NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—FANCHON.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway, opposite New York Hotel.—JEANIE DEANS.

WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite St. Nicholas Hotel.—EAST LYNNE—PERFECTION.

GERMAN STADT THEATRE, 45 and 47 Bowery.—DER VATER DER DEBUTANTIN—PARIS IN POMMERN.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—BOHEMIAN GIRL.

DODWORTH HALL, 806 Broadway.—PROFESSOR HARTZ WILL PERFORM HIS MIRACLES—L'ESCAMATEUR AND HIS FAIRY SINGING BIRD.

IRVING HALL, Irving place.—FIRST NIGHT OF MR. KENNEDY'S ENTERTAINMENTS—THE SONGS OF SCOTLAND.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel—IN THEIR ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUES.—THE BLACK COOK—ENGLISH OPERA WITH GERMAN ACCENT.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway, opposite the New York Hotel.—IN THEIR SONGS, DANCES, ECCENTRICITIES, BURLESQUES, &C.—CINDER-LEON—MADAGASCAR BALLET TROUPE—NORMA—ICI L'ON PARLE FRANCAIS.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth street.—GRIFFIN & CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, BALLADS, BURLESQUES, &C.—THE BOND BOBBERY—BLACK CROOK.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELSY, BURLESQUES, BALLET DIVERTISSEMENT, &C.—THE RIVER RATS OF NEW YORK.

CHARLEY WHITE'S COMBINATION TROUPE, at Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway—IN A VARIETY OF LIGHT AND LAUGHABLE ENTERTAINMENTS.—THE FEMALE CLERKS OF WASHINGTON.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, BALLADS AND BURLESQUES.—STREETS OF BROOKLYN.

THE BUNYAN TABLEAUX, Union Hall, corner of Twenty-third street and Broadway, at 7½.—MOVING MIRROR OF THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS—SIXTY MAGNIFICENT SCENES. Matinee Wednesday and Saturday at 3 o'clock.

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.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, April 5, 1867.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers will please bear in mind that in order to have their advertisements properly classified they should be sent in before half-past eight o'clock in the evening.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated yesterday evening, April 4.

The Italian Cabinet has resigned. The English budget has been presented to Parliament. The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to retain the malt tax and impose some new duties on money incomes.

Consols closed at 91, for money, in London. United States five-twenties were at 75¼ in London, 77¾ in Frankfort and 84⅝ in Paris.

The Liverpool cotton market closed dull and heavy, with middling uplands at 12⅝d. Breadstuffs quiet. Provisions generally unchanged.

Our special correspondent in Berlin, writing on the 20th of March, furnishes by mail a very important letter, in which he sets forth the causes of the unhealthy political excitement by which Prussia is agitated, and shows that they are to be found in the uncertainty which prevails as to the immediate policy of Napoleon as tending to war or the permanence of peace. Animated debates occurred almost daily in the North German Parliament, the reports of which keep the anxiety of the people alive.

Count Bismarck may be said to have extinguished the national hopes of Poland by the delivery of one of his most caustic speeches in the German Parliament, in which, addressing the Polish Deputies, he said, "The re-establishment of the Polish republic is a fantastical dream. There are not Poles enough in the world to accomplish it."

The Emperor Napoleon is said to be awaiting the fall of the throne of Queen Isabella of Spain in order to aid the King of Portugal to an Iberian unity rule, a service for which, it is alleged, he hopes France will be rewarded by the acquisition of Cuba or some other of the remaining colonial possessions of Spain.

Official statistics, setting forth the strength of the French army for the present year, appear in our columns.

Lord Lyons, British Minister in Constantinople, enumerates the reforms projected by the Porte government in favor of the Christians in the East in a diplomatic despatch, which we publish.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, yesterday, bills to facilitate the construction of the New York and Northern Railroad, and incorporating the Pneumatic Despatch Company were passed. The general State Appropriation bill, and the bills authorizing Supervisors in New York to reconsider their action in refunding certain taxes to banks and insurance companies, and amending the port of New York Pilotage law by abrogating the rules requiring the same pilot that brings in a vessel to take her out, were advanced to a third reading. A bill providing for the punishment of any telegraph operator who may divulge the contents of telegraph messages was introduced.

In the Assembly the bill to erect public urinals in New York was passed. The bills authorizing a railroad in avenue C and other streets in New York, and to incorporate the New York and Brooklyn Bridge Company, were advanced to a third reading.

THE CITY.

The Board of Aldermen failed to organize yesterday for want of a quorum, the majority of the members having gone to Albany to look after the city tax levy.

The Board of Health met yesterday, when a batch of documents concerning irregularities and neglect of duty of Coroners was received from the Superintendent and referred to the counsel of the Board for an opinion.

The Board of Excise also met, and seven licenses were revoked.

The Chamber of Commerce held a regular monthly meeting yesterday, when the resolution on the subject of an early resumption of specie payments was discussed. An amendment was adopted favoring a system of gradual contraction of the currency. The preamble to the resolution was then agreed to.

The sidewheel steamer Quaker City has been chosen to carry General Sherman, Henry W. Beecher and the excursion party to the Mediterranean and the Holy Land next summer.

The Union Republican General Committee at their meeting last evening passed resolutions relative to their efforts to fuse with the republicans of Argus Hall, and directed that a call be issued for the election of delegates to the convention for the choice of members to the State Constitutional Convention.

The Mozart Hall Democratic General Committee also met last evening and similar measures were taken for the election of delegates to the Convention. A resolution congratulating the people of both sections on the victory in Connecticut was adopted.

Further particulars have been ascertained regarding the explosion at the new Academy of Music on Monday night. Dr. Duff, who is treating one of the injured boys, reports that he was very dangerously burned, and only great care will insure his recovery. This boy, after receiving his injuries, was allowed to find his way home without assistance and before he was treated by a surgeon.

Stephen S. Carland, a young man, was stabbed severely by Anthony Maher, at the corner of Hester and Elizabeth streets on Saturday night. The wounded man having become much worse, his ante-mortem statement was taken yesterday, and Maher was rearrested, having previously been released on bail. Yesterday afternoon young Carland died.

Leonard Huyck was yesterday released from arrest by order of the government on nominal bail, on the ground that there did not appear sufficient evidence to justify his further detention. He was under arrest in default of $200,000, and the government reduced the amount to $1,000, Jos. B. Stewart justifying as surety.

A motion to settle interrogatories to take the testimony of Henry D. Palmer, who is now in Paris, came up in the Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, in the case of Isaac D. Fray against Palmer, wherein the plaintiff claims compensation for services in writing a life of Ristori for the defendant, who is a theatrical manager and the introducer of Ristori in this country. The interrogatories were entered.

In the Supreme Court, Circuit, yesterday, the case of Fennelly, administrator, vs. The Central Park and North and East River Railroad, claiming damages in the sum of $5,000 for the killing of William Brophy, was submitted to the jury. A sealed verdict is to be rendered this morning.

The case of William A. Sanborn vs. Silas C. Herring et al. was commenced in the Supreme Court yesterday. The action is brought to recover $26,000, which was stolen by burglars from a safe purchased by plaintiff from defendants under an alleged warranty that it was burglar proof. On the former trial the jury disagreed. The suit is interesting as involving the question whether the makers and venders of what are termed burglar proof safes are liable for their contents if forced and robbed by burglars.

In the Common Pleas, part one, yesterday, an action was brought by a tenant named Ambrose against the owner of a tenement house in Brooklyn to recover $5,000 damages for injuries sustained by plaintiff in falling through the stoop of defendant's house, which, it was alleged, was not in proper repair.

In the Superior Court, part two, yesterday, in the case of Christian Breen vs. Patrick Rourke, the defendant's counsel consented to a verdict for plaintiff for $375 90.

In the Superior Court, part one, in the case of Moses Strasburger vs. the Western Union Telegraph Company, for damages for the non-delivery of a telegram, the jury yesterday returned a verdict for the plaintiff for $686 55.

The stock market was unsettled yesterday, but closed with an upward tendency. Gold closed at 133¼.

In commercial circles business was moderate, though in some commodities an increased business was consummated, and prices generally remained steady and firm. Coffee was firm. Cotton, under the adverse cable news, declined ⅛c. per lb. Flour was more active and 5c. a 10c. higher. Wheat, though quiet, ruled firmer. Corn was less active and lower. Oats were steady. Pork was dull and heavy. Beef was unchanged, while lard ruled moderately active and heavy. Freights were dull. Whiskey was a shade firmer. Naval stores were depressed. Bonded petroleum was dull and nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The news from Mexico, dated at Vera Cruz on the 22d ult., is important if true. An imperialist report is to the effect that Escobedo had been attacked by Mejia and completely routed. Our correspondence from Vera Cruz, dated the 21st of March, says that nothing positive could be obtained from the interior, but well-authenticated rumors were flying about that Maximilian's army was clamorous for pay. Corona had been defeated by Mejia while attempting to join Escobedo. The sieges of Mexico city, Vera Cruz and Puebla were progressing favorably for the sieging party. It is now certain that Santa Anna has made overtures to Maximilian in the shape of an offer of services. He palliates his manifesto of last year against the empire by explaining that it was meant to oppose only French interference. He demands to be placed at the head of the army as generalissimo in case of an acceptance of his services. What Maximilian's answer may be is unknown, but it is conjectured that it cannot be altogether unfavorable to the project of the old veteran. Our letter from San Luis Potosi is dated March 12. The assault which was expected on the 9th had not taken place, and the policy of a slow siege with a view of starving the enemy out of Querétaro had been decided upon.

The reports of a bloody revolution in Hayti are fully confirmed by our advices from there, which we publish elsewhere this morning.

We have news from the Bahamas dated at Nassau, N. P., on the 23d of March. Our correspondent writes:—The Colonial Parliament is in session. The revenue of the past year has fallen short of all calculations. The colony had only about £4,000 to its credit on the 31st of December. Parliament has gone in for retrenchment, and Governor Hanson is becoming unpopular. The office of Assistant Police Magistrate has been abolished. A reconstruction of the customs department is contemplated. This department absorbs one-half of its collections in salaries and other charges.

In the United States Senate yesterday a resolution to print six thousand extra copies of the Army Register for 1866 was referred. A resolution of the Michigan Legislature asking a grant of land for the construction of a railroad was laid on the table, and the Senate went into executive session.

The monthly statement of the public debt for April shows the total to be $2,663,173,372, and the amount of money in the Treasury is $140,285,303. Compared with the last statement this shows a reduction in the total debt during the month of March of $7,335,819.

A copy of a petition of Gov. Sharkey, of Mississippi, and Robert J. Walker, will be found in our columns this morning, praying the Supreme Court for an injunction against Andrew Johnson and General Ord to prevent them from enforcing the Reconstruction law in that State. It will be presented to the Supreme Court to-day.

Our correspondents throughout the South have recently held interviews with Generals Lee, Hood, Buckner and Wheeler, regarding their views of the reconstruction question, accounts of which are furnished in our Southern letters to-day.

Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, addressed a large crowd at Petersburg, Va., last night, on the political questions of the day.

An explosion took place in a coal pit in Chesterfield county, Va., on Wednesday last, by which seventy-five miners were killed. The pit was still burning, and as the shaft was closed the bodies could not be recovered.

George W. Randolph, formerly the rebel Secretary of War, died in Richmond on Wednesday.

The surgeon of the United States ship Jamestown, writing from Panama under date of March 21, says yellow fever was epidemic at that place. The Jamestown was ordered north on the 14th ult.

General Joseph Bailey, the builder of the dam which served to extricate Commodore Porter's fleet from the rapids of Red river during the war, was murdered on Tuesday, the 26th ult., by two brothers, while discharging his duties as Sheriff of Vernon county, Mo.

The steamship Colorado sailed for China and Japan yesterday. The brig Jennie, for Hong Kong, followed an hour afterwards, with the intention of racing with her.

The Hoboken Excise bill was defeated in the lower House of the New Jersey Legislature yesterday.

The daughter of Josh Billings, the humorist and philosopher, was married to a gentleman from South America yesterday, at Poughkeepsie.

Reports are in circulation that parties have been recently arrested charged with defrauding the Navy Department of $200,000.

Indian outrages in Idaho and Texas still continue.

The levees along the Mississippi are breaking in numerous places, and there is no money among the planters with which to repair them.

A compromise has been effected between the parties interested in the heavy wine suits pending in San Francisco.

The Distillery Frauds.

What has become of the prosecutions against Devlin and others for defrauding the government? We have heard that that individual has been recently putting large quantities of whiskey on the market. Has the case against him been compromised, or is the prosecution slumbering? It is urgent that we should have some answer to these inquiries; for we see that frauds upon the revenue are again on the increase, under the belief, we presume, that offenders can make matters right with the government officials.

LET US KNOW.—If Congressman Hulburd actually did embrace Collector Smythe, was it in consequence of the general disorder of his mind, or on account of the general order? Let us know.

The Impeachment Committee and the Proposed July Session of Congress.

On Saturday last, at noon, Congress adjourned until the first Wednesday in July (the third day of the month), with the qualification that unless on that day, at twelve M., a quorum of each house shall be present the recess shall be extended to the regular first Monday in December. Another resolution some days before this had been adopted in the House, instructing its Committee on the Judiciary to resume the investigation of the charges of impeachment raised against President Johnson in the last Congress and authorizing the committee to prosecute its labors during the recess, in view of a report in July or December recommending the trial of President Johnson before the Senate, as the high court of impeachment, or his acquittal of "the high crimes and misdemeanors" alleged against him.

It will be observed here, in the first place, that a reassembling of Congress in July is left subject to contingencies. Had not the two houses, however, entertained a controlling suspicion that in the absence of Congress certain contingencies might happen of a dangerous character if the recess were continued till December, they would not have adopted the precaution of leaving the door open for a session in July. What, then, was the suspicion resulting in this precaution? It was the suspicion of bad faith on the part of the Executive in executing these Southern reconstruction laws, if left without a check to pursue his own course through all the long interval to December next. The next question suggested is, why is this impeachment investigation resumed, and why has it been and why is it to be prosecuted during the recess of Congress? The object is unquestionably to give the committee at once a check-rein upon the President, with the power to send for persons and papers, should he attempt in the absence of Congress to set aside, misapply or fail to execute these aforesaid laws of Southern reconstruction. Nay, more; there are certain members of the committee, and of both houses outside the committee, who expect upon this test to make up a clear case of impeachment against the President, even in the short interval to July.

Such are the contingencies upon which a July session of Congress will depend. If there are meantime no executive impediments in the shape of snap judgments, or flank movements, or legal quibbles or hitches in the work of reconstruction, it is morally certain that the impeachment will hang fire, that there will not be a quorum of either house present on the 3d of July, and that accordingly the recess will be prolonged to December. On the other hand, if the Judiciary Committee shall be furnished in the interval with the positive facts and evidence required to make a promising indictment from the House as a grand jury for a trial of President Johnson by the Senate, there will be a quorum of each House present on the 3d of July, and a trial of the accused before the Senate, resulting in his conviction of "high crimes and misdemeanors," and his removal from office. We are sorry to say that from present indications the implacable radical enemies of Mr. Johnson have reason to be hopeful of making up a strong case against him. He has gathered about him and his exploded Southern policy a large body of intriguing, restless and mischievous Southern and Northern politicians, and they, it appears, are now industriously working to make up an original case, or a case of appeal for the final legal tribunal of the Supreme Court, under the impression that a decision may be thus obtained which will declare all these reconstruction laws of Congress null and void.

This is the last resort of a desperate opposition, and if there were any prospect that the question involved could be brought directly before the court there would be some reason for serious apprehensions in view of the party division of that body—five democrats of the old Southern State sovereignty school against four radicals and conservatives of the national sovereignty school. But as it appears that the test question contemplated could hardly be reached in the order of business before the court for two years to come, all misgivings upon this head may be dismissed. There is, however, another matter which, unless great caution be exercised by Mr. Johnson, may bring him into the impeachment trap left open to catch him. It is that matter which implicates him, at least, as an apologist and protector of certain parties alleged to be chiefly responsible for that shocking New Orleans massacre of last July.

We learn from Washington that letters have been received there from New Orleans which indicate that General Sheridan's removal of Mayor Monroe, Attorney General Herron and Judge Abell was caused by a scheme on their part to bring about the test of the constitutionality of the reconstruction laws of Congress; the plan being to originate the issue before the court of Judge Abell, and then, by a writ of error, to carry it up to the Supreme Court. It next appears that Mr. Johnson's chief law officer, Stanberry, Attorney General of the United States, is now engaged upon an inquiry into the power of General Sheridan, as commander of the Fifth Southern Military district, to remove these aforesaid local officers, and that it is expected that a report against Sheridan and a reinstatement of said officers will soon follow. Here is the danger to President Johnson; for these removed officers, it appears, are unreconstructed rebels, and, from General Sheridan's testimony, we cannot resist the conclusion that they were the ringleaders in the New Orleans massacre. Secretary Stanton, we believe, has approved the act of Sheridan in their removal; and if the President would escape the impeachment trap he will avoid any further issue with Stanton on this business. A word from Stanton to Speaker Colfax, of the House, and President Wade, of the Senate, will unquestionably bring together a quorum of both houses in July, and for decisive measures.

WHICH WAS IT?—Did Hulburd put his arm around Collector Smythe's neck to guide him through the dark, tortuous and intricate ways of the national capitol, with which he is so familiar? or did he embrace the Collector in an outburst of affection? or did he put his arm about him at all? What patriot who loves his country will let us know?

A MOMENTOUS QUESTION.—The great question now agitating political circles is, did Congressman Hulburd, of forty cents' worth of candy notoriety, place his arm affectionately around the neck of Collector Smythe, or did he not? Reconstruction pauses and Connecticut is forgotten in this momentous issue.

A Washington Organ Out of Tune—Incendiary Appeals to the South.

A Washington paper of the copperhead stamp makes itself ridiculous in an attempt to point the moral of the recent election in Connecticut. Its balderdash would scarcely be deserving of notice if it were not for the fact that it has the reputation of being the organ of President Johnson and reflecting his sentiments on national questions. This may be a malicious and unfounded rumor; but it is enough that it obtains credence and that the President is in a great degree held responsible for the political articles that appear in its columns. When the people read in the reputed mouthpiece of the Executive at the national capital incendiary appeals to the South, designed to "fire the Southern heart" at the very moment when the work of reconstruction is rapidly progressing under measures accepted by the best men of the ex-rebel States, it would not be surprising if they should ask themselves whether after all it is wise and prudent to suffer one of the highest branches of the government to keep alive the seeds of dissension between the two sections of the country—to revile and villify the Congress of the United States and to stand as a stumbling-block in the way of the complete restoration of the Union?

The people of the loyal States have declared with a unanimity unprecedented in our political history their concurrence in the policy of Congress. The present Congress is in fact the very embodiment of the loyal sentiment of the nation at the existing moment. It comes fresh from the people. It is the voice of the whole people speaking on the very issues of the passing hour. Yet it is branded by the President's organ as "the assassin of constitutional liberty;" its policy is a "Jacobinical policy;" its acts are acts of "wanton wickedness," "arbitrary, cruel and unusual in civilized society." While this abuse is heaped upon the heads of the people of the loyal North, whose representatives at Washington are simply carrying out their views and commands, what counsel is given to the South, slowly, unwillingly and only partially yielding up its rebellious sentiments? Let us see. The Southern States are told that they are "now satrapies" "under the yoke of Congressional bondage." They are helped forward in the work of repentance and reconstruction by such paragraphs as these:—

> The South is under the compulsion of the sword. It has already flashed from the scabbard in interference with civil rights. Like the glittering steel of Damocles it is suspended as it were by a single hair over the entire people.
>
> The South is under the iron heel of unlawful oppression, and the spectacle of unprecedented wrong and outrage is strongly attracting to the cause of fraternal union the noblest of men the world over.

If this language is authorized or endorsed by President Johnson it is very clear that he is fifty years behind the age and worse than useless in his present office. We have always had a respect for self-made men. As a general thing they appreciate the real value of the talents they have themselves developed and the positions they have themselves won. But President Johnson is evidently upset by his advancement. He cannot grasp the ideas of the day nor keep pace with the progress of the world, or he would either beg or order his organ not to do him this unnecessary damage. Every time that the loyal North stretches forth a hand to the South the copperheads who have taken him under their especial control rush between the two sections and endeavor to break the friendly grasp. They would go on in their mad folly until they drove the North into the necessity of seizing the whole Southern territory and partitioning it among the soldiers of the Union and the white loyalists and freedmen of the South. They would distract and divide, embarrass and exasperate the public mind until the loyal people forgot generosity and liberality and remembered only the ruinous wickedness of the rebellion, the cost and suffering it entailed on the innocent millions of the loyal States, and the fact that their burdens must be yet further increased by bounties to soldiers, damages to Union men and other claims still hanging over the nation as the bitter fruits of the war.

It is to be hoped, however, that the ravings of the copperhead executive organ will be unheeded by the South, and that her citizens will rather accept the sound and patriotic advice given them by such men as Lee, Beauregard, Longstreet and Wade Hampton, and proceed at once gratefully and cheerfully to reconstruct their States under the plan dictated by Congress. Let them not seek to drive the loyal North to the wall. They have their future fate now in their own hands, and again the warning voice of their real friends bids them no longer reject the terms offered to them.

The Two Dromios of the Associated Press.

Simonton, the agent of the Associated Press, sends us a long rigmarole for publication about one of the news reporters hired by the association and in reference to his own conduct as agent. We have no space in the HERALD for any such rubbish, and it is a great piece of impertinence in Simonton to suppose that the matter is of any interest to us or any of our readers. He evidently presumes upon our indulgence in allowing the two Dromios, Craig and himself, to abuse each other in three or four letters apiece through the columns of the HERALD; but we did so for the purpose of showing that neither of them was fit for the position of Associated Press agent. We care nothing about Wilson, the London reporter, or Simonton, the New York agent, or for the Associated Press cable despatches either. The latter are of no importance to us, a whole batch of them being seldom worth as much as a single HERALD special. But we insist that while Wilson and Simonton are paid salaries for doing work for the Associated Press the former shall not go into the advertising agency business, and the latter shall confine himself to a proper discharge of his duties and keep himself out of the newspapers.

DUST! DUST! DUST!—We have hardly dragged ourselves out of the mud and we are smothered in dust. The mud was bad enough, but the dust is worse. Who will clean the streets; who will cart away the mud when it is very heavy, so that it shall not be deposited in the eyes and lungs of the citizens when it is very light? We can imagine the contractor declaring that the dust is all in his eye, Betty Martin—and we wish it were.

DID HE DO IT?—Judas Iscariot kissed the Saviour of the world. Did Congressman Hulburd embrace the Collector of New York?

News from Mexico—Reported Defeat of the Liberals before Queretaro.

The news from Mexico would be important if it were more reliable. Imperial reports say that Escobedo had been attacked in Celoya, where he had taken up a position, and completely routed by Mejia, who had sallied forth from Querétaro for the purpose. The defeat, it is further reported, was immediately followed up, and San Luis Potosi, Juarez's temporary seat of government, was occupied by the victors. Escobedo's army, it will be remembered, although numbering only twenty or twenty-five thousand men, was extended over sixty miles in a circuit round the city. Any one point in the line was, therefore, necessarily weak; and the imperialists, completely cut off and sadly demoralized, were probably bent upon a desperate effort to force their way through the enemy's lines. On the other hand the news, if true or reliable, should have reached us by way of Matamoros sooner than by way of Vera Cruz, where it was compelled to pass through the besieging force of the liberals.

If, however, the news is really true, it only complicates the affairs of the unhappy Hapsburgian and his mimic empire. It merely delays his final discomfiture. It may give him and his followers renewed hope and confidence for a time, but it need not give the friends of constitutional liberty any doubt or anxiety for a moment.

The National Observatory at Washington.

The volume of astronomical and meteorological observations made at the United States Naval Observatory during the year 1864, and which has just been issued from the government printing office, is creditable in every respect but one, and that is its date. We see no reason why the publication of a work of so much interest to the members of the naval profession and to scientific men generally should be delayed so long. Making all due allowance for the time required for the intricate calculations of which it is made up, it ought to have been in their hands some seven or eight months earlier.

In matters of a purely scientific character government, we regret to say, does not take the interest which their importance demands. Abroad every encouragement is given to researches and discoveries in connection with them. No vote of public money is deemed too large for such objects. In England and France especially astronomical science has been carried to a point of exactness which no other countries have approached. Greenwich and Paris give their time to the rest of the world. We have let things take their own course in this regard. The little that has been accomplished by us has been set down to the credit of an individual, frequently without reason and almost always unnecessarily. Whenever we have made any advance in astronomical or meteorological science the cry has been "Professor Maury has done this" or "Professor Maury has done that." Luckily Professor Maury has relieved us from his oppressive individuality, and if the government pursues the course of giving to scientific men generally a fair amount of encouragement we shall soon distinguish ourselves in this as we have distinguished ourselves in other branches of human knowledge. There can be no better evidence of the disposition existing among us for it than that the observatory at Albany is run by a banker and a doctor, that Yale boasts of a wonderful astronomical star, though latterly a falling one—the great Loomis—and that we ourselves have our weather prophet. It only depends, as we have said, upon Congress to develop the taste which exists for such pursuits and to make their results redound to the glory and benefit of the country.

Labor Troubles—Strikes and Trades Unions.

The house carpenters of the city are striking for higher wages. The masons, plasterers and housepainters are doing the same. The movement runs through the whole class of trades concerned in building and is due to the supposed activity in the erection of new edifices in the city that may be incident to the opening season. These strikes either indicate or anticipate a greater demand in our midst for certain kinds of skilled labor, and so far are a healthful sign. That they have no deeper cause and are not due to any greatly deranged state of the relations between labor and capital is evident from the fact that while labor of one class is thus demanding a greater price other classes of labor are submitting to a reduction. Shipbuilders and shipjoiners have just lost a portion of an increase in wages secured some months since, and there is an agitation among employing tailors that is likely to reduce the rates paid in their trade. In other trades also there is a tendency in the same direction.

It is to be hoped that the striking trades will take notice of the important facts involved in the above statements. No useful industry is ever oppressively underpaid in a great city like ours, nor can any trade successfully make unreasonable requirements. If there is any real basis for the strikes it is not that builders are paid below a fair average, but merely that there is a present scarcity here of these kinds of labor. That scarcity can only be temporary; and by holding out for unreasonable demands the strikers will glut the market with labor from other quarters, and may end by losing some weeks' employment and leaving wages just where they are. Thus the carpenters here are now demanding four dollars a day, while the same trade is only paid from two and a half to three dollars in a city so near as Philadelphia; and the highest paid in certain parts of Canada is under two dollars, and in some cases runs down as low as a dollar and a quarter. It is the same with plasterers and painters. Wages rule lower in the neighboring States than the rates demanded by the strikers. The course of events with the shipbuilding trades quoted above should warn the builders. The shipjoiners and others engaged in building ships struck a year ago and secured such an extravagant advance as to nearly paralyze the industry by which they lived. The result is that wages are now going down again. Let the builders take care that they do not gain their demands at the expense of that regular and constant employment that will alone make them valuable.

Trades unions are not so serious a complication of difficulties between labor and capital in this country as they have recently become in England. They are, however, not without their influence, and here, as everywhere else, that influence is pernicious. They are organized and managed by the demagogues of the trade—the noisiest, laziest, most conceited and obstinate, though often shrewd, man being the chosen one of every set. These become the presidents, secretaries and, above all, the treasurers of the societies; draw salaries from their funds, manage their more tractable fellows at their pleasure and live and thrive upon the trouble they create. If we should have any permanent arrest of labor among the builders and consequent distress, it will be due only to the obstinate counsel given by such coteries; but it is so much the nature of our people to think and act for themselves that we do not believe these organizations can have sufficient influence in the present case to do serious harm.

America in the Paris Exposition.

Our late special telegraphic cable despatch from Paris describing the opening of the grand Exposition represented that America was rather behind in the show of articles of interest or value; in fact, that France entirely outshone the United States, and that England beat us completely in the matter of machinery. Well, what of this? Does any one suppose that this country could be fairly eclipsed in invention, if it felt disposed to rival other nations in this French Exhibition? Not at all. The inventive genius of America is proverbial. The intellect of its people, quickened by the invigorating atmosphere which is unknown to the populations who dwell in the fogs and clouds of a European climate, and become as damp and heavy as the air they breathe—the American intellect is always busy with improvement, advancement and progress. Time, distance or discouragement does not retard it. But we must remember that the Paris Exposition is, after all, a purely French affair. It will probably eventuate in some glory to Napoleon; it may relieve him from some diplomatic difficulties; it may serve to cover up preparations for forthcoming hostilities, and it will certainly, to some extent result in forwarding the commercial interests of France; but it does not appear how the interests of this country are to be materially subserved by the event which is the sensation of the hour in Europe, and hence, we presume, arises the apparent indifference in filling up the chinks of the American department.

We do not presume, however, that American enterprise may not be worthily represented at the Exposition and may not contribute a good deal to the *éclat* attending it. Napoleon, in getting up the Exhibition, only imitates England in this as in many other things. The fame acquired by English yachts and yacht clubs, for instance, has stimulated a rivalry in France, and hence we are promised a Cherbourg regatta as part of the programme of the Exposition. Here is an opportunity for our yachtmen to show a little more of that plucky spirit which begot the Atlantic yacht race of last December. There are three American yachts now lying in European waters. Why not the number be increased by a fresh squadron which can cross the ocean in safety in this genial spring weather? There are, for example, the Alarm—a splendid boat of two hundred and forty tons—belonging to ex-Mayor Kingsland; the Widgeon, owned by Mr. F. Osgood; the Rambler, owned by Mr. Fearing; the Halcyon, owned by Mr. Hubbard; the Phantom—another "Flying Dutchman"—and the Palmer, called after old Nathaniel Palmer, owned and built by Captain Loper, one of our oldest and ablest sailors, which might make an invincible yacht Armada; and some lucky one of the squadron might achieve a victory equal to that which the America won during the time of the London Exhibition of 1851. We ought to have plenty of Americas, and if we have not we can build them. We understand that there is a splendid schooner yacht now on the stocks in Boston and three or four more in course of construction in this city. There is great vitality in the yacht clubs in New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City and Hoboken, just now. They appear to be brightening up for a jovial season. The Bostonians also propose to send some champions of the oar to France, to try their mettle with the oarsmen of the Old World. We have no doubt that numbers of New York men would contribute liberally to send some crack oarsmen from here for the same purpose—to compete for the prizes in the contemplated regatta on the Seine. If these things can be accomplished America may not be found so far behind, after all, in the great French Exposition. What we lack in machinery and agricultural implements, Connecticut clocks and wooden nutmegs—as it is said—may be supplied by the beauty and swiftness of our boats, the stability of our iron-clads and the muscle of our oarsmen.

However, whether the Paris Exposition shall prove a failure or not, we do not think that the enterprise of the United States will be found wanting in the race where other nations contend for the mastery, although neither our interests nor our ambition seem particularly involved in the matter.

The Park and the Post Office.

The question of locating the Post Office in the City Hall Park has been pretty well ventilated, and it seems to find favor in no disinterested quarter. In the Common Council a report has been presented against it and laid on the table. The public generally ask by what right the Corporation offered to sell a portion of the people's property for half a million dollars which is worth, as every one knows, from four to six times that amount. The ground upon which the Park Bank is being erected, contiguous to the new HERALD building, cost about four hundred thousand dollars, and the lot is not one-tenth as large as the slice of the Park proposed to be transferred to the general government for Post Office purposes at five hundred thousand dollars. Apart from the pecuniary question involved there are sanitary motives which render this selection for a site for public buildings particularly objectionable. The City Hall Park is one of the lungs of the city—a breathing place and grand ventilator for the down town population. Instead of encumbering it with piles of brick and marble it should be made even more open than it is by cutting away the trees and converting it into a grand plaza, such, for instance, as the Place de la Concorde, in Paris, or Trafalgar square, in London. If the Park is to be applied to any other purpose than this, why not a general terminus for the city railroads—which now concentrate in the streets at that point, to the great inconvenience of traffic and contrary to law—be erected there, which would pay a rent