly of the liberal party, for the purpose of throwing ridicule on Maximilian's pretensions and dilemma. The fact stated by our correspondent in this document had not been disavowed officially, though it had been in circulation four days, it does not prove its genuineness. If genuine, there is little doubt but some responsible name would have been attached to it. Besides, for Maximilian to have written it would be tantamount to declaring that he was going to abandon Mexico, which he will not be prepared to do, probably, till all his preparations are made and he is ready to put his foot on board of his ship for Europe. If this document be authorized by him or the Miramon church party it only shows how blind and even ridiculous men otherwise sensible can be when in a false or critical situation. It may, however, have been put out as a dodge on the part of the imperialists or church party just as General Sherman and Mr. Campbell were expected at Vera Cruz, to try how far they could involve the United States in responsibility about Mexican affairs or in embarrassments with France.

The remarks of our correspondent that the mission of General Sherman and Mr. Campbell was regarded as a fizzle show that it was not understood. The mission had nothing to do with Maximilian, Marshal Bazaine, Miramon or any other party. As we have stated before, Mr. Campbell's mission was to Juarez, the President of the Mexican republic, the only authority in Mexico our government recognizes, and to no one else. General Sherman merely accompanied him as an adviser and for the purpose of aiding the republican government of Mexico to establish peace and order, if called upon to do so, as soon as the country should be clear of its foreign enemies. They did not go to take the government, with its responsibilities and liabilities, from the hands of Maximilian or Marshal Bazaine, nor to enter into any negotiations with these parties. The United States was not going to be the temporary executor of the last testament of the departing French and imperialists; for we never considered they had any right there.

We were not going to be the medium of transferring or handing over the reins of government from those who had no right to hold them to those who were the rightful possessors. We stood ready to aid, without forcibly and directly intervening, our neighboring sister republic to establish a firm government as soon as the usurpers should leave. This was the least we could do for a friendly and neighboring republic under the extraordinary national and international difficulties surrounding the case, and this we shall do. As to General Sherman and Mr. Campbell not landing at Vera Cruz—which seems to be thought a failure in their mission—we suppose they had no business there except to learn from our Consul the state of affairs. The Suseuhanna might have gone for this purpose or from stress of weather. At all events it is not likely that these gentlemen or the government ever contemplated landing for any purpose of negotiating with the French or pretended imperial authorities.

The delay in the French troops leaving and in the departure of Maximilian, taken in connection with the apparent activity of the Miramon and Marquez church party, has a disagreeable look. Though the Emperor Napoleon has broken his promise in not taking away the first instalment of troops at the time agreed upon, we are still disposed to believe his second promise that he will take them all away in a body in or by next March. Still it looks as if there were some ulterior object, some unexplained cause, for holding on to Mexico to the last. Perhaps Napoleon hopes by this policy to secure the French bondholders' payment or part payment of the Mexican adventure he led thereunto. Perhaps he may hope to get some of the enormous sums he has expended returned to the French Treasury. He would like, undoubtedly, to have the United States take formal possession of Mexico from the hands of Marshal Bazaine with all these liabilities. If he should have to leave with the loss of all this money to the national treasury and to the French bondholders, besides the loss of prestige from such a grand fiasco, he may dread a terrible storm at home. He must be anxious to save himself from such a dilemma, and this we take it is the meaning of all the promised courtesy on the part of Marshal Bazaine to General Sherman and Mr. Campbell. The London Times and other European journals seem to take this view of the United States going in and inheriting the legacy left by the French. But this is all a mistake. We know nothing of these debts. The Juarez government does not recognize them; and we know no legitimate authority in Mexico but that of Napoleon. Doubtless it is a serious difficulty for Juarez, but we cannot help that. It would be a far greater one to go to war with the United States. There is no party in Mexico that can help him, and all hopes of any change by delaying the departure of his troops, will be grievously disappointed. The best thing for him to do is to close up the concern as soon as possible and pocket the loss. As we said, we do not like the look of this new phase of the Mexican difficulty; but we do not think the astute Napoleon will be foolish enough to risk a war

with this country; for he must be aware that both France and England combined would not be a match for the United States in a conflict on the American continent.

The Arrest of Surratt and the Conover Case.

In the long list of causes celebres, we do not remember one which has excited more interest or given rise to more speculation, than the case of John H. Surratt. With him it is believed rests the power of clearing away the doubts which exist as to the guilt of his wretched mother, and what is far more important, of solving the question as to the complicity of Jeff Davis and his Secretary of State, Benjamin, in the assassination plot. The case of Conover, at present arraigned for perjury in connection with the latter of these charges, acquires fresh importance from the arrest of Surratt. So much mystery attaches to the proceedings in which this man Conover was concerned, and so completely did he succeed in humbugging Judge Holt as to his power of throwing light upon the guilt of Davis, that the chances which are now presented of a thorough elucidation of the facts are regarded with very general satisfaction.

Much, of course, will depend on the willingness of Surratt to gratify the anxiety which exists on this subject. If he remains obstinately silent but little will be gleaned in addition to the evidence already in our possession. We much mistake the character of the man, however, if he does not make a clean breast of it. The cowardly part which he played in the desertion of his mother shows that he is a person of weak nerve. The fear of death and the hope of a commutation of punishment in return for the disclosure he has in his power to make, will, therefore, we feel convinced, bring him to a full confession.

On the trial of the assassins who have paid the penalty of their crime the escape of Surratt was frequently commented upon as removing from the reach of the prosecution one of the most important links in the chain of evidence which the case presented. Much was expected from his moral courage and the lengths to which he would have gone in the efforts to clear himself would all have proved so much additional help to the prosecution. Had he been captured and convicted there is good reason to believe that we should now be in possession of all the facts connected with the visit to Richmond. It was so important to the government to ascertain the share, if any, which the rebel authorities had taken in the assassination scheme that it would have willingly committed his sentence to get at it.

It is Surratt the medium of communication between the rebel authorities and the conspirators there can be no question. His visit to Richmond and his report of his conference with Davis and Benjamin are deposed to by other witnesses than Conover, whose testimony has been proved to be wholly unreliable. But there is nothing to show that either Mr. Davis or Mr. Benjamin had any idea that assassination was contemplated. The construction put by Conover upon the despatches from Davis and Benjamin to Jacob Thompson was unwarranted by any of the facts that transpired. So far as the rebel government was concerned the abduction of Mr. Lincoln and of the chief members of his Cabinet was, we believe, the limit of its instructions. The enthusiasm of a fanatic, as often happens in such cases, pushed a plan; which in war is always considered justifiable, to the point of a cowardly assassination.

It is true that we have it asserted by a Montreal paper, on the alleged authority of the person who gave the information which led to the arrest of Surratt, that the prisoner stated to him that the murder of Mr. Lincoln was planned in Richmond, and that it had the assent of Mr. Davis. This we entirely disbelieve. In the first place it is not likely that Surratt would make any confession in regard to the matter which he knew it could be made conducive to his safety; and in the next, the medium through which the story reaches us is not a reliable one. All rumors of this kind should be received for the present with great caution. It must be remembered that those who have special causes of hostility against Mr. Davis are interested in circulating them, and that in Montreal especially he has some bitter personal enemies. Against such statements we should balance the fact that the most rigid investigation by the government has hitherto failed to bring home to him any complicity with the plot.

If Mr. Davis, then, as we believe, is wholly innocent of the charge, he will rejoice more than any of us at the capture of Surratt. To the nation, and, indeed, to the world at large, it is an event of political and historical interest. To the unfortunate captive at Fortress Monroe it is something more. It offers him not only a prospect of speedy release, but the redemption of his reputation from the foulest stain that could rest upon it.

ALLEGED TRACES OF PRE-HISTORICAL CIVILIZATION IN MINNESOTA.—Squier and Davis and Stephens have abundantly shown that interesting traces of pre-historic civilization exist in Central and North America. But the letter which we yesterday published from a correspondent at St. Anthony, Minnesota, although duly signed by him in token of good faith, would seem to be apocryphal, unless indeed it was by inadvertence that he enumerated "a curiously wrought loak" among the ante-Indian curiosities alleged by him to have been recently found in Minnesota, near the head waters of the Mississippi. It would not require a very ingenious Historical Hobbs to pick such a loak to pieces or to find in it the key to the whole hoax, if hoax it be. For, like the gibbet, which "soms forlorn and shipwrecked brother" found and rejoiced in as a sign of civilization, a loak presupposes, in view of its purposes as well as its material and its make, a higher degree of civilization than is attested by any relics hitherto discovered of ante-Indian races on the Western continent. A loak, by its very manufacture, indicates a European origin, and probably more than one might be dug up on the site of some of the old French missions or trapper settlements in the West. Perhaps our correspondent may have mistaken for a loak some combination of the bolts, rads specimens of which have actually been excavated from what are often called Indian mounds. The excavated steps, the hieroglyphic inscriptions and other particulars of which he speaks, are not impossible, inasmuch as his description of them corresponds with that of similar discovered else-

where. He expresses a hope that these antiquities may be secured by the Historical Society, and we hope that he has not tried to fool that society and the scientific societies and society in general by such a pretended discovery as excited much learned and useless controversy a few years ago. A Western newspaper published the alleged discovery in one of the mounds in the Mississippi valley, of "a huge iron kettle for cooking purposes." Several savans were proud of this proof in favor of their favorite theory that prehistoric man once flourished in those latitudes. But alas! for the fallibility of scientific minds, the words turned out to be a misprint for "cooking purposes."

The Great Atlantic Yacht Race from New York to the Isle of Wight.

To-day, at one o'clock, the Fleeting, Vespa and Henrietta—three yachts belonging to the New York Yacht Club—start upon their long and hazardous race across the Atlantic. The starting point will be off Sandy Hook, and the goal will be the Isle of Wight, with the terminus of the course. For the sake of the yachtsmen and their friends we hope that the sky may be clear, the sun bright and the wind fresh and fair to-day, so that the commencement of the race may be attended with that élan which so important a yachting event deserves. This will be the first race across the Atlantic ever sailed by yachts of any country. It will be the first genuine ocean race—if we except the America's race and the two hundred mile matches to Cape May—in which American yachts have ever been engaged. Although it might have been preferable, in some points of view, had all three of the owners accompanied their yachts, still the presence of several members of the Yacht Club upon each of the boats saves our yachtsmen from the sneer which the British would be only too ready to make, that