NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXXII.....No. 14

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—CAMARALZAMAN AND BADOURA—OUT TO NURSE.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway, opposite New York Hotel.—CINDERILLON.

GERMAN THALIA THEATRE, No. 514 Broadway.—MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.

RICHINGS' ENGLISH OPERA COMPANY, Olympic theatre, Broadway.—MARTHA.

DODWORTH'S HALL, 806 Broadway.—"PROFESSOR HARRY WILL PERFORM HIS MIRACLES.—THE HEAD IN THE AIR—MULTUM IN PARVO.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—BATEMAN CONCERT.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel—IN THEIR ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUES. BLACK COOK AND AFRICAN BALLET TROUPE.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth street.—BUDWORTH'S MINSTRELS.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY. BALLADS, BURLESQUES, &c.—UN BALLO MASCHERA.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway, opposite the New York Hotel.—IN THEIR SONGS, DANCES, ECCENTRICITIES, BURLESQUES, &c.—JACK CADE—CINDER-LEON—MADAGASCAR BALLET TROUPE.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM—NEGRO MINSTRELSY, BALLET DIVERTISSEMENT, &c.—SAILORS ASHORE, OR YANKEE TARS ON A FROLIC.

CHARLEY WHITE'S COMBINATION TROUPE, at Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway—IN A VARIETY OF LIGHT AND LAUGHABLE ENTERTAINMENTS, CORPS DE BALLET, &c. THE FENIAN'S OATH, OR THE IDIOT OF KILLARNEY.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, BALLADS AND BURLESQUES.—A HURMAN TRIP AROUND THE WORLD.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—HEAD AND RIGHT ARM OF PROBST—THE WASHINGTON TWINS—WONDERS IN NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENCE AND ART. LECTURES DAILY. Open from 8 A. M. till 10 P. M.

New York, Monday, January 14, 1867.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

We have a news report by the cable to January 13.

The Eastern question has assumed great importance. It is stated in London that a general conference of European Powers will be held to consider it. It is reported that a ministerial crisis had taken place in Constantinople; that the Porte had recalled its ambassador to Greece, and that an insurrection in Bosnia was imminent. An imperial ball had been given at St. Petersburg in aid of the suffering patriot Cretans. It is stated that Garibaldi has gone to Candia.

A Berlin journal denies that Count Bismarck issued the recent diplomatic circular attributed to him.

The Legislature of Hungary was still in conflict with the imperial orders of Austria.

In Frankfort yesterday United States five-twenties rated at 75⅝.

By mail we have letters of much interest from our correspondents in the various cities of Europe, which we publish.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Among the financial measures adopted by Maximilian immediately after his resumption of the reins of empire was one having for its object the establishment of a national lottery, and another imposing a tax on tobacco. Our letters from El Fuerte and Coliacon, Sinaloa, contain interesting descriptions of the country and people. Our correspondence from the United States steamer Suwanee, off Mazatlan, is dated November 17, and gives a full account of the evacuation of that place by the French and its occupation by the liberals. It is stated in Havana that Castelneau insisted on the abdication of the Emperor in a late interview unless he would secure France for her war expenses, but that Maximilian refused to consent to either alternative. The liberals had gained a victory near Orizaba. It was rumored that Count de Bombelles, the Empress Carlotta's chamberlain, had been killed in a duel by General Prim, at Florence.

Our Havana letter is dated January 7. Our correspondent says that the whole capital of the Banco Espagnol has been disposed of, and $1,370,000 over and above it, and there is, besides, $2,000,000 in circulation guaranteed by the bank. The people entertain very strong doubts as to the future financially and many longheaded men predict a general bankruptcy in the island.

From the Bahamas we have files dated at Nassau, N. P., on the 26th of December. The weather was delightfully cool, the thermometer standing at sixty-six and a half degrees. The Nassau *Guardian* of December 22 reports:—"The British man-of-war Cygnet arrived from Port Royal on the 21st to relieve the Nimble. She left Jamaica nine days ago. The yellow fever was prevalent at Kingston when she left, and the British man-of-war Cadmus had put to sea in consequence of the disease having made its appearance on board."

By private advices received from the agent of the Central American Transit Company in Nicaragua we have further particulars of the recent breaking out of the cholera among the passengers delayed on the Isthmus last month during their trip to California by a failure to make connection with the steamer to San Francisco. The cholera was not as fatal as formerly reported, and the passengers and troops were, at the date of the letter, December 21, comfortably situated in a healthy locality.

Our Richmond despatches state that the freedmen are almost all of them unwilling to work by contract during the present year. This state of affairs is prevalent in most of the Southern States, the laborer preferring shares in the crop.

The Great Western Railway in Canada has been arranged, by the addition of a third track, so that the narrow gauge cars of the New York Central can go through direct from New York to Chicago with but a single change of cars. Arrangements have been made by the Secretary of the Treasury to modify the customs regulations with Canada, and in future there will be no detention at the boundary line for the purpose of examining passenger baggage.

[illegible] have been received in Washington, from [illegible], stating that a large quantity of government securities will be returned to this country by the next [illegible], the business community there becoming wary [illegible] investments since the threatened impeachment [illegible] has taken tangible shape.

[illegible] Stanton, it is said, has been subpœnaed as a witness before the House Judiciary Committee, in the matter of the impeachment of the President.

The Rev. Charles B. Smyth delivered a lecture at the Everett Rooms yesterday, on a comparison of the "Stage, the Pulpit and the Press." Rev. Dr. Osgood preached to the Church of the Messiah on the subject of "The Manifestation of Christ to Creation." The services at most of the churches were of an interesting character.

"The Moral Influence of the HERALD" was the subject of discussion among the visionaries and heretics of No. 814 Broadway yesterday afternoon.

The Excise law went into operation again yesterday, and the result was a Sunday of unusual quiet in all portions of the Metropolitan district. One hundred and six arrests were made in the city, mostly for tardiness about closing up; but there were very few cases of intoxication apparent.

No indictments have been found against the New Orleans rioters by the United States Grand Jury in that city. The United States District Attorney declined to administer the test oath to the jurors.

A company has been organized in St. Louis for the purpose of bridging the Mississippi at that point.

No clue to the murder of Miss Christina Kelt, of Dayton, Ohio, has yet been discovered. Bloody tracks were found on the snow outside the kitchen where she was found dead. The pistol found near her belonged to her brother, and the presumption is that while attempting to defend herself with it the wounds were inflicted upon her person which caused her death.

The firm of Dubois & Ogden, of New Orleans, was robbed of $13,000 in gold and gold checks on Saturday, in that city.

The Sheriff of Texas county, Missouri, while trying to arrest a party of six, on the 6th inst., was resisted. Two of his posse were killed and three wounded.

It is said in St. Louis that the radicals in the Missouri Legislature propose modifying the requirements of the test oath so that preachers and school teachers can pursue their avocations without taking it.

Large numbers of whales have been seen recently on the south side of Long Island.

The Powers and Policy of Congress in Reference to the South.

The conflict between Congress and the administration in reference to the present status of the excluded States has resulted in a confusion of ideas and theories on the subject which can be settled only by first ascertaining the status of said States with their submission as members of a hostile confederacy to the armed forces of the United States. What, then, was the position of those insurgent States with the surrender of the last detachment of the armed forces of the so-called Confederate States? According to President Johnson, taking into the account certain issues decided by the war, they were thrown back to the legal condition in which they stood just before their rebellion; but as their local governments existing at the close of the war had been derived from and had been participants in the rebellion, they were void, and new local governments on a loyal basis were necessary. All this was based upon the plausible theory that a State cannot withdraw from the Union and cannot be expelled or denied its constitutional rights as a member of the Union. To admit this theory we must, of course, accept the rebellion and its bloody battles as nothing more than a series of election riots, during which the authority of the general government over the rebel States was not legally interrupted or impaired.

Against this theory, however, the facts are overwhelming. The States leagued together in the rebellion were organized under a hostile confederate government—first at Montgomery, Alabama, and next at Richmond, Virginia—to the end of the war. Under this government the league, in its efforts by force of arms to establish an independent Union, resting upon "the corner stone of African slavery," was recognized in the outset by the Western Powers of Europe as a belligerent, entitled to belligerent rights, and was treated from the beginning of hostilities, in exchanges of prisoners, &c., as a belligerent by the United States. It is a fact, then, that the late war was a war between two hostile governments for the possession of certain States, people and territory, seized by a rebellious usurpation. We know, too, that had this rebel usurpation proved the stronger party in the war, compelling the United States to a recognition of its independence, the rebel States would thereafter have had nothing more to do with the government at Washington than the British North American provinces. But by the superior armed forces of the United States—that is, of the States still adhering to the Union—this hostile Southern confederacy was put down; and so the States concerned, people and territory, under the decisive laws of war and the general law of nations, reverted, in fact, to the United States in the condition of a foreign hostile people subjugated and of territories wrested from a foreign Power.

This, then, at the close of the year, was the status of the rebel States and their people; and as war is the last resort of kings and peoples, from which there is no appeal, those States cannot now appeal from the issues of their war, as a foreign and hostile coalition, to the Supreme Court for their forfeited rights under the constitution. They stand subject to the terms of restoration which the United States of the war may think fit to impose. The States constituting our general government *de facto* and *de jure* during the war are still in law the United States; and the States still excluded on account of the rebellion have no right to a voice in the matter of a constitutional amendment, although it may be imposed upon them as a condition of restoration, or as the supreme law everywhere under the federal jurisdiction, when ratified by three-fourths of the adhering States. We are dealing with facts and their logical results, not with theories, ignoring the final decisions of the war. Next in order it follows that as the terms of Southern restoration belong to the lawmaking power of the government, all that the Executive has done in the way of Southern reconstruction, if disapproved by Congress, falls to the ground, and the States concerned stand as they stood with Kirby Smith's surrender—subject to the terms which Congress may deem proper and expedient, even to the extent of the obliteration of their State boundaries.

Such, from the decisions of the war, are the powers of Congress over this question. But the fact must not be forgotten in this connection that in absorbing a foreign State we absorb its obligations. The rebel States, as members of the Union, each in its State capacity before the war, had incurred a heavy bill of State debts, ranging from ten to forty or fifty millions, more or less, for each State. Those debts by each of the States concerned are now held as binding upon them; and, if we act consistently with the grand issue of the war, that the rebel States with their subjugation ceased to exist as States, we must at least assume the debts which they owed down to the hour of their secession from the United States. The rights, powers and obligations of a conqueror go together. The question then recurs, will it be best, with the full powers of Congress over the subject of Southern reconstruction, to assume the legal debts of the States concerned, to the extent of two or three hundred millions of money; or, partially adopting the theory of President Johnson, will it be best to insist only upon the right of Congress to prescribe the terms of reconstruction and restoration?

This is a nice question, and it should at least be settled in view of the rights of honest creditors. It may be settled by the assumption of the State debts with the assumption of the power to obliterate the States concerned and to reorganize them as Territories; but it may be settled by recognizing the States interested as "States whose functions have been impaired and suspended, but not destroyed, by their rebellion," as viewed by President Johnson. Thus, acting upon the sound conclusion that the States represented in the general government are legally the United States, Congress has only to declare the pending constitutional amendment part and parcel of the supreme law of the land, with its ratification by three-fourths of the adhering States, in order to make it binding upon the outside States, with or without their consent, just as the amendment abolishing slavery applies to Kentucky, though three or four times rejected by Kentucky. But what of the Supreme Court? Even in view of impediments from this quarter the policy here indicated, we think, is best; because it can be made to hold till the next Presidential election, which will establish this settlement beyond a peradventure.

The Greek Insurrection.

The contradictory accounts which we have been receiving about the importance of the insurrectionary movements in the Greek Archipelago are put at rest by the announcement that the Sultan has called into service an additional force of one hundred and fifty thousand men to suppress them. The Reuter and Havas telegrams may continue their misrepresentations, but there is no getting over the significance of this fact. We now know that the movement is regarded by the Turkish government in the most serious light, and we acquire the further conviction that the peace of Europe, so confidently relied upon by the London *Times* as settled by the German conflict, is again in imminent danger. In fact, considering the interest which Russia has in promoting the struggle, and the energetic assistance which it is receiving from Garibaldi and the European republicans, we do not very well see how the adjustment of the dreaded Eastern question can any longer be postponed. It is one which the sword alone can solve; and Napoleon, though he desires to adjourn that alternative until after he has got through with his pet Industrial Exposition, will in all probability have to face it before the period fixed for its opening. It is a pity for the interests of his dynasty that he does not at once adopt a generous policy in regard to the unfortunate Greeks. It would do more to neutralize the effect of his blunders in the eyes of his people in connection with Germany and Mexico than any other that he could pursue. We question much, too, whether, in the position in which he stands, *vis-à-vis* with the other European Powers, it would not recover him all the prestige and influence he has lost. France attained the lead in European politics by favoring the revolutionary element. The moment that she falls back into alliances and combinations formed under the influence of that absurd theory, "the balance of power," she forfeits the position she has won at such heavy sacrifices.

There is much in this Greek question that appeals to the sympathy of the world. It is religiously as well as politically one of the issues out of which most capital is to be made. The general sentiment is against the further continuance of Christian populations under the domination of semi-barbarous governments such as Turkey. It would regard with approbation a monarch like Louis Napoleon, imitating the example of the crusaders of old and doing battle in their cause. The influence he has lost among extreme Catholics by his abandonment of the Pope would undoubtedly be restored to him by such a step.

As to ourselves, our course in regard to this great question is a clear one. There is no pretext, diplomatic or otherwise, under which our government can interpose in it. But there is nothing to prevent us individually manifesting our sympathies with the unfortunate and persecuted people whose destinies are at stake. We have done so at former periods and there is no reason why we should not do so again. Money is now their great necessity, and we are satisfied that with a little exertion on the part of the friends of the cause large amounts could be obtained here. There is a Greek committee now in existence in this city to whom subscriptions can be sent. Let every effort be employed to second the exertions which are being made by these gentlemen to procure aid. If the troublesome element among us which is always seeking objects for its revolutionary sympathies would only turn its attention in this direction, it would for once have a practical object. While availing itself of its assistance, however, we would recommend the Greek gentlemen to whom the interests of their countrymen are entrusted to keep a sharp lookout after the funds obtained through its co-operation.

Our Winter Amusements—Progress of Manly Sports.

The London *Times*, in commenting upon the ocean yacht race, remarked that the Americans were making wonderful progress in manly sports. This is true, as the extraordinary zest with which our outdoor winter amusements are enjoyed very readily proves. A few years ago skating was but little practised in this city, and very rarely by ladies. We had no well organized skating ponds, or "rinks," which is the most modern term, no clubs, no regular associations of skaters; but now we have over a dozen well managed ponds, and the "rink" is as essential a place of amusement as the theatre. A select picnic party of five hundred is no novelty at Jerome Park, when the snow is on the ground, and the shelter of the pretty Swiss chalet is sometimes acceptable. Base ball, which used to be played upon the green sward, under an autumn sun, can now be seen on the glassy surface of the ice; while Caledonian gladiators exercise their skill in curling and throwing quoits upon all our ponds. We have had already this season two or three night carnivals and masked balls on skates; some by moonlight and some in the lustre of Chinese lanterns. The number of ladies and children who participate in the splendid and healthy sport of skating has tended to change in an almost incredible degree the habits of our people. There are fewer denizens of hot rooms, and hence less delicate forms and weary faces to be seen than formerly. The physical constitutions of the rising and the next generation will be vastly improved by our addiction to skating, and as the fascination grows the custom will be more and more adopted. There are many thousands of men in the community who have been inured to active and even laborious occupations during the war who find in this amusement a necessary relaxation from the inertion of business life, and to this fact we may attribute in a great measure the progress it has made and the success of the skating ponds. The pleasures of the rink will lead to the cultivation of other manly open air sports, the exercise of which must ensure incalculable benefits, both for mind and body, to every class in the community, except the doctors.

Politics in Spain.

The visit just made by their majesties of Spain the Queen and Prince Consort to their royal brother of Portugal, at Lisbon, has had the effect, for the moment, of bringing the affairs of the Peninsula prominently to the surface of European politics. The reception accorded them seems to have been most enthusiastic. Received at the railway station by the King in person, they were conveyed, amid demonstrations common to such occasions, to the royal palace at Belem. On the following day a grand levée was held at the palace, succeeded by a State banquet and gala performance in the evening. Subsequent telegrams inform us that the Queen has dissolved the Cortes, an event which has been some time expected. This, coupled with an announcement which we have from Paris, that a printing press had been discovered in that city which was being used for the purpose of getting up incendiary proclamations, and which was supposed to be under the direction of General Prim, seems to imply that the affairs of Spain are in a sufficiently critical condition.

It is notorious that the present rule in that country has maintained itself for some considerable time by mere brute force. Respect for the throne is nowhere, except among a few interested and self-seeking politicians, who are never wanting when dirty work is required. Were it not for the fact that the press has been gagged and the free expression of thought in every form been put down in every part of the Spanish kingdom the civilized world would have been shocked with the barbarities which have been perpetrated for no other purpose than to perpetuate the reign of rottenness and corruption.

The present rulers of Spain are well aware that they stand on the brink of a precipice. It is impossible for them longer to close their eyes to a fact which is patent to all the world. Various attempts are being made to avert the impending crisis. Of these one of the most important is an attempt to popularise the army, the higher offices of which are no longer to be the perquisites of a favored class, but are henceforth to become the rewards of merit alone. It is difficult to regard the above mentioned visit to Portugal in any other light than as another move in the same direction. It is well known that in the prospect of the downfall of the present dynasty in Spain, and among the conjectures which have been made as to its future, the royal family of Portugal have been prominently mentioned—the King himself, in connection with what is supposed to be a pet notion of the Emperor Napoleon, as the head of a united Iberian kingdom, or, failing that, the King's father as the head of the kingdom of Spain. It is at least certain that in the event of revolution either of these projects will have the countenance of the Emperor of the French, in preference to the continuance of Bourbon rule, either in the person of the present sovereign or in that of her younger and more popular sister. The issue of events will be anxiously awaited.

The Income Tax.

Of the many modifications required in our laws relating to revenue there is probably none which is more imperatively called for than a revision of the income tax. As it now stands the tax is the same on the same amount of income, whether it be derived from real estate, from the funds a man possesses or from the personal labors of the individual; and while the family of one man who derives his income from his personal efforts would be left oftentimes penniless by the death of its head, the family of the other would be in receipt of the same amount from the funds, and the tax would go to the support of the government which gave protection to that property. Then is it not reasonable that he who derives his income from his personal labors should pay less than he who derives it from his property? It is true that it may be said that the tax is the price which he pays for protection of the government; but that protection is twofold in one case, while it is only personal in the other. The tax should therefore be greater where the protection is twofold.

The export tax on cotton is another subject which requires modification. For, while we are depending mainly upon this product for our ability to resume and continue specie payments, we are constantly stimulating the production of this staple in foreign countries; for it is now a well established fact that the English do use the Indian and the Egyptian, as a substitute for the American, in much larger quantities than ever before. The change which they have made in their machinery enables them to do this quite readily; and many mills now use but one-fourth part of American cotton where they formerly used all American. Shall we, therefore, continue to foster the productions of India and Egypt at the expense of our national treasury? Can we risk the effect on our finances with impunity? With thirty-six millions in gold to pay yearly on our bonds in Europe, for interest, and with a supply of $500,000,000, within reach of the Bank of England, in the shape of our national, State and other securities, when could we resume specie payments without the aid of cotton exports? It is stated that England could afford to pay $25,000,000 per year, and yet make money, by the continuation of this tax of three cents per pound on our staple, simply because it enables the producers of cotton in India to add that much to the price of their article. Is it not time, then, to examine carefully into the effect on our future of this export tax? The folly of the Southern rebellion and the long continuation of the war have already diminished the European demand for our staple very largely, and if we continue to stimulate the production of other countries they may soon do without entirely.

Congress and Contraction.

The financial question, and especially that part of it relating to the currency, is the most important one with which the country has to deal, and we urge upon Congress its immediate consideration. The legal tender notes are being contracted at a rate which is disturbing the money market and paralyzing trade and manufactures all over the land, and the financial and commercial community look forward with extreme apprehension to the future. This condition of things is favorable to panic and widespread disaster, and should not be allowed to continue.

The present law authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to contract United States notes at a rate not exceeding four millions a month, and he is availing himself of the full extent of his authority, besides secretly converting, from time to time, compound interest notes, which are also legal tenders, into other kinds of securities. It therefore devolves upon Congress, in view of the depression which prevails in all departments of trade and manufactures, to withdraw all power from the Secretary of the Treasury to contract the currency, leaving the latter to be regulated by natural laws. Provision should also be made against a contraction of compound interest notes, except, perhaps, at the rate of ten or twenty millions a year, as they mature, as these are held equally with greenbacks as bank reserves.

The legal tender issues have already been contracted nearly a hundred and thirty-four millions since the beginning of June, 1865, and although this decrease has been thus far neutralized by an increase of nearly a hundred and sixty-one millions in national bank notes, the reduction of legal tenders has been too rapid for the good of the country, and a point has now been reached when it is time to stop contraction and avert panic. Already, owing to the prevailing depression, the revenue receipts are largely falling off, while immigrants from the Old World are returning in great numbers, owing to a lack of employment for them. This is a serious state of affairs, and it demands the immediate attention for which we call. To persevere in the policy of contraction in the face of grave dangers such as menace us is simply suicidal, and Congress should leave nothing to the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury in a matter of such importance to the trade, commerce and general welfare of the nation. Let us have no more contraction of the currency under existing circumstances, and let all legislation on the subject be specific. Then confidence in the stability of values will be restored and the country will make more rapid strides in its career of prosperity.

Revenue and Taxation in Great Britain.

It appears that the revenue and trade returns of Great Britain are such as to warrant the expectation that Mr. Disraeli, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be able in his spring budget to exhibit a surplus of two million pounds sterling. That the returns this year would be good many were prepared to expect; but the magnificent surplus expected will take not a few by surprise. The fact is deeply significant. About two million pounds of taxes were swept off last year, and this year a similar opportunity promises to present itself. In spite of Mr. Bright's agitation for reform and the Fenian troubles in Ireland, few nations, in a financial point of view, are more highly favored.

It is impossible to dissociate this happy state of things in England from the line of policy which Mr. Gladstone for a series of years has so successfully pursued. It has been his steady object to render taxation as effective but as little burdensome as possible. For a number of years past he has at one and the same time increased the actual revenue and lessened the burden of taxation. He has accomplished this twofold object by relieving the necessaries and taxing what may be called the luxuries of life. He has sought to abolish as far as was practicable all restrictions on trade and commerce. The result of his policy has year by year been revealing itself in the development of the national resources and the increasing comfort of the population. The magnificent surplus which he now places at the disposal of a political opponent is the best justification of a policy which on more than one occasion has been bitterly assailed.

We call attention to the circumstance chiefly for the purpose of saying that it reads a lesson to our American legislators to which they will do well to take heed. The people of this country, they may depend upon it, will not long submit to the oppressive and meddling taxation under which they are now groaning. The policy now pursued is ruinous in the last degree. It is already cramping the energies of the nation to an extent that is truly alarming. The time has come when a firm and determined stand against the present system must be made. So far as taxation is necessary let it be justly and wisely distributed. The example of England in this matter may be safely copied.

The Copperhead Regency in Trouble.

The old copperhead Rip Van Winkle leaders of the used up democratic organization are considerably exercised at the indications of a determination on the part of the solid democracy of the country to sweep them out of the path, and to make a very thorough reconstruction of the party. They are crying out, through their organs, against the proposition to commence the work of reorganization here in New York, by a convention originating with the live Miles O'Reilly Union democracy; and propose instead that the existing National Democratic Committee shall take into its own hands the business of reconstruction. This would only be a perpetuation of the old, broken down concern, with the Tammany rump as a foundation, and all the copperheads and blunderheads who have ruined the party by their secession sympathies and political incompetency. The democrats are still a powerful element in the politics of the country, and only require bold action and prudent management to regain their former ascendancy. But they must cast aside the errors which have driven them from power and left them without a single Northern State in their possession, and present a new and clean record before they can obtain the confidence of the people. If they do this, they will succeed. If they neglect it, they will find their numbers decrease year after year until they disappear entirely from the politics of the country. It is time for a commencement of the work of reorganization, and the protests and howlings of the old copperhead leaders and wire workers should be disregarded. If the democracy desire to become once more a successful political party they must commence without delay to build up their organization on a new and solid foundation. Let them pay no heed to those who have led them into their present deplorable condition, but set seriously about the business of reconstruction, taking as the basis of the work the victorious organization in this city, whose leading representative men are now in possession of the principal offices of the municipal government, and whose principles are based upon the living issues of the day. In such a course lies their only hope of success in the future.

Emigration from Europe to the United States.

In yesterday's issue we published the immigration statistics for the year 1866. The table is interesting as showing the large additions which are annually being made to our population and the material of which these additions are composed. The aggregate increase of the population of the United States by immigration during the last year is 233,418. Of these 215,928 are from Germany and the British Isles—104,716, being Germans, 68,047 Irish, 36,184 English, 4,979 Scotch—representing, at a moderate average, an actual accession of wealth to the country of $107,964,000. With the continuance of domestic tranquillity the tide of emigration from these parts is certain to become larger and larger. Considering, indeed, the troubled aspect which things are assuming in Europe generally, and the excitement which is inseparable from the reform and Fenian movements in Great Britain, we are warranted to infer that the number of immigrants during the year on which we have entered will be unusually large. Inquiries made on the subject convince us that the bulk of these immigrants go Westward—large numbers settling particularly in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It is consoling to know that the burdens imposed upon the people by the late rebellion are not aggravated by a decrease of the population. The great West is able to receive and provide for unlimited numbers; and if the Southern States were brought into such a condition as to encourage trade and industry the advantages offered by the country to industrious and thrifty emigrants would be increased a hundred fold. Peace within its borders is all that the nation needs to enable it to enter upon a course of unbounded prosperity.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY.—Saturday night and Sunday morning were very cold, the thermometer ranging considerably below freezing point. Snow commenced falling about half-past seven o'clock A. M., and continued until noon, covering the streets to the depth of two inches. The falling of the feathery particles ceasing early in the afternoon, and the cold having moderated considerably, the streets were made merry by the music of sleigh bells, and as evening approached, accompanied by colder weather, their cheerful tintinnabulations rang out in the sharp atmosphere.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTMENT.—It has been definitely ascertained that Mr. George W. McLean, recently appointed Street Commissioner, has determined to retain his office, as we before announced in the HERALD. Mr. William M. Tweed, Deputy Street Commissioner, has tendered his resignation, but no action has as yet been taken upon it. Mr. McLean has made no changes in the clerical force of the department nor in any of its bureaus. He has signified his intention to retain the present employés for some time to come, in order that he may make a complete investigation into the affairs of his office first, and to then see what clerks or officers can be dispensed with and who had better be retained. In the meantime the machinery of the department will be kept working. Since Mr. McLean's accession to the Street Commissionership no bids or contracts for paving the streets or building sewers have been awarded, partly on account of the weather and chiefly for the reason that Mr. McLean is desirous of becoming more acquainted with his department and its workings.

PHOTOGRAPHERS' GRIEVANCES.—A meeting will be held in a few days of a large number of the photographic artists in this city for the purpose of drawing up a petition praying the action of the Board of Common Council in the reduction of the tax on water, the present rate being considered highly exorbitant, as it is exactly double the amount charged last year. Measures are to be taken in order that the matter may be strongly urged before the proper authorities at an early day.

ACCIDENTS, &c.—Ann Brower, residing at No. 5 Mission place, was badly burned about the body and legs, caused by the upsetting of a furnace by her husband while intoxicated. She was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

David Cooper, a car driver, living at No. 155 East Thirty-eighth street, was run over by a car at Fourth avenue and Forty-second street, and had two of his fingers crushed. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

Charles Shenaway was found in Chatham street, near Chambers, late on Saturday night, and is suppose to have been badly beaten by some unknown parties. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where he lingered till a quarter of six o'clock on Sunday morning. Coroner Gamble will hold an inquest this morning.

Catharine Brinckhoff took a dose of laudanum in a fit of temporary insanity. She was taken to the New York Hospital, where she received medical aid. She was afterwards taken away to her residence, No. 134 Leonard street, by her friends.

Frank Bresdell slipped and fractured his leg in front of the Shakspeare Hotel yesterday. He was conveyed to the New York Hospital.

MUSICAL.

The twentieth grand Sunday concert at Steinway Hall last night introduced the celebrated Bateman troupe. The hall was crowded to its utmost extent, and the audience was one of fashion and intelligence. The programme was an excellent one, comprising selections from Weber, Mercadante, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Verdi, Liszt, Handel, Rossini and Wagner. We have so often spoken of this celebrated troupe that it would be only repeating our former criticisms to add anything at present. Suffice it to say that all the artistes fully sustained their previous high reputation and gave universal satisfaction. Messrs. Harrison & Bateman have made these concerts an institution in the metropolis, and hundreds look anxiously to Sunday night for a feast of music such as only Germany and France before could furnish.

Mr. R. Gonzales gave his fifth Sunday evening concert last evening at St. Columba's church, Twenty-fifth street, near Eighth avenue. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather a large audience gathered together, filling both the body and gallery of the building. The programme was entirely composed of sacred music, and contained selections from the works of Rossini, Donizetti, Loder, Haydn, Berge and Kreutzer. Mr. Gonzales was supported by several well known artists and also by a chorus of fifty voices. Mrs. Gonzales presided at the organ, opening the concert with one of Rossini's grand overtures. "Bow Down Thine Ear, O Lord," was decidedly one of the best things of the evening—sung by Miss Potter, Mme. Colotti and Messrs. Holder and Romberg. Mr. Gonzales sung "Pro Peccatis," from the Stabat Mater, in good style, and "Cujus Animam," from the same great work, was well sung by Mr. Langenbach. The concert passed off well. It would have been more enjoyable, however, had the church been comfortably warmed. It is to be hoped that warm weather will be chosen for the next performance under the shadow of St. Columba.

THE CHOLERA ON THE ISTHMUS.

Letter from the Central American Transit Company's Agent on the Isthmus Regarding the Disease Among the Delayed Passengers and Troops.

In regard to the disease which recently broke out among the passengers of the steamer to Nicaragua who were delayed ten days on the Isthmus by missing connection with the Moses Taylor for San Francisco, the general agent of the Central American Transit Company at the Isthmus, under date of December 31, writes as follows:—

It was first developed in two cases on the 16th of December, the day following the departure of the river steamers from San Juan del Norte. It appeared suddenly, and was very violent for the time it lasted. Nothing of the kind had previously shown itself on the transit route, and Dr. McWitter, surgeon, who accompanied the troops, pronounced it the cholera. Twenty-six soldiers and one officer (Major Gamble) fell victims of the disease, also two civilians (passengers) and four employes of the company's river boats, up to the date of the last accounts from them, on the 30th ult., a period of fourteen days. No new cases had occurred within the last forty-eight hours. The troops were in quarters at Virgin Bay, Lake Nicaragua, the eastern terminus of the land route between the lake and the Pacific Ocean. The surgeon and officers in charge expressed themselves well satisfied with the arrangements made by the company. The cabin passengers were sent to good hotels and the steerage passengers were fed and lodged in the buildings of the company. The fine climate and good water at Virgin Bay had had a beneficial effect on the health of the passengers and troops. There have been no deaths among the women and children. The whole number of passengers for California was 591, including the troops; the number for New York was 298, making together a total of 889 passengers who were at the same time on the Isthmus and communicated there with one another.