NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, JR.,
MANAGER.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

Volume XXXII..... No. 148

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—EAST LYNNE, OR THE ELOPEMENT.

WORRELL SISTERS' NEW YORK THEATRE, opposite New York Hotel.—THE INVISIBLE PRINCE—CINDERELLA.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—TREASURE TROVE.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—GIO, THE ARMORER OF TYRE—PRESUMPTIVE EVIDENCE.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place.—THE IMPERIAL TROUPE OF JAPANESE ARTISTS IN THEIR WONDERFUL FEATS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel—IN THEIR ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUES.—THE FLYING ROUSE—IMPERIAL JAPANESE TROUPE.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 729 Broadway, opposite the New York Hotel.—IN THEIR SONGS, DANCES, BURLESQUES, &c.—CINDER-LEON—THE LONG AND SHORT STRIKE.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, Nos. 2 and 4 West Twenty-fourth street.—GRIFFIN & CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, BALLADS, BURLESQUES, &c.—THE ROUSE JAPANESE JUGGLERS—THE STATUE LOVER.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELSY, BURLESQUES, BALLET DIVERTISSEMENT, &c.—MACMURROGH'S SWORD, OR THE WILD BOY OF THE GALTEES.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, BALLADS AND BURLESQUES.—THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE.

THE BUNYAN TABLEAUX, Union Hall, corner of Twenty-third street and Broadway, at 8.—MOVING MIRROR OF THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS—SIXTY MAGNIFICENT SCENES. Matinee Wednesday and Saturday at 2½ o'clock.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—HEAD AND RIGHT ARM OF FORREST—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, Tuesday, May 28, 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, May 27.

The death sentences passed on the convict Fenians have all been commuted to imprisonment for life. Denmark explains to the great Powers that Prussia has not offered to negotiate for the retrocession of Schleswig to the King's government. Louis Kossuth publishes a letter on Hungarian politics, in which he terms M. Deak's recent policy and action towards Austria unpatriotic.

Consols closed at 93¼ for money in London. United States five-twenties were at 72½ in London and 77½ in Frankfort.

The Liverpool cotton market closed quiet, with middling uplands at eleven pence. Breadstuffs firm. Provisions firm.

By the steamship City of Baltimore, at this port yesterday, we have interesting details of our cable despatches to the 16th of May.

THE CITY.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday, but adjourned for want of a quorum.

The quarterly report of the Superintendent of Metropolitan Police shows that there were 26,866 arrests made in New York and Brooklyn during the quarter ending in May, 5,878 of which were of females; 10,876 of the number arrested were married and 13,990 were single. The nationality most largely represented was Ireland. The occupations most largely represented were laborers, prostitutes, clerks and tailors, and those represented by the smallest number (represented at all) were clergymen, policemen, actors, editors and reporters.

A woman in Brooklyn yesterday gave birth to four children weighing in the aggregate twenty-four pounds. The mother and children are doing well.

George W. Buell, a young man, was brought before Justice Hogan, at the Tombs yesterday, for alleged larceny and forgery. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Ripley, an old and feeble lady, made a complaint charging the prisoner with appropriating nearly $60,000 of her property, but on hearing her written statement read over refused to sign it, and, in consequence, the prisoner was discharged.

In the Supreme Court, General Term, before Judges Leonard, Smith and Ingraham yesterday, the case of the city authorities against the Police Commissioners regarding the transfer of the power to grant licenses was resumed. Mr. D. D. Field, of counsel for the authorities, replied to the points raised by ex-Judge Woodruff for the Commissioners, and argued that the law of the Legislature under consideration was unconstitutional and that all public duties could be transferred in the same manner if the law was not declared null and void.

In the Supreme Court, Chambers, the case of the people on the relation of Rufus Hatch vs. A. L. Pritchard, Treasurer of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company, came up on application for an order to show cause why mandamus should not issue to compel the respondent to exhibit to the relator the transfer book and stock list of the company, to enable the relator to canvass for the approaching election of Directors. The argument will be resumed to-day.

The Second avenue arson case was resumed in the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday. The examination of witnesses for the defence was closed, and the case will be submitted to the jury this morning.

A decision in the motion of Edwin Forrest, argued in the United States Circuit Court some time ago, for an injunction to stay Catharine N. Forrest (Mrs. Sinclair) from collecting certain judgments recovered against him, or claiming from him any money by reason of the same, was yesterday rendered by Judge Nelson denying the motion.

The case of the United States against the alleged Chilean privateer Meteor will be to-morrow argued before Judge Nelson in the United States Circuit Court.

The examination of Alfred St. Clair, charged with having forged Custom House pay rolls, was resumed yesterday before United States Commissioner White. Two witnesses for the defence were examined, whose testimony went to sustain the principal point of defence in the case—an alibi. The examination will be resumed and concluded this morning.

The stock market was dull yesterday, but closed firm. Gold closed at 137.

Business opened dull yesterday in all its ramifications, and business especially in imported merchandise, most of which was very quiet, with a downward tendency, was small. The markets were depressed by the decline in gold, and prices, as a general thing, were nominally lower. Coffee and cotton ruled steady. On Change, flour declined fully 10c. a 15c. per bbl. Wheat was nominally 1c. a 3c. lower. Corn opened firmer, but closed dull and heavy, while oats were without decided change. Pork closed firm. Beef and lard were unchanged. Freights were dull and heavy. Whiskey was firm. Naval stores were dull and generally lower. Petroleum was not essentially changed.

Consequent upon a large diminution in the receipts—being about 1,700 head less than last week—and an active demand, there was decidedly more firmness in the market for beef cattle, and an advance of ¼c. a 1c. per pound was easily established, extra being sold at 19c.; prime, 18¼c. a 18½c.; first quality, 17¼c. a 18c.; fair to good, 17c. a 17½c., and ordinary to inferior, 15c. a 16½c. The offerings—which were unusually good in quality—were disposed of long before the close of the day. Milch cows—Common ruled dull and nominal in value, while fancy were in good demand and firm. Prices ranged all the way from $45 to $120—a few sales at the latter figure were effected at Chamberlain's yards. Veal calves were in fair demand, and prices advanced a trifle. Extra was quoted at 12c.; prime, 11c.; ordinary to common, 9¼c. a 10½c., and inferior, 8c. a 9c. Sheep and lambs declined about ¼c. per pound, notwithstanding the continued light arrivals the demand was light. We quote extras, 9c.; prime, 8½c., and inferior to common, 8c. to 7½c. Lambs sold at from $5 to $7 50 per head. The hog market ruled steady at last week's figures; eleven car loads were on sale at the Fortieth street hog yards, and all sold at 7¾c. a 7⅞c., the latter price for heavy prime corn fed. The total receipts were 4,107 beeves; 92 milch cows; 2,101 veal calves; 11,171 sheep and lambs, and 15,581 swine.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The intelligence from the interior of Mexico, dated the 15th of May, is to the effect that Querétaro was taken by assault that day, and Maximilian, Mejia, Castello and Miramon were captured. The despatches are signed by Escobedo and Juarez, and are confirmed by various despatches from other authorities. President Juarez, it is said, had sent orders to shoot Maximilian and his generals immediately. The liberal force which took the town soon afterwards started for the capital. A naval expedition against Vera Cruz had been ordered from Matamoros. Elsewhere in the HERALD this morning we publish interesting sketches of the unfortunate imperial prisoners.

Dates from Havana to the 21st instant say that the Spanish admiral commanding the naval station had sailed for Santa Martha on business connected with the recent affair of the steamer R. R. Cuyler or Rayo, a reported Colombian vessel, believed to be a Chilean privateer.

A New Orleans Judge recently passed sentence of death upon a negro for rape on the person of a white woman, subject to "the approval of the Commanding General of the District." General Sheridan returned it with the endorsement that he believes the sentence should be executed, but did not see why his approval was required.

It is believed in Charleston that one of the principal causes of the failure of Fraser, Trenholm & Co., was the fact that they had come to the relief of an old friend and merchant who had assisted them in their embarrassment several years ago.

It is intimated in Montreal that the imminence of a Fenian raid was one reason why a demonstration was not offered to Jeff Davis, some loyal Americans there broadly hinting that it would be considered in bad taste to say the least.

The news of Queen Victoria's mediation between France and Prussia is said to have caused a rapid rise in the price of white oak staves in West Virginia. The French and Spanish wine merchants are supplied largely with this wood for wine casks from that region, and the trade is thereby peculiarly sensitive to the fluctuations in Europe.

The proposed Fenian raid is taking definite shape. A secret circular has been distributed to all the circles, calling them to arms. Munitions of war in large quantities have been taken toward the border and secreted ready for use when wanted. Quite a number of persons, supposed to be Fenians, are in St. Albans, Vermont. Fifty thousand troops are reported ready to take the field, backed by fifty thousand more in case of need.

Strakosch's opera troupe, while *en route* by rail from Chicago to Cincinnati, met with an accident, the train running off the track and three coaches being thrown down an embankment. Brignoli and Rosa were slightly injured and Madame Lagrossa had her collar bone broken. Madame Parepa escaped unhurt.

In the Newmarket murder trial at New Brunswick, N. J., yesterday, the case for the defence rested and the rebutting evidence on the part of the State was taken. The District Attorney was engaged in summing up to the jury when the hour of adjournment arrived.

The trial of John H. Surratt has been postponed on motion of the government until the 10th of June, in order to secure the attendance of several important witnesses.

Boston has an attack of anniversaries, religious and temperance. To be continued during the week. Senator Wilson presided at one of the latter last evening.

A lady school teacher in Springfield, Mass., has been bound over for trial on the charge of whipping her pupils too severely.

Reconstruction is not a decided success in Texas. A judge there has recently decided that negro testimony is inadmissible on the trial of white men, the sheriff of Victoria county has refused to take greenbacks as a legal tender, and an attempt to collect the taxes levied during the war in confederate currency was only stopped by an order from Gen. Griffin.

At General Lee's College, in Virginia, three hundred and ninety-nine students are in attendance, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky having the largest representation.

Rives Pollard's lecture on the "Chivalry of the South" was not delivered, because there was nobody to hear it.

Secretary Seward has received a despatch from London informing him that the capital sentences passed upon the Fenian leaders, Burke and McCafferty, had been commuted to penal servitude for life.

The Brazilian Minister has addressed a letter to Mr. Seward in which he says that he has no official notification that a decree emancipating the slaves in Brazil had been issued by the Emperor, Dom Pedro.

A young couple of highly respectable and wealthy parentage, who were married in Lacon, Ill., a year ago, have a suit for divorce pending between them at present. The wife contends that her husband kept lewd characters in the house, and he contends that she did the same, and, moreover, read immoral books, and wanted to open a house of ill-fame.

A fire in Oshkosh, Wis., on Sunday, destroyed eleven buildings. Loss $15,000.

The Reign of Anarchy in the City.

The Supreme Court of this district has been occupied for a few days past in hearing the lengthy arguments of counsel in a suit between the Corporation of the city and the Metropolitan Police Commissioners, to test the the constitutionality of the law of the last Legislature by which the licensing power heretofore possessed by the Corporation was sought to be transferred to the Police Board. The arguments were closed yesterday and the decision is reserved. The law in question was enacted in the shape of a clause in the tax levy, and tacked on to the bill in the last hour of the session by a piece of sharp practice on the part of the friends of the Commissioners. The Common Council, it will be remembered, immediately after the adjournment of the Legislature, repealed all the city ordinances regulating and providing for licenses, in order to prevent the contemplated transfer of the power to the police authorities, and left us virtually without any municipal laws. This action was designed to checkmate the Police Commissioners, and it was to be followed up by the enactment of new city ordinances, to which it was supposed the objectionable clause in the tax levy would not apply. The Commissioners paid no attention whatever to the proceedings of the Common Council, but at once prepared to set in motion the machinery for issuing licenses, without reference to the Corporation; and the pending suit is to test the legality of their action. The whole matter is an indecent scramble for spoils and power in a mixed and muddled government, without any responsible head. While the Corporation was buying up the Legislature for its own purposes, on one hand, others were operating upon the members against the Corporation and in favor of the City Commission on the other hand, and the whole result depended upon which side could do the greatest share of lobbying and corruption. The taxpayers will have to suffer for all. The expenses of the litigation and the heavy fees of counsel fall upon them and help to swell their taxation to over twenty millions of dollars. There is only one remedy for all these evils—the State Constitutional Convention must provide in the organic law of the State such a system of government for all political divisions—cities, towns and counties—that henceforth the people will know under what sort of rule they live. We must be governed in New York by one executive head, elected by the people and directly responsible to the people, and the powers of the Common Council must be limited strictly to necessary municipal legislation. Then we shall be protected alike from grasping commissions, a corrupt Corporation, and unnecessary and costly litigation.

Fall of Queretaro—Maximilian to be Shot.

By telegram we have the most startling news from the Rio Grande. On the 15th instant the imperial line of works at Querétaro was penetrated, the convent of La Cruz captured, and the garrison of the city, escaping to the Cerro de la Campana, was, with all the generals and Maximilian at their head, forced to surrender. The *Sombra de Zaragoza*, the official journal published at San Luis Potosi, the present headquarters of the liberal government, states that orders were immediately forwarded to General Escobedo to shoot Maximilian and his generals. The next news we receive may be that the Archduke is no more.

The terrible consequences that may arise from this desperate act on the part of the Mexican government cannot well be estimated to their full extent. In extending our moral support to Mexico, we have, to a certain degree, become responsible for the acts which the Mexicans commit in the restoration of the republic. It is in this light that Europe looks upon us, and these are the demands which foreign nations in a moral sense make upon us. We must meet them. We must respect this demand upon us. Mexico must be told that we cannot tolerate this wholesale slaughter, not even on the plea of retaliation for the murderous work of Maximilian. It is time the bloody annals of Mexican warfare were decorated with a page of peace and mercy; and it is our duty to see that it is done. Mexico is in contact with us, and from us should learn mercy. She is our neighbor, and from us should learn republicanism. She pretends to write history on the same page with us; but she cannot be permitted any longer to write it in blood. The whole execration of the civilized world will be called down upon her and her republicanism for this act of fancied retaliation. The necessity for it no longer existed; for Maximilian no longer had the power to enforce his decree of 1864 against the liberals, and therefore revenge, not retaliation, has been the incentive in the present shooting.

In Europe the consequences of this murder will call forth a feeling of indignation far greater even than in the United States, through which they see the deed reflected. To Louis Napoleon this event will be a rude blow; for all the crowned heads will throw upon his throne the whole blame of the unfortunate expedition and its still more unfortunate results. The terrible scathing which the opposition in the French Legislature will have an opportunity to pour out against the government will again stir the revolutionary fires of that country, while the Austrian throne, already embittered by the base desertion of their prince by the French Emperor, will not fail in its enmity towards him to prove a thorn in his side. The letter of Porfirio Diaz, which we published yesterday, proves, too, that the French Emperor not only basely deserted Maximilian in an enterprise where he had sworn to uphold him, but that Bazaine, upon his evacuation of Mexico, even offered to sell large quantities of munitions of war to the liberal government, which they went to Mexico to overthrow, and against which the Prince whom they had introduced into the country was still waging war. Thus this Mexican tragedy still trails its bloody form before the world; and each act, more bloody than the preceding, calls loudly for a strong hand to stay the tide. Imperialists and liberals, bent on mutual destruction, fill the history of the New World with tales of horror which have rarely been equalled even in the blackest pages of the history of the middle ages. Another sanguinary page like this, and the people of the United States will demand that Mexico be blotted from the list of nations, and the memory of her people buried so deep under the tread of the Anglo-Saxon race that no pen can rake up the black events of Mexican history with which to curse the progress of the nineteenth century.

Proposed Sale of the Miantonomoh and Other Iron-Clads to the Czar of Russia.

In yesterday's HERALD we printed a series of special telegrams from different European centres. From one of these telegrams, dated St. Petersburg, May 25, it appears that a proposal has been made by our government to the Czar Alexander to sell him the Miantonomoh and other first class iron-clads. It further appears that the proposal has been favorably entertained. We are not informed, in so many words, that these vessels are intended as part payment for that portion of this continent which Russia has so handsomely handed over to us. This, however, may at once be taken for granted. We get territory which is of little value to Russia, but of some value to us. Russia gets iron-clads, which are of little value to us, but of some value to Russia. We each benefit the other, and at a cost which is no sacrifice to either.

This transaction sets the United States before the world in an entirely new character. In putting down a gigantic rebellion it was necessary for us to blockade some three thousand miles of sea coast. To do this a powerful navy was necessary. Now that the rebellion has been put down, and that we have resumed the cultivation of the arts of peace, we have no desire to imitate the improvident conduct of the Old World by allowing our ships to rot in the dockyards. We wish to turn them to the best account possible. We are not unwilling that other governments should benefit by our labor and experience. When the time shall have come that we shall again require a navy we will refit one which will be better suited to the wants of the hour. We have many more ships for sale. We are willing to part with them for reasonable compensation. We do not object to land, though we should prefer hard cash—of which, in truth, we are more in need than iron-clads. The governments in the Old World and in the New who delight in war, or who cannot get rid of war, cannot act more sensibly for themselves and more kindly by us than to hand us the cash. We shall gladly hand them the iron-clads in return. We shall be glad to hear of more purchasers. Some of our friends in South America are in special need of ships of war. We shall be glad to oblige them if they put down cash or hand us real estate.

Congregation of Crowned Heads in Paris—What is to Come of It?

After fifteen years of apparently fruitless labor Napoleon has at last been successful in gathering around him the crowned heads and leading princes of Europe. The *parvenu* of 1852 commands something more than respect in the haughtiest and most exclusive courts of Europe. The last time the princes made their entry into Paris their presence was a token of humiliation to France; this time their presence is a token of exultation. Then they came to exact reparation for the wrong doings of Napoleon and to render such wrong doings impossible for the future. Now they come to do honor to France and to be the guests of Napoleon's nephew.

The French people have reason to be proud of the present condition of their country and proud of the name of Napoleon. The first Napoleon was fonder of whipping than feasting the potentates of Europe. The present Napoleon has tried the whipping process, too, and he has not been unsuccessful. We should not be surprised if he tried it again; but meanwhile, and all things considered, it is more convenient to act as their host. A number of royal visitors have already arrived. In a few days more it is expected that the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, with the Empress, the Emperor and Empress of Austria, the Sultan of Turkey—we are not told whether with or without his harem—are all at one and the same time to be guests of the Emperor, and, of course, to visit the Exposition and the other lions of Paris. The assemblage of royal and imperial persons will not be the least attractive of the many attractive sights which Paris at this season will present.

What is to be the result of this illustrious gathering? It certainly has a peaceful and hopeful aspect. In all probability it will pave the way to a final solution of the Eastern question. One other thing might be done. Napoleon has never yet been formally crowned. For fifteen years the world has waited to hear of his coronation. We can see no reason why it should be longer deferred. Let him invite the Holy Father to meet his royal friends at the Tuileries, and let the occasion be seized for getting this business over. A more fitting opportunity can scarcely again occur. It will be an awkward thing if history has to record of Napoleon the Third, the acknowledged eldest son of the Church, that he was never anointed with the holy and consecrating oil.

Reconstruction—The Attorney General's Opinion as to Who are Entitled to Vote in the Southern States.

Attorney General Stanbery's opinion upon certain clauses of the reconstruction acts is a document that will be satisfactory to the country, though it will surprise and astonish those who suppose Congress had disfranchised a considerable portion of the Southern people. It gives the official interpretation, the authoritative construction of the vague phrases of the acts as to suffrage, disfranchisement and participation in the rebellion; and in doing this determines points that at present are of high importance. It settles practically who are to vote in the elections provided for. As this fact will inevitably determine the character of reconstruction, the kind of constitutions that States will frame, as it may even yet decide that some States will remain in their present subjection to military law rather than frame governments on the basis of negro equality, as it will determine the dominance of parties, it is obvious of what importance to the country may be the determination of the point—Who are now, under the reconstruction laws, voters in the Southern States?

Under this interpretation simple "participation in the rebellion," as the phrase is popularly understood, disfranchises no one. "Other elements must concur" to authorize a denial of registration. If there is no concurrence of such "other elements," it is the clear duty of the Board to register the name; and the name once registered, its owner is a voter. There is no power of revision or alteration beyond the Board of Registry. Thus, in voting, an actual amnesty exists for all rebels—who were not at the same time something more than rebels. Perhaps the extension of this amnesty was not the intention of Congress. The original Military bill contemplates disfranchisement for "participation in the rebellion." Mr. Johnson understood the phrase in relation to participation in the rebellion as disfranchising, and in his veto of the second bill based his main objection upon the declaration that under its provisions "the great body of the people might be excluded from the polls." Mr. Stanbery was at the time accredited with the authorship of that veto. Now the phrase upon which the supposition of disfranchisement was based is shown to be mere verbiage and to have no force. By its phraseology it excepts from the class of voters "such as may be disfranchised for participation in the rebellion or for felony at common law." How, when, where and by whom "may" they be disfranchised for these acts? No means have been provided or persons named. The acts themselves, "the mere facts," says the Attorney General, do not operate the disfranchisement. It "must be ascertained by the judgment of a court or by a legislative act." We can have no such judgment, if we reason from the case of Jefferson Davis, and there is no such "legislative act" in existence. "I am not aware," Mr. Stanbery says, "of any law of the United States which works disfranchisement as to the right of suffrage, by force of the act itself; nor does such a consequence follow from the conviction for treason, or conspiracy to commit treason, or for any other act of participation 'in rebellion.'" Thus the disfranchisement clause of the Military bill is insufficient and fails.

All disfranchisement, therefore, rests upon the Supplementary act and upon the oath in that act which every person presenting himself for registration is required to take. In this oath we find the "other elements" whose concurrence with resistance to the government involves disfranchisement. These elements are "the holding of certain offices or the taking an official oath." The candidate for registration must not only swear that he has not participated in the rebellion and given aid to the enemies of the country, but also that he was not a member of any rebel legislature; did not hold any executive or judicial office in the rebellion, and had not, before he engaged in it, taken any oath to support the constitution of the United States. The Attorney General shows that this oath, as a disfranchising machine, is comparatively harmless. As it must be sworn to altogether, it can safely be taken by those who resisted the government and did not hold office, or by those who held any office that did not necessarily involve active "participation." It can only disfranchise the few to whom both parts of it apply. "To work disqualification the two elements must concur." Upon the face its enumeration of officers would seem to include a very large number; but the very generality that seems to give it such scope limits its application. It must be interpreted strictly; and thus its words do not apply to offices they would describe, taken generally, but only to those whose titles they name. Moreover, wherever there is any doubt as to the intention of the act, the presumption is in favor of the right of the claimant to a vote. Thus it is not certain what "enemies of the country" are meant. If the Board of Registers supposes the law means the English, and the would-be voter can show that he did not act against the country in the war of 1812, he is entitled to registration.

There are some persons who will be shut out of the registration, even with all this. What of them? They are not left without hope that they may have a remedy against the injustice of the law. The Attorney General, "taking it as granted that Congress has a right to impose such an oath," suggests at the same time some "late cases before the Supreme Court." If the Supreme Court have power in the case, it must be that the Southern States are within the pale of the constitution; and if they are within the pale of the constitution, then, very clearly, there is this point to be made; the law in question is one "which takes away an existing right as a consequence of acts done at a prior time, and which at the time they were done entailed no such consequence." It is an *ex post facto* law; and does not all the world know the special declaration of the constitution, that Congress shall make no such laws? Are we to have a Supreme Court case on this point?

The Spring Meeting at Jerome Park.

The HERALD has reported fully and minutely the spring meeting at Jerome Park. The third day surpassed the two previous days in point of numbers and general *éclat*. A multitude of people, representing all classes of society, and who had hurried on horseback, on foot, in vehicles of all sorts, except, perhaps, the hearse (in which a grimly facetious character in Richmond once invited a lady to ride with him to the races, all other carriages having been engaged), met in and about Jerome Park on Saturday. On their way they had been blinded by the dust, which ought to have been and might have been laid, if the roads had been properly watered, like the avenues of the Park. They had admired the verdure and foliage of the Park, and had then been blinded by dust again until reaching the narrow, shaded road which, skirted by villas and cottages, hedges and trim lawns, leads to Fordham. No gayer or more crowded scene than that exhibited on the undulating acres of Jerome Park can have been witnessed even in the palmy days of the Fashion Course. Probably no greater variety of people ever assembled at an American race course than met last Saturday, and gave a popular endorsement to the efforts of the Jockey Club to extend an interest in the turf beyond the circle of professional turfmen. In all the vast concourse, indeed, there were comparatively few, excepting the knowing ones, who "talked horse," unless in a most superficial and blundering style. Many of the spectators cared but little and knew less about the mysteries of the turf. They chiefly enjoyed the spectacle, of which they formed a part. Many a dandy whose fine linen was branded with the conspicuous horseshoe, and no a few elegantly dressed belles, regretted less the gloves and trinkets which they lost in trifling bets than their own dusty disarray, occasioned by the drive out of town. They had come partly to see and principally to be seen. Of course it is not on such spectators that the Jockey Club can mainly rely to aid their ambition to inaugurate, at the grand meeting in June, to which this Spring meeting is merely preliminary, a genuine revival of interest in the American turf. But this brilliant gathering of fashionable spectators admirably sets off, like a parterre of flowers, the vast human mass congregated on such an occasion, and attesting the obvious fact that the people are ready to appreciate and share the interest, the growth of which the veteran patrons of the turf, some of whose names figure prominently among the members of the Jockey Club, have done so much to promote and have watched so vigilantly in past years at the Fashion Course, the Paterson Course, the Saratoga races and the Hoboken race track, and more recently at the Jerome Park. The salient and most hopeful feature of this spring meeting is the growing disposition which it has brought to light on the part of the people at large to sustain the Jockey Club in promoting the interests of the turf. Liberal subscriptions on the part of the members, and fashionable display on the part of their guests, will prove insufficient to secure the avowed objects of the club, unless a less exclusive and more general interest in the turf is enlisted. More generous inducements than have yet been offered should tempt the owners of the very best horses in the country to bring and enter them here for competition. Only thus can improved breeding and training and better racing be the sure result.

Like the taste for opera, the taste for the turf is acquired. Both the one and the other have been of slow and somewhat difficult growth in the United States. After years of toil and heavy expense the Academy of Music, warmly and strongly encouraged by the HERALD, had become quite successful. That the public ear and eye had been educated to a progressively higher standard of artistic excellence was shown by the plaudits bestowed on such favorites as Adelina Patti and Miss Kellogg, and particularly by the universal enthusiasm with which the genius of Ristori was recognized, and the million of francs with which her unrivalled representations were rewarded throughout the length and breadth of the land. But for some time previous to the welcome with which Ristori was hailed on her arrival in New York the Academy of Music had been gradually losing the prestige which it had won. It had unluckily fallen into the hands of obscure adventurers from Bohemia, or some other equally remote portion of Eastern Europe, who had no conception of the force of public opinion in our country, and everything was mismanaged. Like a cheating trader, who first catches the eye of a credulous customer by the display of valuable samples, and then shoves off upon him goods of an inferior description, the manager or mismanager of the opera relied for a while upon its past successes; and when the few good voices which were still occasionally heard within the barn-like walls of the old Academy had been hopelessly cracked, he went abroad and ransacked Europe for third rate and fourth rate artists. For a season or two longer the boxes of the opera house continued to be filled by the subscribers who had liberally contributed to its support, or by the friends at whose disposal they were placed. But this glittering show of success was merely illusive and temporary, and could not avert financial failure. The Academy was at last abandoned to a showily dressed crowd, who knew and cared as little about music as many of the visitors to Jerome Park last week know and care about horses and racing. It is to be hoped that the members of the Jockey Club will not lose all their pains and expense by failing to recognize in the hearty good will and co-operation of the American people an essential element of success. They will win enduring success only by judicious and persevering efforts to advance the turf until it shall become a truly national institution.

Chief Justice Chase Before the Judiciary Committee—Is He to be Impeached?

The Congressional inquisition, known as the Judiciary Committee, has suddenly started on a new tack. After having been sitting daily for a long time, trying to find a case of impeachment against the President or against anybody else, and after having examined a vast number and all sorts of witnesses on every conceivable subject, without coming to any decision or reaching any tangible point on which to hang a case, the release of Jeff Davis has been seized upon for investigation, and is likely to afford materials for impeaching some one. Here the Committee is standing on good ground; here it has something tangible to go upon, and is no longer chasing an *ignis fatuus*. The liberation of the chief traitor, without even the form of a trial, and hence the virtual declaration that there is no such crime as treason, deserves impeachment, if anything does, whoever may be the responsible party. If there be no treason, the government is a rope of sand, and there is no security for the future. Whoever, then, has been guilty, through official misconduct or neglect of duty, in bringing the republic to such a humiliating situation, certainly deserves impeachment. The laws have been violated, rebellion and treason have sacrificed a million of lives and created thousands of millions of debt, the republic has been placed on the verge of destruction, and yet those whose duty it was to vindicate the laws and to make treason odious have winked at the crime and let the chief traitor go unpunished.

Who, then, is the party to blame? The Judiciary Committee, it appears, has undertaken to inquire, and has had before it Chief Justice Chase and Judge Underwood. We are not informed what was the evidence given or what is the opinion of the Committee; we know, however, what should be the common sense and logical decision. President Johnson said a long time ago that he was ready to surrender Davis to the judicial authority, and that the prisoner was only held by the Executive as the police hold a prisoner, waiting to surrender him to the courts whenever called for. Mr. Chase, as Chief Justice of the United States—as the head of the Judiciary—should have seen that the laws were vindicated. It was clearly his duty to have taken up this important case and disposed of it long ago. It came, in fact, within the circuit over which he exercises special judicial authority. Yet he neglected, and at one time refused, on a mere quibble, to bring Jeff Davis to trial. Is not this sufficient cause for impeachment? If it is not, there never was a cause for impeachment in any case in this country. The Judiciary Committee has really a good case before it now, and the calling of the Chief Justice and his subordinate, Underwood, before it so promptly appears to indicate their impeachment. We shall see whether this Committee, after all the fuss it has made, and now that it has a tangible impeachable case, will do its duty or not.

The Panama Railroad.

Some very interesting statistics of the traffic of the Panama Railway appeared in our correspondence of yesterday. It appears that since its construction nearly four hundred thousand passengers have passed over the line; but it is its traffic that most interests us. In eleven years nearly six hundred and seventy-five million dollars of gold, silver and other treasure have poured in from the Pacific to the Atlantic side of the Isthmus. The shipments of silver during the last three years have been steadily declining. Most of this product comes from the Pacific coast of South America; but also a large amount, previous to 1863, came from the western coast of Mexico, being smuggled out of the country by British men-of-war by knowledge and consent of the British government, and then shipped in great part for England via the Panama route. The freight traffic in the eleven years ending in 1866 shows a transportation of 614,535 tons, but in 1866 alone it amounted to 107,598 tons; and this year it is estimated that 150,000 tons will pass over the road. The facts and figures herein stated show the immense value of this short transit between the two great oceans, and the growing importance it is taking as a channel for our Atlantic and Pacific trade. As yet the value of the transit is little known. Its vast and increasing importance, however, is well shown by the struggle which is now going on between English and American capital for the possession of the route. Fabulous sums have been offered to New Grenada, which, it appears, almost expects to support the government from the sale of the franchise. So far it is probable we may hold on to the road; and we believe it is absolutely necessary for us to possess this short cut from Europe to the Indies. Moreover, we must hold it, that we may control the trade of the South American States on the Pacific, which trade is to-day almost entirely in English hands. Under all circumstances our merchants should control this great link between the two oceans, and our government should aid by every means possible to sustain the effort.