NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, JR., MANAGER.

Volume XXXII..... No. 149

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND 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.—LIFE IN THE BACK-WOODS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place.—THE IMPERIAL TROUPE OF JAPANESE ARTISTS IN THEIR WONDERFUL FEATS. Matinee at Two o'Clock.

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

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

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

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

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 FROST—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, Wednesday, May 29, 1867.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

By special telegrams through the Atlantic cable dated in London, Dublin and Cork, we have important European intelligence of yesterday, May 28.

The Derby-Disraeli Reform bill, which was greatly altered by repeated modifications in Parliament, has been adjusted to a presentable and presently satisfactory shape on the basis of household suffrage by a party compromise. The compound householder plan is practically abolished, and the tenant is to qualify for the borough franchise by a personal payment of his tax. In the counties the occupants of land or tenements "worth" twelve pounds sterling are to vote.

The death sentences have been commuted of all the Fenian leaders in Ireland. A strong popular pressure was made on the Cabinet in favor of royal clemency, in obedience to which Earl Derby states he advised the Queen to alter the ruling of the court in the case of Colonel Burke to one of imprisonment for life.

It was reported in Dublin that the Fenians had attacked the military at Mitchelstown, in the county Cork, but the statement was not credited in London.

Cable news reports, dated in London at midnight, May 28, and received in the HERALD Building about eleven o'clock last night, announce that the House of Commons had accepted the more vital amendments made to the Reform bill, and that the House of Lords had voted the continuation of the suspension of the habeas corpus in Ireland.

Consols closed steady in London at 93¼ for money. Five-twenties were at 72¼ in London, and 77⅝ in Frankfort.

The Liverpool cotton market was quiet, with middling uplands at 11d. at the close. Breadstuffs were easier. Provisions generally unchanged.

By the steamship Scotia at this port yesterday, we have very interesting mail details of our cable despatches in the shape of special correspondence and newspaper reports, dated to the 18th of May.

Our special correspondent in St. Petersburg reports the arrival of the text of the Russian-American Cession treaty in that city. The progress of Mr. Seward's negotiations had been previously telegraphed to the Czar through the cable at great length and much cost. Our correspondent enumerates the many gains—in real estate, ships, steamers, hides and pelts, churches, groceries, furs, cash, and so forth—which will accrue to the American people by virtue of the State paper, and winds up by expressing his opinion that Mr. Seward has made a good bargain. The Czar Alexander was to return from Moscow to sign the treaty.

An important debate occurred in the British House of Commons on the second reading of the National Debt bill, during which Mr. Laing charged that Mr. Disraeli was about to pursue a "sensational" financiering plan, after the fashion of the United States.

THE CITY.

Dr. Harris, the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Health, in a communication to that body yesterday, gives an account of the progress of the cholera through Europe and elsewhere, and the probable sources whence the pestilence is most likely to reach New York this summer. In conclusion, he says the means of sanitary protection are definite, ample and easily applied.

Another abortion case has come to light. Mrs. Ella Delballo, of West Thirty-seventh street, confessed before a Coroner's jury to having used means, assisted by another woman and a Dr. Harrison, of Bleecker street, to produce an abortion upon herself, in which she succeeded so far that a four months fœtus was delivered alive, but died soon after its birth. Dr. Harrison was held to bail in the sum of $500 to await the action of a Grand Jury.

The argument on the motion, in the people on the relation of Rufus Hatch, against the Treasurer of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, was concluded yesterday before the Supreme Court, Chambers. Decision reserved.

The Second avenue arson case was concluded yesterday by the summing up of the Attorney General and Mr. Brady and the charge of the Judge. The jury retired, and not having agreed up to ten o'clock, were locked up for the night.

Judge Nelson, sitting in admiralty in the United States Circuit Court, yesterday rendered an opinion in a case on appeal which is of considerable importance to firemen on board ocean steamers. Several firemen had signed shipping articles on the steamer Republic to go to New Orleans and back at the rate of $60 per month, but were discharged by the engineer before the vessel sailed because they would not accept a reduction of $5 per month on their wages. They therefore libelled the vessel for the pay which would have been due them if they had performed the service agreed to. The defence, however, sets forth that the engineer had no right to discharge them, and they were voluntary deserters who had forfeited their pay. Judge Benedict, however, decided that engineers did have that right, and rendered a decree in favor of the libellants, which was confirmed by Judge Nelson in the cases yesterday.

The case of alleged overcharge of commission in the management of the estate of Charlotte Arthur Wynne, on the part of Dr. Francis Vinton, while executor and testamentary guardian of the same, under the will of Thomas Wynne, deceased, of Brooklyn, and formerly a parishioner of Trinity church, was before the Surrogate's Court of Kings county yesterday. In answer to applicant's petition, a paper was filed setting forth the belief and knowledge of the executor in the matter, and the opinions of various surrogates and attorneys as to the legality of his charges and his economy and care in the management of the estate. The case was adjourned over to Friday afternoon, when the argument will be made as to whether the accountings shall be reopened.

Bernard Duffy, a tenement house proprietor, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and to pay a fine of $50, by Justice Dowling, yesterday, for refusing to put a fire escape to a five story tenement house on Pearl street. This is the first conviction under the act.

The Coroner's jury investigating the death of William Bishop Carr, of Brooklyn, returned a verdict that death was caused by a shot from an air gun in the hands of William T. Skidmore, who was thereupon ironed and remanded to jail.

Dexter and Lady Thorn trotted on the Fashion Course yesterday for a purse of $8,000, best three heats in five, in harness. Dexter won the first heat in 2:24, and at the second Lady Thorn broke so badly that she was distanced and Dexter declared the winner. The trotting was very fine, Dexter's last mile being made in two minutes and twenty seconds, and the last half mile in 1:10.

The stock market was dull, but steady, yesterday. Gold closed at 136⅞.

Quietude was the chief feature of the merchandise markets yesterday, and the disinclination to venture beyond actual necessities was as apparent as at any period for a long time past. Coffee was without decided change. Cotton was more active and steady. On 'Change flour was dull, and 1c. to 25c. lower. Wheat was dull and nominal; while corn, though quiet, ruled decidedly firmer. Oats were dull and nominal. Pork and beef remained firm; while lard was less active and heavy. Freights were rather more steady. Whiskey was unchanged. Naval stores were dull and depressed. Petroleum remained steady; while wool continued dull and heavy.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our Vera Cruz letter is dated May 8. The warm weather had set in and the deaths among the troops was steadily diminishing the number of the garrison. The imperial navy had been increased by an iron steamer and a schooner. A liberal iron-clad man-of-war was expected daily in front of the city. A Spanish brig had arrived with eighty thousand pounds of powder. Provisions in plenty had arrived from New Orleans and Havana. Advices from Mazatlan to the 17th inst. state that nearly all the Americans in that city and Presidio were preparing to leave. Vega, Placido and Lazade were raising an army to revolutionize Sinaloa.

George W. Gayle, who offered a heavy reward through the Southern papers during the war to any person who would assassinate President Lincoln, was before Judge Busteed's United States District Court of Alabama yesterday on the charge of complicity in the assassination. He presented a full pardon from President Johnson and was in consequence dismissed.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in reply to an invitation to a dinner tendered him by prominent citizens of Boston on the 22d instant, regrets his inability to attend, and makes a few remarks upon financial matters. He says that the bounties to soldiers, preparations for the Indian war, the intended large issue of bonds to the Pacific Railroad, and other liberal appropriations for miscellaneous purposes, together with the partial failure of the wheat and corn crops, the tardiness of reconstruction in the South, the reduced taxes and the general dullness in trade, will prevent a reduction and probably produce an increase in the national debt for some time. He gives four reasons for not contracting the currency at the present time; but says that he is as much in favor of that policy as ever.

Mr. John Hay, formerly Private Secretary to President Lincoln, has been appointed to succeed Mr Motley at Vienna.

Thaddeus Stevens has written a letter on his confiscation policy, in which he says nothing but the proceeds of the confiscation of a small portion of rebel property will pay for the damage inflicted by them in their raids into loyal States, unless the money comes from the United States Treasury.

Jacob Barker was arrested in New Orleans yesterday on charges of embezzlement and fraud. On being taken before a magistrate he was released on $10,000 bail.

Governor Sharkey, it is said, is intent on his plan of having General Ord arrested for treason to Mississippi, and thus bringing the reconstruction laws again before the Supreme Court.

A party of citizens in Missouri started to hunt the robbers of the Richmond (Mo.) Bank on Thursday, and one of them was shot and killed by a bushwhacker, who escaped. Several shots were fired upon the retreating robbers at close quarters without effect, and it is believed that they wore bullet proof clothing.

In the Coriell murder trial at New Brunswick, N. J., yesterday, the District Attorney concluded summing up to the jury, and the counsel for the defence commenced his argument, pending which the court adjourned.

Judge Kelley delivered an address at Greensboro, N. C., yesterday, to an audience composed mainly of white citizens. He was cordially received, and at the close a vote of thanks was tendered him.

The United States steamer Tuscarora was at the Feejee Islands, the Dacotah at Valparaiso, the Fredonia at Callao, and the Resaca at Panama on the 1st of May.

The street cars in St. Louis are now open to colored as well as white folks.

Several small Indian fights are reported from Omaha. One or two white men and several Indians were killed.

The town of Brunswick, Georgia, is visited with a flea plague.

The Jeff Davis Bail Bond—Seeds of a Revolution.

Seven years ago, when Jefferson Davis and his Southern colleagues arrogated to themselves the right to withdraw from the confederation of States and break up the Union, on the principle of the absolute sovereignty of the individual States and the natural right of revolution, they found a certain set of coadjutors in the North who aided them in the preliminary movements which produced the bloody four years' war of the rebellion. These accessories before the fact were distinct from the copperhead democracy whose political affinities put them in direct sympathy with the rebels, and induced the latter to count with confidence upon their active co-operation in an attempt upon the life of the nation. The assistance to which we allude came from a different source—from Greeley, Chase and Stanton, who were strongly identified with the opponents of the South, and recognized as leaders in the anti-slavery party of the North. These men justified secession, and their action was the more dangerous because of the services they had rendered in the cause of universal freedom, and on account of their prominence in the republican party. While the democrats tremblingly hesitated to fulfil the expectations they had held out to the South, Greeley and his associates openly concurred in and supported the Southern arguments in favor of the right of secession. They declared that if a majority of the people of a sovereign State decided to withdraw from the Union they had the power and the right to do so, and protested against compelling the allegiance of any State by the power of the bayonet.

The secession they had justified came upon us, and was followed by the terrible war which involved so much loss and suffering upon the nation. The people of the loyal North resolved that the government should not be destroyed, and their voice was so unanimous that the radical Northern advocates of the right of secession were compelled to give way. The copperhead democracy, it is true, continued to make a feeble effort to paralyze the power of the North and to aid the rebel arms; but their sympathy was unproductive of any real benefit to the Southern cause, and exhausted itself in a foolish declaration in the Chicago Convention that the war was a failure. Greeley, Chase and their associates became the fiercest denouncers of treason, and insisted not only on putting down the rebellion and preserving the Union, but on dictating to the army and managing its campaigns. But now that the war is over, instead of acting on the principle upon which it was carried on—the right of the nation to crush a rebellion and punish the traitors who created it—these same men have associated themselves with a very singular set of persons in securing the release of Jeff Davis, the representative head of the whole rebellion, on straw bail, and his escape from punishment. Chase, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, has quietly suffered the great culprit to slip through his fingers, while Greeley has united with Gerrit Smith, Ben Wood, John Minor Botts and others in a curious hotchpotch called a bail bond, in order to effect the liberation of the ex-leader of the Southern confederacy from jail. As a curious piece of historical information we give a copy of the bond and its signatures:—

At a stated term of the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Virginia, held at Richmond on the first Monday in May, 1867:—Be it remembered that on this 13th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1867, before the honorable the District Court of the United States for the district of Virginia, at the Court House in Richmond, in the said district, came Jefferson Davis and acknowledged himself to owe to the United States of America the sum of $100,000, lawful money of the said United States; and Gerrit Smith, Horace Greeley, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Augustus Schell, Horace F. Clark, A. Weich, David K. Jackman, William B. Macfarland, R. H. Haxall, Isaac Davenport, Jr., Abraham Warwick, Gustavus A. Myers, William W. Crump, James Lyons, John A. Meredith, William H. Lyons, John Minor Botts, James Thomas, Jr., Thomas R. Price, William Allen, Benjamin Wood, Thomas W. Doswell, each of whom acknowledged himself to owe to the United States of America the sum of $5,000 of like lawful money. The said several sums to be made to the use of the said United States of the goods, chattels, lands and tenements of the said parties respectively.

The condition of this recognizance is such that if the said Jefferson Davis shall in his proper person well and truly appear at the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Virginia, to be held at Richmond, in the said district, on the fourth Monday of November next, at the opening of the court on that day, and then and there appear from day to day, and stand to abide and perform whatsoever shall be then and there ordered or adjudged in respect to him by the said court, and not to depart from the said court without the leave from the said court in that behalf first had and obtained; then the said recognizance to become void, otherwise remain in full force. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Taken and acknowledged this 13th day of May, A. D. 1867, in open court, before me.

W. H. BARRY, Clerk.

Gerrit Smith,	Abraham Warwick,
Horace Greeley,	Gustavus A. Myers,
Cornelius Vanderbilt,	Wm. W. Crump,
Augustus Schell,	James Lyons,
Horace F. Clark,	John A. Meredith,
Benjamin Wood,	Wm. H. Lyons,
A. Weich,	John Minor Botts,
David K. Jackman,	Thos. W. Doswell,
Wm. B. Macfarland,	Jas. Thomas, Jr.,
R. B. Haxall,	Thos. R. Price,
Isaac Davenport, Jr.,	Wm. Allen.

Here is a proceeding liberating the greatest criminal this country has ever seen on similar sort of bail as would be required in a case of petty larceny. As a legal event it is most singular, and shows the extraordinary skill with which one of the greatest lawyers of our State has managed to make the same men who got up and justified the rebellion come together again on a common ground and declare that it was only a venial offence, and deserving no more severe punishment than might be awarded to petty larceny. But in another view the act of Greeley, Chase and their associates is creating great excitement all over the States and laying the groundwork of a sweeping revolution. Every one may be willing to give Greeley, Ben Wood, Gerrit Smith, and John Minor Botts all the credit for humanity they may desire; but it is clear from the extracts which we publish to-day from the republican press throughout the country that the republican party regard this act of one of their prominent leaders in a very serious light. It stultifies the whole war for the suppression of the rebellion, and leaves the conviction on the public mind that the three thousand millions of dollars and the half a million of lives which it has cost the North have been thrown away to no purpose. It makes the loyal people ask themselves why there should not be a blotting out of the penalties of the war in the North as well as in the South. It suggests the question, if the rebels of the South, who brought this war upon the country, are to be granted universal amnesty, and the negroes of the South are to be endowed with the right of suffrage, why should the loyal masses of the North, who have fought and suffered to preserve the government, be subjected to bear the heavy burden of the war debt, and to see their hard earnings wrung from them by the hundreds of millions every year by the tax gatherer? Why, in short, should the Southern leaders—the real criminals in the wicked rebellion—be protected and released from all punishment, and the Northern people—the victims of the treason—be compelled to bear all its pains and penalties?

The Union Pacific Railway.

The project of a railway across the continent which should unite the cities on the Atlantic with those on the Pacific, was entertained and agitated long before Congress took decisive action upon the question in the summer of 1862, when McClellan was in the midst of his seven days battles before Richmond. Previous to that time several abortive schemes had been tried, but it was found in each instance that nothing could be done without substantial aid from the government. Congress, therefore, in view of the national advantages of such a railway, passed acts under which the Union Pacific road was duly organized, the conditions of which have since been complied with.

The capital authorized by the charter is a hundred millions, of which five millions have already been paid; and to aid in the construction of the road, Congress, in addition to the right of way and the privilege of taking materials from the public lands, granted a donation of twelve thousand eight hundred acres of land per mile on each side of the road, and a loan of thirty year six per cent bonds to the amount of sixteen thousand dollars per mile upon a portion of the road between Omaha and the Rocky Mountains, and treble this amount of bonds for the next hundred and fifty miles, or Rocky Mountain section, and double the amount for the remainder of the distance, the total of which is, from Omaha to the California State line, about fifteen hundred and sixty-five miles. As this alone, however, would not be sufficient to provide the means of construction, the company is authorized to issue its own first mortgage bonds to an amount equal to that of the United States bonds, the lien of the United States bonds being subordinate to these.

Although nearly every one is familiar with the fact that a Pacific railway is being built, few are conversant with the details of the enterprise, and we therefore publish in another part of this day's issue an article fully descriptive of its progress and prospects. More than three hundred miles of the road have already been completed, and if all goes well in the meantime it is expected to connect with the Central Pacific Road at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada before the close of the year 1870. The latter is being rapidly extended from Sacramento eastward, and a hundred miles of track are already built. More than two thousand miles of new territory will thus be thrown open to civilization, and an impetus will be given to the development of the great mining regions of Nevada, Montana and Colorado, the extent of which cannot as yet be estimated. Our trade with the Orient is at the same time likely to be greatly stimulated, and the traffic between Europe and China and Japan to be partially diverted to the route across the Rocky Mountains. The completion of this road will open a new era in the history of progress in the great West, and, by binding the Atlantic to the Pacific States with bands of iron, still more closely unite them in the bonds of political and friendly union.

The Imperial Fiasco in Mexico.

Of all the filibustering expeditions of this century that of the French in Mexico has been the greatest, not only as regards the number of troops employed, but also with reference to the vast sums of money which have been drained from the French people to support the movement. As long since we foretold in the HERALD, Mexico has at length become the Moscow of the second Napoleon. The late bloody events which have been telegraphed to us, and which are undoubtedly authentic, will create in France such a revulsion against the Emperor that it is doubtful if the result does not shake his throne to the overturning of the Bonaparte dynasty. Despite the fact that Maximilian landed upon the shores of Mexico and proclaimed that all the Mexicans who would not join his standard were bandits and outlaws, subject to the penalty of death, the world, animated by the natural love which mankind has for bold action and desperate deeds, has watched the late action of the royal adventurer with something of admiration, and, in conformity with the tendencies of the age, has been disposed to set aside his crimes, to such an extent that there has been an almost unanimous demand that his life should be spared. If, as our telegrams state, Maximilian is to be shot, the Mexican people, on the score of policy, will make a great mistake. The capture of the Archduke gave them a splendid opportunity to place themselves before the world in such a light as would have drawn from Christendom the highest praise for a magnanimity which in no case the imperialists have shown towards the republic. It would have fixed at once the place which Mexico desires to occupy in the estimation of nations, and would have proved that she is entitled to that consideration demanded by her long warfare against retrogression and the curses of her Catholic Church corruptions. The civilized world would then have waited for her to restore her shattered elements of government, and aid, not opposition to a constitutional Power which has had its birth upon such a sanguinary tide, would have been given wherever republican feeling controls a nation. If, however, the news that Maximilian is to be shot should be confirmed, the demand of the European nations upon the United States for intervention will largely influence our government; and, notwithstanding our sympathies for a people who have been driven to desperation by the evils against which they had been combating since 1810, and which by 1862 they had conquered only to see reinstated under the imperial shadow, we shall be obliged to take very serious action with reference to Mexican affairs.

If Maximilian should be shot more blame will be attached to our State Department than to the Mexicans themselves. Secretary Seward has, with Mexico, played a fast and loose policy, first wavering upon a recognition of the empire, for which purpose he brought all his influence to bear upon Mr. Lincoln, next playing into the hands of the republic and giving a shadowy aid to a government that illy coincided with his monarchical tendencies, and finally, in a most undiplomatic and insulting communication to the Juarez government, through Mr. Campbell, resident at New Orleans, forwarding a demand for the life of the Austrian prince. The Mexicans are full of pride and very jealous of foreign interference; their jealousy, too, was rendered doubly sensitive by the pragmatic intervention of Spain, France and England in their internal affairs. They, therefore, felt that they should have been left entirely alone to settle their questions as best suited the demands of the case and the feelings of their people. For a foreign Power, of which they are more jealous than of any other nation, to step in and intermeddle at the very last moment, and that, too, when it had refused to give aid at the proper time, very naturally caused the republican government to say, "If we recognize this demand of our powerful neighbor we shall stand, in the eyes of the world, as a nation which lives only in the shadow of the United States and which we virtually recognize as the force which has, without effort on our part, driven the vampire from our territory—that Mr. Seward's jesuitical pen has done the work, and not our own suffering people." The blundering demand of our government placed them, therefore, in a very awkward position; and we feel certain that if Maximilian is to-day in his grave the Mexican people, excited by our interference, have forced the execution, and that to Mr. Seward's lack of statesmanship Europe is indebted for the burial of an archduke.

Since our civil war our management of Mexican affairs has been going on from bad to worse. Had we, at the close of the contest, sent our victorious troops across the Rio Grande to whip out the Mexican part of our rebellion, as Grant and Sheridan wished to, and as their soldierly and statesmanlike ideas suggested was necessary, we might have finished the French intervention in a manner becoming the great republic against which it was principally aimed. Instead of that we let the glorious moment slip, and for that reason we to-day occupy in Europe a position far below that which we might have occupied had we loosed the dogs of war and closed our great struggle in a manner worthy the American people. Our influence then in Mexico would have been what it should be, but what now it is not. Sister nations in a common republicanism, we might have marched together, and Mexican revolutionary troubles, under our influence, would have ceased. But matters still went on more badly managed than ever; the Sherman-Campbell mission was started off, the former member with too much brains, the latter with too little, and both totally unfitted to deal with the Mexican people. It turned out, as was to be expected, a total failure, and Mr. Campbell after bringing ridicule upon himself and the position to which he was appointed, finally settled down for life at New Orleans. The muddle still grows thicker, and all through our bad management. What with the failure of our government to aid Mexico at the proper moment, the Sherman-Campbell mission, the stupid letter of Seward, the shooting of Maximilian, and the demand which Europe will now make upon us for active interference with our neighbor, it is evident that the Mexican problem is to be one of the first to occupy the attention of our statesmen.

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF GENERAL SHERIDAN.—We don't believe that any member of the government at Washington has courage enough to propose such a thing as the removal of General Sheridan from his present command. If any one deserves impeachment it is the man who recommends that.

Reform in England—Prospect of a Satisfactory Settlement of the Question.

Twelve months have all but elapsed since on the question of reform the Russell-Gladstone ministry sustained serious defeat and were induced to communicate to her Majesty their anxious desire to make way for their tory rivals. After a little unavoidable delay the resignations were accepted, communications were opened with the Earl of Derby, and the Prince Rupert of debate, with his henchman Disraeli, came into power. It was natural enough that, after the exciting general election of 1865, which created a House of Commons pledged to reform as no House of Commons had been pledged since 1832, the defeat of the liberal party and the unexpected return of the tories to power should occasion deep and general disappointment. Since then every American reader of the daily press knows what has taken place. Reform was declared to be impossible at the hands of the tories. Demonstrations have taken place without and threats have been uttered within the walls of Parliament. The government and the people have been brought into all but actual collision. Bright has thundered and Gladstone has fulminated. Revolution has seemed imminent. Steadily, however, and in spite of all opposition, the tories have clung to the helm of State, and by means chiefly of the skilful management of Disraeli, the rocks and quicksands have been averted and the English people have the prospect of receiving justice at the hands of that party on whom for generations they had been accustomed to look as their natural enemies.

From a special telegram which we print in to-day's HERALD we learn that the government Reform bill is hopefully progressing, progressing, too, in a manner in the highest degree satisfactory to the popular wish. The bill has now been for some weeks in committee on the third reading. The compound householder question has hitherto been the great stumbling block. Mr. Gladstone and his friends would not consent that the householder who compounded his rate with his landlord should be placed on a footing of equality with the householder who paid his rate directly and with his own hand. For a time it seemed as if this opposition would prove ruinous to the measure and to the ministry. Disraeli, however, has again skilfully and gracefully yielded. By paying his rate to the collector with his own hand, and deducting the same afterwards from the rent, the compound householder secures the position of an independent voter. To us on this side it seems a clumsy and circuitous way of settling the question; but it gets over a legal difficulty, and that is a great deal. The county franchise has also been reduced to a twelve pound rental. "The result," to quote the words of our special telegram, "is a gain to the people." The next great struggle will be on the question of the distribution of seats. Certain old and obsolete boroughs will have to be disfranchised; certain populous centres will have to receive increased representation. Both these steps are beset with difficulty. We cannot doubt, however, that the skill which has triumphed over so many obstacles will get over these also. The Derby-Disraeli government have reason to congratulate themselves on their marvellous success. Nor have the liberals any cause to complain; for, though they have not had the honor of settling the reform question themselves, they can count now on the almost absolute certainty of extracting a truly liberal measure from their opponents.

The Fenian Fraud.

There should be an end to the mischievous agitation of the Fenians—an end to the villanous deceits and delusions by which wicked adventurers are fattening upon the plunder drawn from a credulous, earnest and liberty-loving people. The English government came near making a great mistake in the case of the Irishmen recently convicted of treason in Dublin. It acts wisely in commuting their sentences to imprisonment. Had it hanged them it would have added fuel to the fire; it would have furnished new capital to the worthless clamorers; there would have been new appeals to the people, and under the exciting cry of revenge the leaders here might have forced a few deluded wretches to slaughter; and all to find once more a way into the pockets of the classes they have already victimized so deeply.

The Fenian clamor has become a nuisance and a positive evil. Its sham has been abundantly shown by the fact that when something might have been gained—when there was a chance to fight—nothing was done. The heads of the organization on both sides of the Atlantic lacked both heart and brains for the high purpose in the name of which they had gathered the earnings of their dupes. But this did not open the eyes of the people; and now they lend themselves to the purposes of men even more worthless than their former leaders. Thousands relinquish their occupations to rush to the border, to be fooled and starved, at best, perhaps shot. It is time they opened their eyes and gave up this miserable game. Though two or three thousand Irishmen should suffer in Canada the miseries of martyrdom, Ireland will be in no better condition. If there is no freedom, no justice, no chance for Irishmen in Ireland, bring them out here with that money you are so ready to lavish in these more than useless attempts. Here there is room enough and chance for all. Emigration is the best remedy, and the one that will most injure England.

It would be better, certainly, if the people could be made to see the bad designs of the Fenian pretenders and to give them up; but as there seems little chance of that, it is to be hoped that the officers of the law may get some hold of the managers of this vast conspiracy to defraud the whole body of our Irish residents of their savings.

General Sherman's Trip to Jericho.

We see that General Sherman has renounced his trip to the Holy Land, his presence on the frontier being deemed necessary by the government. However unfortunate this may be for his piety, it is good for his political interests. When he is nominated next year for Vice President it is just as well that he should be on hand. The radicals talk of nominating Ben Wade or Dick Busteed for the position; but we rather think that General Grant would prefer his Lieutenant General's filling it. The military hierarchy in the government will then be complete.

Judge Fisher and the Surratt Case.

The trial of John H. Surratt, indicted as a party to the assassination of the late President Lincoln, was set down for last Monday, May 27, in the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia. We published yesterday the proceedings of the court on that day, by which it appears that the counsel for the defence were present at the opening of the court, and ready to go on with the case; but the counsel for the prosecution, who came in a few moments later, were not ready. District Attorney Carrington, without definitely submitting a motion for a postponement or a continuance of the case, made a suggestion in the nature of a motion, the object of which was obvious. It might have led to a long series of postponements similar to those alleged to have been connived at by Chief Justice Chase and Judge Underwood in the case of Jeff Davis, had not Judge Fisher, the presiding Judge, proved equal to the occasion. This upright judge promptly disposed of the difficulties suggested by the District Attorney as objections to going on with the trial—namely, the probability that the case would run over into the next term, and the absence of important witnesses. The Court said it was clear that the first objection was obviated by a law expressly providing for the continuance of a case from one term to another. As to the second objection, after proposing that the names of the witnesses should be called in order to ascertain who were present and who were absent, and having been satisfied that due efforts had been made to procure certain witnesses whose knowledge of important circumstances had but recently been brought to the notice of the prosecuting attorney, the Judge allowed the postponement of the case for two weeks, during which the government is bound to use all diligence in discovering the missing witnesses, and he positively fixed the trial for the 10th day of June. The wish betrayed by the government to defer, in the case of Surratt, as in that of Jeff Davis, the speedy trial to which every prisoner is legally entitled, was thus completely baffled by the firmness and sound sense of Judge Fisher. That is the right sort of man to be Chief Justice of the United States. Neither Chase nor his subordinate, Underwood, are fit for such a high and responsible position. They are now both under examination by the Impeachment Committee for alleged joint connivance in deferring the trial of Davis and at length facilitating his release on straw bail without any trial at all. As somebody must be impeached, why not impeach Chase?

Musical Festivals.

The great musical festivals which form so interesting and prominent a feature of life in Germany have been copied to some extent at New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, and elsewhere, by the Liederkranz, the Arion, the Allemania, the Germania and other similar societies. King Gambrinus and lager beer have, indeed, divided the honors with Apollo and the Muses at some of the festive gatherings at Jones' Wood and other favorite resorts of our fellow citizens of German origin. Nevertheless, we are largely indebted to the latter for their praiseworthy efforts to popularize music in our cities. At Boston, the Handel and Haydn Society gave last year a three days' festival, but entirely of oratorio music.

In the rich variety and high character of the musical selections, in the combination of the best vocal and instrumental talents that can be secured in the country, and in the grand scale on which the whole affair has been organized, the musical festival which is to begin next Monday, June 3, at Steinway Hall, in this city, and to continue for nine days, under the direction of Mr. Harrison, promises to surpass anything of the kind ever undertaken in the United States. On Monday evening Handel's oratorio of the Messiah will be performed; on Tuesday evening the overture to Shakspeare's Othello, and the Forty-sixth Psalm (both composed by Ritter, and the latter expressly for this occasion), together with Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise. The programmes for the matinées on Wednesday and on Saturday, and for the Miscellaneous Concerts on the evenings of Thursday and Saturday, are full of variety and interest. Haydn's Grand Oratorio of the Creation is set down for Wednesday evening, and Mendelssohn's Elijah for Friday evening. The New York Harmonic Society will assist at each of these two performances. The whole festival will conclude with a grand sacred concert on Sunday evening, June 9. This festival will thus vie in its attractions with the famous musical festivals at Birmingham, in England. The programmes which it offers are inferior to none which could be made up in any other city in the world. This fact is in the highest degree creditable to the standard of musical taste up to which New York audiences have at length been educated. And we have no doubt that the success of the approaching musical festival will mark a fresh point of departure in the onward progress of American art.

Mr. Sumner's Speech on Russian America.

Mr. Sumner, in his speech on the cession of Russian America to the United States, spreads himself not only over the five hundred and seventy-five thousand square miles which make up the estimated area of the newly acquired territory, but also over boundless tracts of space and time. The speech is unquestionably the most encyclopedic of all the encyclopedic works ever elaborated by the learned Senator and his private secretaries. But no newspaper can publish it in full unless in a sextuple sheet. We have only to suggest that Mr. Secretary Seward, the only rival of Mr. Senator Sumner in voluminousness, should be instructed to write at corresponding length a reply to the speech. Both productions would be so interminably long that newspaper readers would escape having to wade through them. They might serve to swell the huge tomes in which the complete works of Seward and of Sumner will be shelved, uncut, in the alcoves of the Congressional Library. Posterity may have more leisure for perusing them than the present generation enjoys.

ARREST OF JACOB BARKER AT NEW ORLEANS.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.

NEW ORLEANS, May 28, 1867.

To-day Jacob Barker was arrested on charge of embezzlement and fraud, on the affidavit of Assistant Alderman Cummings, who had deposited in the Bank of Commerce nine thousand dollars. Barker appeared before Recorder Ahern this evening, and was released on bail in the sum of ten thousand dollars.

A FRENCH STEAMER OFF THE HIGHLANDS.

HIGHLANDS, May 28, 1867.

A large steam frigate has just appeared in sight in the offing. It may be the Jean Bart. She has no colors set as yet, and is a steamship of the line.