THE TENEMENT HOUSES OF NEW YORK.

Inspection of the Homes of the Poor.

A Grand Field for Contemplation by the Legislature.

INTERESTING STATISTICS.

&c. &c. &c.

The subject of the insecurity of the over-crowded tenement houses of this city, on account of the recent calamities by which many lives were lost, and their general unhealthfulness, as demonstrated by experience during the prevalence of cholera last summer, continues to engross the general attention of the humane portion of the citizens of New York; and its importance has met the recognition of the Legislature of the State. It is hoped that wholesome enactments may be made to remedy the evils complained of, and avaricious landlords may be made to feel that percentage on their investments in barrack buildings is a secondary question to the security of the lives of those who have the misfortune to be their tenants.

To save the State the expense of sending to this city an unwieldy legislative investigating committee, with a host of clerks, reporters and sinecures, to inquire into the evils complained of, a HERALD commissioner has voluntarily undertaken the task, and will continue his researches until all the facts are laid before the public. The following is his report of the condition of several hundred dwellings he has visited in the First, Fourth, Sixth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth wards. The statements are startling, but true, and the report will afford the reader a pretty accurate idea of the prison cells in the high story buildings commonly known as tenement houses:—

THE HOMES OF THE POOR.

The homes of the poor must be improved if we would avoid pestilence in the summer season, the increase of crime of every character in the winter months, and the spread of drunkenness and immorality in every shape and form that will leave its finger mark upon the next degenerated generation. Throwing aside entirely the question of philanthropy and charity, self preservation alone demands that some thing should be done for those that now burrow like beavers in underground cellars that are flooded with filth from sinks, and those who live above ground, in apartments without door or window or without light and air, who have the name of having a place of shelter, but do not have it.

FACTS FOR THE WEALTHY.

It may be a matter of very little importance to the rich that a hundred thousand people—which is a fact—live in four thousand shells of houses from which there is no escape from death in the event of fire; that funeral pile may be burned up and none but the immediate relatives will be the mourners and sufferers. But the entire community is affected when the same number of occupants are found living in four thousand dwellings, without sewerage or ventilation. Then we find as many stationary pest houses from which issue forth lepers, as it were, to spread disease broadcast in every corner of the city. The pest houses themselves may be stationary, but the ingoers and outcomers floating hither and thither into storehouses, as porters, hotels as waiters, sow the seeds of pestilence into the houses of the rich and into localities salubrious and comfortable in every respect. If for no other reason than that of self-preservation the condition of our tenement buildings should command the attention of the wealthy.

NO PROTECTION AGAINST FIRES.

In over five hundred buildings inspected there was not one that had the proper means of escape in the event of fire; true, there were some that had what is called fire escapes, but only in name. In one house in the Fourteenth ward, six stories high in front, the same height in the rear building, occupied by about five hundred persons, the two buildings were connected on the roof by a narrow bridge. But should the flames rush up the stairway how are they to get to the roof? and if the front should take fire and egress be stopped there is no mode of escape for those in the rear.

THE RESULTS OF THE INSPECTION.

At No. 36 Trinity place was found a building that had a fire escape, according to law, and yet the building would be as well without it; nobody took any interest in keeping it oiled and in order, and nobody, from the first to the sixth floor, knew how to work it. On every floor outside of the windows in the rear there is a narrow iron balcony and trap door and stairway to descend to the floor below in the event of fire; but the balcony and trap doors were covered with barrels, firewood and rubbish. We tried to raise the trap doors and lower the ladders; but they were so far out of working order that we could not do it, and the building might as well be without the fire escapes. There were eighteen families in this house, four on a floor, and in the rear was a carpenter's shop, which, if it took fire, would soon communicate to the tenement house. A room and bedroom in this house, on the third floor, brings in $10 50 per month—in former times the rent was $5 per month.

No. 16 Thames street, occupied by nineteen families, is without sewerage, ventilation or means of escape in the event of fire. The door to the roof is locked. On the house adjoining, in the rear, there is a bridge that might be thrown across, if they would only have presence of mind to do it. A room and bedroom in the front rents for $10 a month, an advance of $3 per month on former prices.

No. 15, opposite, four stories high, is sub-let for $1,600 a year. The house has accommodation for fourteen families. The yard is only three feet wide. Kitchens in the back are so dark that you cannot see to read or sew; the bedrooms, which are six feet by five, are perfectly dark and without ventilation. Rent $10 50 for two rooms. Could get on the roof if fire occurred, but the roof adjoining is slanting and the choice would be if once there to stand and be burned to death or leap into eternity. One inmate, when asked how she expected to escape replied, "God Almighty keep away a fire. We couldn't get out."

No. 24, the same street, six stories high, has a yard two feet wide; the hydrant is at the entrance to the yard; the water closets are reached by descending steep steps, covered over with so thick a layer of ice and dirt that it was next to impossible to descend. No child can venture down these steps. Twenty-two families occupy the house. A room and two dark bedrooms in the back, without ventilation, cost $12 a month. The occupant of these apartments said the water closets were not fit for hogs; as for her apartments, she had whitewashed them five times since May to prevent sickness. One tenant pays $10 a month for one room. The $12 rent was formerly $7. Means of escape in case of fire is also bad. The hall was flooded over with water, and had become a miniature skating pond.

At the corner of Albany and Washington streets is a house five stories high, with a store on the ground floor, and occupied by sixteen families, four on a floor. The water closets are filthy, but might be kept more cleanly. Water in the yard. In the event of a fire the roof might be reached; but then it would be a fearful leap for life. The house adjoining has a steep slanting roof. In dry weather one of nerve might crawl along the coping of the roof and slide down; but even the momentum might be such as to break the iron railing that fences in the balcony; and in that event it would be certain death to fall in the street. In the confusion an attempt to leap on the slanting roof might be made, but if the venturer failed to clear eight feet he would have a fall of forty feet, and down the roof he would rush as if descending with an avalanche. It would cost but little to have a fire escape from this building if the adjoining proprietor would permit it. There is no yard to this house, and $8 is charged for a room and bedroom.

No. 59 Washington street has sixteen families. The two basements are occupied as the public lodging houses of tramps. The sanitary condition is filthy in the extreme. Two cart loads of filth could be gathered up from the outside of the water closets. There is no water on the premises; it can only be obtained at groggeries which the tenants frequent for their gin. The outside of the building on the street is a foot and a half thick with nuisance, firmly frozen to the ground and continually increasing. There is no fire escape here. The occupants don't want it. They say they would as escape dead as alive. A room and dark bedroom, without ventilation, brings $9 a month; but it was formerly $8.

No. 165 Washington street is five stories in height, has twenty-two families, four on a floor. There are two stores on the first floor, a carpenter's shop in the basement, a cotton warehouse on one side. In the rear there is another tenement house, occupied by eight families; no fire escape to either house. Should the front house take fire there would be no escape for those in the rear. There is no ventilation, no cleanliness, and from six to twelve persons occupy a room and bedroom, for which they are charged from $7 to $9 a month. If a sudden flaw were to take place the crowd would be such that it would be impossible to pass through the street.

No. 52 Washington street has eighteen families, four on the floor. The entrance is through an alley and up outside stairs, in the rear. The doorways of some of the apartments are supplemented with the cobwebs of years, which have been permitted to remain there for luck. The bedrooms are dark and without ventilation. No means are provided for escape from fire except from the windows. The rents average $28 a floor.

No. 38 Washington street is a double house, with one entrance, and should be a model tenement house, as it is hardly quite finished; yet it is as unsafe as any building in the ward. It has accommodations for forty-five families. On one side there are five families on a floor; on the other four. Although but recently built, the water closets are already filthy, unfit to go into, and are choked up with ashes. A room and bedroom on the second floor costs $15 50. There are no fire escapes, and should a conflagration take place, in the rush of several hundred people through the hallway it would be strange indeed if the children were not crushed to death. The descent to the water closets is accompanied with about as much danger in frosty weather as it is to make a journey to a coal mine. The yard is very small, and the risk of having the linen stolen is such that many dry their clothes in the house in preference to hanging them on the roof.

INTERESTING STATISTICS.

Above are given a few illustrations of the condition of a few of the two hundred and fifty tenement houses in this ward. The occupants of every house visited appeared to be honest, hard working and industrious. The apartments of some were models of cleanliness and industry, while on the same floor, next door, the stench was enough to breed a plague. One of the great causes of filth in this ward is the removal of the ash boxes from the front of these houses. It being a violation of a Corporation ordinance to throw garbage in the street, few if any of them keep an ash box in their house, and at night the more lazy throw their slops out of the window. A policeman, even if passing at the time, could not tell the window from which they descended. Thus there is less risk of detection in throwing it from the windows, and still less trouble than if it were taken down stairs. But those living in the rear apartments fill their slop pails with garbage and ashes which they throw in the sink; and the consequence is that in a few weeks the water closets become unapproachable and the yards are reeking beds of filth.

THE FOURTH WARD.

What a great difference there is between the occupants of the tenement houses of the First and Fourth wards! In the First were found hard fisted, open hearted, whole souled, honest workingmen and women, struggling with poverty; but in the Fourth it is not only poverty, but vice of every kind—unlicensed and unbridled prostitution and thieving. It would be difficult to find a tenement house in the four hundred and eighty-six which has not either a prostitute or a family of professional thieves or beggars.

Nos. 31 and 33 James street. The two houses adjoin each other; five stories in height, built wall to wall to the house in the rear. It is twenty-five feet deep. Twelve families occupy each house, paying on an average of $7 for a room and bedroom that has no ventilation; a stairway so dark that one has to grope and feel his way up; no privilege to dry clothes on the roof; no water in the house; no water closets; no place for coal or wood; void of every convenience. The cesspools—for they are not water closets, but drains of choked up filth—and the hydrant, are under the pavement, so that all slops have to be carried out in the street, along the pavement a few yards, and then down deep descending steps under the pavement at the risk of breaking the neck. The steps were so clogged with ice that we could not venture below; but standing on the pavement above, even when the thermometer stood at zero, the stench was perceptible. To neither of these two houses is there any fire escape, "nor," said one of the inmates, "does the landlord think we want it; we are only women of the town; it would be no great loss, he thinks, if we were burned up."

But bad as the above premises are, they are palaces compared with No. 22 Roosevelt street. This is called Bilker's Hall. It is an old dilapidated building. Perhaps thirty or forty years ago it was one of the finest mansions in the ward. Now it is changed. The entrance is through a wide open court, at the end of which is the sink, and from its open locality is resorted to by passers by from the street. But for its present frozen up condition one could not approach within twenty feet of the further door without wading through a bed of soil at least two feet in depth. There is soil enough in the court of Bilkers' Hall to manure a farm of sixty acres. The doorway is twice its original width, the bricks have fallen out or been torn out by mischievous urchins. Looking up to the second story and the attic windows, which are void of glass or sash, we asked of officer Ely, of the Sanitary Corps, if it were possible for these dens to be inhabited. It seemed impossible to live in such dismal holes. Up in the open attic we found a compartment several inches thick with soil. In the further end of the attic we saw smoke issuing from a dark hole. Looking in we found an old crone of fifty, a ragged, dirty youth of sixteen and a middle aged woman as squalid as her companion, sitting on blocks of wood around a stove that had a pipe attached to it; but there was no fireplace or hole to put the pipe in. There was a window, but not a pane of glass in it—not even a sash; and an old shawl was hung up to keep both light and cold out. The door was off its hinges and lay propped up against the wall like an independent corner loafer. A rough board for a cupboard contained some broken crockery; but even here there was a faint display at taste—an old newspaper, fancifully cut at the edges, covered the rough board. There was no unnecessary furniture. It had neither chair nor bedstead. Outside, through two gaping, empty windows, the wind whistled in fitful gusts upon the wretched group that sat huddled around the stove. For this miserable hole in the attic the occupant paid $3 a month. The balance of the attic was occupied by juvenile thieves who have free access to it, and who come here and throw themselves down on the cold, dirty floor when they cannot raise ten or twenty cents to pay for shelter in a beggars' lodging house. At the opposite end of the attic there was a sort of box where a young rascal had bunked for some time. He committed a burglary last week and was traced by the officer to Bilker's Hall. He had no time to lift the flooring—the usual way of escape—and drop below; and, rather than be caught, he jumped out of the window and broke his leg.

On the second floor a room and bedroom let for $9. It has six beds in it, and how many lodgers it is impossible to say, as the charge for resting on the bed is made according to the time it is occupied. The mistress of the house, a wretched old hag who lay abed, said all her lodgers had gone and she supposed she'd have to look for others. Around the stove stood two little boys—one aged about eight years, without jacket, shoes or stockings; the other four years older, with a pair of shoes on that he had picked up in the street, and an "unfortunate" of fifteen, one of the ladies, who had the stupid stare of an idiot. The old hag spoke honestly, though the sentiment was questionable, when asked why she didn't get shoes for her boy, she said, "I can't afford it. If them wants comfort let 'em steal; they be big enough to know sense." The room adjoining was kept by a man who had the name of being a panel thief. If he was not a thief himself he harbored thieves, and larcenies were committed in his house by his lady boarders. The place looked pretty clean. When the inspector entered the occupant was walking up and down the room smoking a short clay pipe. He spoke first on entering, and spoke all the time. "You see," said he, "old 'oomans' gone for a day or two." "Gone where?" "Well, up above; and you sees I've got to keep bachelor's hall, and I think I keeps it purty good. Sit 'ee down, sur, an 'ave a smoke. The old 'oman's been up the last two months, an she did na more steal th' cost than did the young 'un theere. You see a moll fitched a bloke in 'ere, an when they was t'gether she got her feller to get out wi i, and then they blamed my owld 'oman, and she waur done, an' it cost me mon $30 for a mouthpiece at 't Tombs; but I mean to get a certiorar on 'ave a jury trial, and if they let me swear I'll swear't out."

In this house scarcely a day passes that the police are not called in to make an arrest or the cry of murder is not heard. The ventilation of the house is good, half of the wall is gone, the windows are nearly all out, and there is scarcely a whole pane of glass in the place, while the cracks in the flooring are wide enough to thrust your finger through. Water is obtained at the nearest grocery. If there was a hydrant there the canal of filth would be so deep that the occupants of the house could only get to their apartments on rafts.

Nos. 64 and 66 Cherry street are little better. In a room in the attic it was ascertained the occupant is paying $5 a month for a room that had no closets, no cellar, no place for the stovepipe to go into—broken panes of glass stuffed up with old clothes. She was a dressmaker, but the character of the house was so bad, she said, that decent people would not come to give her work. On the same floor there were six beds in a single room, for which $12 a month was paid. The cholera was pretty bad in this house and in the basement, which has been nailed up by order of the Board of Health. The Board of Health apparently thought if they could not shove the cholera out they could at least lock it in. In an adjoining attic, where they could not sit straight, with the head touching the ceiling, they pay $4 50 a month. In another room eight feet by six, on the same floor, there was a woman and two boys, aged respectively four and eight years, the youngest barefooted. The mother was out working. The woman in the house was a lodger. The glass in the window was broken, and the stovepipe was too short by several inches to go through the window, consequently the room had a disagreeable gaseous smell. There was neither table, chair, bed nor piece of crockery in the room. There was nothing but the four empty walls, a loose bundle of straw in a corner of the room, a stove and a pot half filled with refuse that the eldest boy had picked out of ash barrels. Neither of the three had tasted any food in twenty-four hours. When the little fellow received our loose change to relieve his immediate wants, it was the happiest sight that we ever saw to see the oldest little fellow throw up his cap to the ceiling with joy. They were the children of a soldier who had lost his life in the late war, and from what was told us the mother is in hopes of getting the bounty that she is entitled to; but there is no doubt some rascally claim agent has already got it and put it in his pocket. This house in every point is unfit to be inhabited by human beings. Its sanitary condition is about as bad as it can be.

Nos. 36 and 38 Cherry street is the largest tenement house in the city, there being probably not less than two hundred families in it. It is almost impossible to give a pen description of this place. The apartments are reached on 36 and 38 by a long narrow alley, and the occupants rent a room and bedroom. There is no place for wood or coal, and under the long alley is a large open sewer where all the filth is thrown. At night the janitor opens a sluice and the sewer is cleaned by the heavy body of water thrown through it. The inhabitants of this place hail from almost every habitable portion of the globe and follow almost every known and inconceivable business for a living. Thieves, beggars, ballet girls, organ grinders, longshoremen, porters, nurses, sample the poor who follow their calling from home, all elbow together in these alleys. The coal used, if bought, is brought in in pailsful, but much of it is cinders picked out of ashbins. Although this place is so densely populated—perhaps as many as eight hundred people in the building—it is said there was very little sickness there last summer, owing to the free use of lime throughout the house. But it seems to us all the lime in the world could not keep down the stench that must arise from an open canal of filth.

No. 32, adjoining, is Murderers' alley. It is in the form of the letter A, about six feet at the opening, and at the end about eighteen inches. It is occupied by thirty-two families, and, although many of them are professional beggars, we found a fiddle fiddling so lustily as he could to the children of his professional brethren. In one apartment we found a woman who was engaged in the manufacture of pocket books. She had a batch of page six weeks old, that, when full grown, would be no larger than a rat. She feeds them on liquor and stunts their growth, and, on account of their diminutive appearance, the pups bring from ten to forty dollars; but they are generally short lived.

In nearly all the tenement houses visited there was bad sewerage or none; no ventilation; dark, filthy stairways that had dirt enough on them to grow a crop of corn; rooms that the sun's rays never gladdened, freezing cold in winter and suffocating with foul air in summer; alive with vermin; no place in which to keep coal or wood, or even closets or pantries for victuals, the close, dark bedrooms, surrounded with nails, on which hung clothing—taking up half of the space of the room; rooms fitted up for boarders, one in particular, where there were twelve beds, bunks being built on top of each other, and in this room was done the cooking and the eating. The result of all this overcrowding is visible on the faces of the children that you meet in these houses. Wan faces, bleared eyes, prematurely old in language and in manners, they are sent by their mothers for liquor, who club together for a pint of gin; they taste on the way, they soon learn to smoke, chew tobacco, steal, get drunk, swear like a Christian, and finally die in a barroom brawl.

THE OCCUPANTS OF THE HOUSES.

The following statistics, furnished by Captain Lord, of the Sanitary Department, show the importance of a tenement house investigation. After giving in detail the number of tenement houses in each ward he gives the total:—

Whole number of tenement houses	15,309
Population	480,368
Cellar population	15,224

	No. of Houses.	Population.
Means of escape good	11,239	372,261
Means of escape bad	4,070	108,107
Total	15,309	480,368
Sanitary condition good	14,473	453,972
Sanitary condition bad	836	26,396
Total	15,309	480,368
Ventilation good	13,472	423,454
Ventilation bad	1,837	56,914
Total	15,309	480,368
Houses sewered	11,442	379,693
Houses not sewered	3,867	100,675
Total	15,309	480,368

Whole number of families	110,890
Average number of families per house	7 1-6

	Cubic feet to Each Person.	No. of Houses.	Population.
Having from	100 to 300	289	9,642
Having from	300 to 400	1,198	44,989
Having from	400 to 500	2,125	77,894
Having from	500 to 600	2,742	96,828
Having from	600 to 700	2,465	79,273
Having from	700 to 800	2,028	60,215
Having from	800 to 1,000	2,221	60,682
Having over	1,000	2,241	60,845
Total		15,309	480,368
Cellar population			15,224
Grand total			495,592

Average number of cubic feet to each of cellar population 653

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Services To-Day.

Rev. George W. Bacon, Principal of the Columbia College Grammar School, will preach this afternoon, at half-past three o'clock, in the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, on the corner of Lexington avenue and Thirty-fifth street (Murray Hill).

Rev. H. M. Gallagher, of Brooklyn, delivers a lecture, this evening, at a quarter to eight o'clock, in the West Twenty-fifth street United Presbyterian church, between Sixth and Seventh avenues. Subject—"America and the Americans."

B. W. Whitcher lectures this evening, at eight o'clock, in Cooper Institute, on "The Attempts to Establish the Reformation in Ireland."

Rev. Edwin Hatfield, D. D., preaches morning and evening in the West Fiftieth street Presbyterian church.

The forty-third anniversary of the New York Bible Society will be held to-night in the Madison square Presbyterian church, at half-past seven o'clock. The annual report will be read by the Corresponding Secretary, S. B. Brownell, and addresses may be expected from Rev. Dr. J. Cotton Smith, Rev. J. O. Murray and Rev. Thomas F. Hildreth.

At the Bleecker street Universalist church, corner of Downing street, the pastor, Rev. Day K. Lee, gives, in the morning, "Answers to Doubters;" in the evening his subject will be "Divine Punishment."

At the Second Universalist church, corner of Second avenue and Eleventh street, services are held by the Rev. G. L. Demarest, at a quarter to eleven o'clock A. M. and half-past seven o'clock P. M.

The Rev. Urish Scott preaches at the Free Church of the Redemption, in Fourteenth street, opposite the Academy of Music, morning and evening.

Miss Emma Hardinge, the spiritualist, has her usual morning and evening services at Dodworth Hall. Subjects, "Life in the World of Spirits," and "Elijah and the Prophets of Carmel."

The spiritualists, at Ebbitt Hall, No. 55 West Thirty-third street, will be addressed morning and evening by Miss Lizzie Doten, the inspired poetic medium.

At No. 814 Broadway discussions will be had at half-past ten o'clock this morning on "The Moral Influence of the NEW YORK HERALD," and at half-past three o'clock this afternoon on "The Moral Influence of Theatres." In the evening Rev. Mr. Orvis addresses the Progressive Conference on "Co-operation, the Only True Basis of Christian Civilization."

Bishop Snow will preach in the University, Washington square, at three o'clock this afternoon, from Isaiah 51, xvi., on "The New Creation."

In the Hedding Methodist Episcopal church, East Seventeenth street, between First and Second avenues, Mr. Samuel Halstead, class leader, conducts prayer meetings at ten o'clock this morning, three o'clock this afternoon and at seven o'clock this evening.

Rev. Dr. Higbee will preach to the congregation of the late Rev. Dr. Hawks at half-past ten o'clock this morning in the large chapel of the University, Washington square.

Rev. Dr. Deems preaches in the smaller chapel of the University at eleven A. M.

Rev. Urban C. Brewer preaches in the Christian church, Twenty-eighth street, near Broadway, morning and evening. Subjects—"Our Name" and "Almost a Christian."

Rev. Thomas Armitage, D. D., preaches morning and evening to his congregation in the Fifth avenue Baptist church, corner of Forty-sixth street. In the evening the discourse will be on "Solomon's Proverbs, or What God Hates in a Young Man."

The Bishop of Africa will preach in the evening at St. George's Mission chapel, in Nineteenth street, near First avenue. The morning discourse will be on "Our Duty as Christians Toward the Heathen."

Bishop Southgate, D. D., of Zion church, will preach the anniversary sermon of the Young Men's Christian Association at the Church of the Holy Apostles, Ninth avenue, this evening, at half-past seven o'clock.

A course of lectures on "Religious Leaders" will be delivered at the Ninth Presbyterian church, commencing this evening. Subject—"Luther."

The Rev. Chauncey Giles will lecture this evening at half-past seven o'clock, in the New Jerusalem church, Thirty-fifth street. Subject—"Swedenborg on Marriage." Seats free.

The second of a series of discourses on the Prominent Religions of the World will be delivered this evening, in the Sixth avenue Reformed Dutch church, by the pastor, Rev. Isaac S. Hartley, at half-past seven o'clock. Subject—"The Religion of the Mohammedans."

The first anniversary of the West Presbyterian Sunday School Missionary Association will be held this evening, at half-past seven o'clock, in the church on Forty-second street.

At St. Ann's Free church, in Eighteenth street, near Fifth avenue, the Rev. Eastburn Benjamin will preach morning, afternoon and evening. The afternoon service, at three o'clock, for deaf mutes. The Rev. Dr. Fyne also preaches in the evening.

Rev. Chas. B. Smyth omits his lecture to-day, but has a second course in preparation, of which due notice will be given.

Miscellaneous.

THE FULTON STREET PRAYER MEETING still continues daily to attract much interest. Many requests for an interest in its prayers are presented, and frequently accounts are received ascribing blessings received to their efficacy. A noon daily prayer meeting has been started in Brooklyn, by the Young Men's Christian Association.

PRAYER ALL THE WORLD AROUND.—The *Observer* says: The first week of the year witnessed the singular and impressive spectacle of nearly the entire Protestant Christian world engaged in the observance of a concert of prayer. Day after day, as the sun rose in the east, assemblies in different lands, and of different tongues, met and united their supplications for a common object, till the voice of prayer, moving on with the march of the hours, encompassed the globe. There was no break in the continuity of the worship. Before the mission bands of China had dispersed, the churches of India had gathered, and ere their prayers were ended, the Nestorian Christians and Armenian converts, on bended knee, had taken up the strain, transmitting it to the Protestants of Italy and Switzerland and France and Germany, by whom it he passed onward to the British isles, and thence caught up by the New World, and sent on, over mountain and valley, to our western coast, and to the distant islands of the sea. Night came over all lands, but the voice of prayer was ceaseless; for it travelled on as unwearied as the sunlight, and refused to linger where the shadows gathered. Thus, day after day, the voice of prayer continued to ascend, and millions of hallowed spoken hearts participated in the worship.

LECTURES BY REV. ALBERT BARNES.—The first course in the fifty lectureship on the Evidences of Christianity, in the Union Theological Seminary, in this city, will be delivered by the Rev. Albert Barnes, of Philadelphia, in the lecture room of the Mercer street Presbyterian church (entrance on Greene street, near Houston), beginning on Monday evening, January 21, at half-past seven o'clock. The course will consist of ten lectures, to be given on Monday and Thursday evenings, ending February 21. These lectures are open to the public. No tickets of admission are required. The general subject of the course is, "The Evidences of the Truth of Christianity in the Nineteenth Century."—*Observer.*

AFFAIRS IN EUROPE.

The Fenian Situation at the Close of 1866.

German Reconstruction and Trade with the United States.

&c. &c. &c

THE ASIA AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, Jan. 19, 1867.

The steamship Asia, from Queenstown on Monday, January 7—having been detained at that port a day waiting for the English mails delayed by storm in the Channel—arrived at one o'clock A. M. Her dates are anticipated. She brought sixteen passengers for Halifax and fourteen for Boston. She sailed at half-past three o'clock for Boston.

Detention of American Outward Bound Steamers.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM BY MAIL TO THE HERALD.

QUEENSTOWN, Jan. 6, 1867.

I have to report the detention of some of the outward bound American steamships at this port, caused by the prevalence of a heavy southerly gale.

The steamship The Queen, of the National line, and the steamship Worcester, of the Baltimore line, both from Liverpool, under the American flag, on Thursday, January 3, arrived here at a late hour the following evening *en route* for New York and Baltimore respectively. The vessels were detained here by the existence of a heavy south-southeasterly gale until midday today, when they proceeded for their ports of destination.

THE STORM ON THE ATLANTIC.

The Cunard mail steamship Cuba, which arrived here this morning from New York, reports having experienced very heavy weather during the entire passage across.

THE FENIANS.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

Stephens' Promise of a "Rising" Broken, and Public Opinion of the Leader—How the Danger Was and Is Magnified—Strength and Position of the Irish Population in England—Its Office Holders—The Army, Police and Catholic Clergy for the Crown, &c., &c.

LONDON, Dec. 29, 1866.

Two days are all that remain of the year 1866, and yet there is no more sign of a Fenian outbreak in Ireland than of the fulfilment of Dr. Cummings' predictions or prophecy. James Stephens has not shown himself, and the millennium that he promised to his native country is no nearer than before. Cries have been heard: "Lo, here, and lo, there!" but of all those who for different reasons and with different objects would be glad to come across him, none can find one trace of his footsteps. His kingdom is so far messianic that it "cometh not with observation."

One would suppose that the men who on this shore of the Atlantic have formerly put confidence in this man as a capable and honest leader, are by this time shaken in their opinion. Perhaps they begin to think with "General" Millen that he will "turn up in the South of France;" for he has given no sign of preferring either the south or north of Ireland. He may be fond of a warm climate in the cold season; but the green island would seem to be now much too hot to hold him.

The friends of public order and of a peaceful way of going to work to cure political evils and redress social grievances see plainly enough that persons utterly incapable of conducting a disaffected rising may yet perpetrate much mischief and inflict a great deal of misery and suffering, if they get a chance. Nobody whose judgment controls his feelings, however, can discover any great cause for alarm on account of insurgent chiefs who not merely differ among themselves as to the way in which it would be best to go to work, but speak of each other in terms the furthest from being complimentary. According to Millen, who ought to know, Stephens is "either knave or fool." He must be both, if it is true, not only that he spends the money of his countrymen in idle pleasures and luxurious living, but also thinks it a feasible project to erect a cannon foundry in the city of Dublin, and get parks of artillery out of it before the government can discover and stop him. But, be he knave or be he fool, they cannot be Solomons who swallow such schemes.

To a sane mind it appears impossible that an earnest and not lunatic rebel would start his enterprise by advertising the whole world of its approach and even announcing to the government which he sought to overthrow the very day when they would find themselves deposed. This has been done by others besides Stephens. Between Cork and London, for example, there is a close connection in the provision market. By this means it became known that on a certain day there would be a general rising. One who was in the secret and meant to take a prominent part in the movement was kind enough to apprise his principal in business of the impending storm. All the stores in the metropolis of the Irish butter market were to be seized and the proprietors put under arrest, if not to death. But this man's employer, being an Englishman, was to be spared, though even his Fenian foreman, with all his influence, could not promise him exemption from the general confiscation of valuable property. Was not this a nice way of stepping into his master's shoes? It need scarcely be added that although the fatal day is past and gone the favored merchant and all his fellow citizens in the same line of business are both alive and free and remain in undisturbed possession of their own pigs and butter tubs. Nay, more, the iron-clad vessel-of-war which had been ordered round from the mouth of the Shannon into the Cove of Cork, found so little to do there that she is already off to Lough Swilly or some other waters of the extreme North.

Wherever this formidable visitor appeared to the South or West, the mere sight of her mailed hull had a strangely cooling effect upon the beholders, who, Irishmen like, began to think themselves "kill" before they were hurt; but, happening to be in regular correspondence with some who are on board, we are in a condition to state that the captain and officers have had nothing less pleasant to do than accept the hospitalities of the gentry at the different places where they have touched, and give them sailors' welcome in return. In like manner the appearance of a man-of-war or two upon the coasts of Ulster will give confidence to the mercantile North, and, it is to be hoped, keep in check that hot Protestantism and explosive Orangeism which are ever too apt to create dangers where they do not exist and to aggravate them when any have really arisen.

Mind, no wise onlooker pretends that no danger whatever does exist; but only beholders not wise fall into the error of magnifying the perilous circumstances into a general rising on the point of bursting forth. There is a secret consciousness about us that the Irish people have just causes of dissatisfaction in the state of the church and the land questions, and on various social grounds springing out of the difference of religion, blood and even language. Our governing authorities are not quite easy as to the army, the police and the Irish element in the population of English towns. Some of the arrests that have been made imply a certain, or rather an uncertain, degree of unreliableness in regiments chiefly or partially Irish, and there are few to which one or other of these qualifying expressions do not more or less apply. The same remark holds good of the town and county police, although it would be hazardous, without an official return, to estimate the extent to which Irishmen have received appointments in these forces. God forbid that in every Irishman, wherever found, we should suspect a Fenian! It is well known, however, that in all public establishments, whether civil or military, which find employment for men of inferior education, Irishmen are to be found, and sometimes in great numbers. The clergy of the Roman Catholic Church are meritoriously active in promising situations for the less well to do of their adherents—meritoriously, we say, on the supposition that they have no political motive, no *arrière pensée* in the matter.

Considerations such as these are present to the minds of those who are responsible for the public peace in Great Britain and Ireland; especially as they know that in such towns as Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Hull, and other large places on or near the coast, the Irish constitute no small percentage of the population, and herd together under strong and ill-regulated clannish feelings. While, therefore, military precaution on the part of the government, and the absence of any adequate preparations on the part of the Fenians, and a fair security against anything like a quarrel, much more a successful rising, yet we are all constrained to acknowledge to ourselves and each other, that by simultaneous though scattered movements the Fenians and those whom they might influence have it in their power to excite a vast deal of alarm and perpetrate a considerable amount of mischief before they could be effectually quelled.

When "President" Roberts concludes "the utter hollowness of the Fenian movement against Ireland," the tall talk of Stephens, unbacked by one stroke of real business, amply justifies him; but what would he say if he read the ridiculous accounts that every mailboat brings us from that island? One day the Dublin constabulary seize a rifle or two which they find hid up a chimney. Another day they unearth "a bottle containing gunpowder," in a coal hole. Sometimes they light upon "a piece of lead," a canister containing "one pound of gunpowder," "a green uniform cap," or exactly "a hundred and eleven bullets," all told.

Granted that even these seizures, ridiculous as they may seem, are indications of more than disaffection, even of an idea of insurgency, yet how utterly inadequate to so great an undertaking as the liberation of a country and the dismemberment of an empire! There seems no reason to doubt the entire loyalty of the northern counties, and, in that case, the disposable force would be available to suppress any movement in the other provinces. Here Fenianism may be considered as having a *midus* for its infectious views.

The army in Ireland is reckoned at fifty thousand men, who are under one of the best generals in the service, and would be aided by the peculiar experience and local knowledge of a police force amounting to fourteen thousand men. Against these combined forces the Fenians would be like chaff before the wind, destitute as they are of arms, cavalry and ordnance.

This is so clear that the priests appear to be exerting all their influence and eloquence to dissuade their flocks from commiting themselves to a hopeless enterprise. They preach, with seeming sincerity, submission to the higher powers. He who resisteth the power, they proclaim, purchaseth to himself damnation. The Church which condemned the Carbonari in Italy and the Socialists in France denounces the Fenians in Ireland. Those who join them will exclude themselves from the sacraments of grace. Neither priest nor bishop, not even cardinal or Pope, could give them to persons persisting in a sinful career.

GERMANY.

OUR FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN CORRESPONDENCE.

Supply and Sale of United States Bonds—Peculiarities of the Market—Distribution of the Securities—The Corn Supply—A Dreary Situation in Politics—Trade with the American Union, &c.

FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN, Dec. 26, 1866.

As no large remittances of American bonds have come in during the last three weeks, the great absorption power of our market has had its effect, and the dulness has been followed by more lively transactions. The price of to-day, 76¾, is only a trifle below yesterday's price of New York. I can only repeat that the great difference between our market and others is, that what is sold here comes into the hands of permanent holders, while at London most transactions are on Continental account and the bonds bought there come here for sale. Therefore London prices correspond to a minimal fraction with our price of the same day, and increased buoyancy will be noticed there as soon as our market takes the lead.

I am told, on unquestionable authority, that in Holland the bonds are mostly held for speculation, as many as $38,000,000 being mortgaged with the bank; while in Germany not a single bond is mortgaged in the banks, as these are prevented by their statutes to lend on foreign bonds.

A rough estimate by competent parties calculates that out of the five hundred millions or thereabouts five-twenty bonds held in Europe four hundred have been taken up by South Germany. Money is cheap; confidence in European affairs and continued peace there is none, and therefore orders for investment in American loans come in every day. The project of Mr. McCulloch to negotiate five per cent bonds, interest payable in Europe, is not approved of here, as the price of the six per cent is yet too low for such a transaction, and as this would involve great and useless sacrifices for the government.

With regard to the payment of dividends in Europe, nobody cares for it, as they can be sold at a regular price of exchange every day, the fluctuations amounting scarcely to one-half per cent. Of far greater importance it would be if Congress were to endorse the declaration of the Secretary of the Treasury, that the principal of the bonds will in due time be paid in gold.

Our corn markets are firm, though dull. Still higher prices are expected in spring, as England, France and Switzerland yet want large supplies.

Our political condition is desolate. Prussia continues to act with her traditional harshness. Frankfort citizenship, hitherto courted by many persons in other German States, is now thrown off, and many of our wealthy young men emigrate to avoid compulsory military service. As many as twenty-two releases were granted last month in one day. Landed property is almost unsalable, as rich people won't bother themselves with property which binds them to the spot. At Christmas time our splendid town has a dreary appearance. The shops remain empty where in former years dozens of carriages were waiting at the doors. In fact there are no more carriages, and even the richest people prefer to ride in hackney coaches rather than expose themselves to have their horses taken away, as it was done last summer.

The views of the other annexed provinces are to the same effect. Thousands would fly to America if they were not cut off on the road by the police, of course only such as are yet liable to military service. Others, who cannot be stopped, will go in large numbers, and you may count next spring on a large influx of wealthy people from this country.

To Hanover the compulsory military service is equally hateful, and the demeanor of the officials increases the dislike to Prussian rule. I do not allude to the great animosity shown in the towns of Hanover, as it originated mostly with such people, who made a profit by the court. I speak only of the feeling of disinterested people, who would have been conciliated to Prussian rule if they had been treated like freemen, and not cowed down by dictation. That this has been possible is one of the most shameful acts of the sham liberals in the Prussian Chamber. They have given the power to the government, which was once claimed by the same, to govern the annexed countries for one year by royal decrees, instead of publishing at once the Prussian constitution, which, with all its defects, keeps, at all events, the ministerial power within some limits. The same men have voted a national reward to the generals of $1,500,000, and have insisted on Count Bismarck's having a part of it.

The deputy Hoverbeck said, with great justice, that they had better give the money to the poor starving people who had suffered by the war, than to those who had caused this widespread misery in Prussia.

Reports are heartrending from the Prussian provinces. People who had been six months in the field, without pay or any adequate provision for their families, cannot now afford to supply their wants or make their living during the winter. This calamity tells heavily on the trade of the towns, as country people cannot buy anything. Instead of assisting