

NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- NEW YORK THEATRE, opposite New York Hotel. OLIMPIC THEATRE, Broadway. WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 11th Street. FORD STREET THEATRE, Broadway. FERNON THEATRE, Fourteenth Street. BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery. GERMAN STUDY THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery. NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway. STRYVING HALL, Charles Dickens' Readings. NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourth Street. FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Nos. 3 and 4 West 21st Street. THEATRE COMIQUE, 51 Broadway. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 85 Broadway. KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 72 Broadway. TONY FACTOR'S OPTICA HOUSE, 201 Bowery. BULLFINCH AMERICAN THEATRE, 472 Broadway. BUNYAN HALL, Broadway and Fifteenth Street. DODWORTH HALL, 88 Broadway. HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn. NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.

New York, Thursday, December 12, 1867.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE. The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated yesterday evening, December 11.

The London Times is of opinion that the American people may "accept" President Johnson's definition of the rights of citizens as expressed in his message. The Liverpool Convention, intended for Sunday, is permanently forbidden by the government.

New and serious rebuffs have taken place in China. The insurgents were marching on Pekin. The French government will not negotiate a peace with the rebels.

CONGRESS. In the Senate, yesterday, a resolution directing a select committee of the two houses to equalize the pay and reduce the number of employees of each house was adopted.

Soon after the Bank of England began to contract, in accordance with the action of the government, agricultural and commercial distress of unprecedented severity commenced.

MISCELLANEOUS. The steamer Hero Capt. Adams, from Havana December 7, arrived at this port yesterday. She brings news and dispatches from the West Indies and Mexico.

Our National Finances—The Teachings of History.

A considerable portion of the sessions of both houses of Congress yesterday was devoted to the consideration of the important question of the national finances. If those who clamor for the immediate resumption of specie payments would study history they might learn the danger and impracticability of their course.

The same causes operated in this country and in England in causing a suspension of specie payments. A gigantic war in both cases was the cause. The great revolution in France that began in 1789 soon set Europe in a blaze, and England was plunged into a long and exhausting war as the consequence.

Soon after the Bank of England began to contract, in accordance with the action of the government, agricultural and commercial distress of unprecedented severity commenced.

Mr. Dickens vs. Miss Dickinson—Mrs. Gummidge vs. Breakers Ahead. Mr. Dickens and Miss Dickinson, a lion and a lioness—the one at Steinway Hall, the other at Cooper Institute—both appeared before the public the other evening.

The reading programme of Mr. Dickens was the mild methelin of "David Copperfield" and "Bob Sawyer's Party," and the lecture of Miss Dickinson was "Breakers Ahead," a trenchant political discourse.

The efforts to force specie payments, therefore, immediately after the war necessarily proved disastrous. Mr. Torrey stated from his place in the House of Commons that "the people of England were suffering more intensely than at any period since the Norman conquest."

Our case is made out. We have shown that the readings of Mr. Dickens would be the appropriate vehicle for Miss Dickinson, and from those "American Notes" we judge that Miss Dickinson's "Breakers Ahead" would be the very thing for Dickens—barring, perhaps, her objections to General Grant.

The Late Poisoning Case in Brooklyn.

One of those extraordinary cases of infidelity that now and then excite public interest to the fact that something more horrible than the events of yesterday has transpired to-day, has just occurred in Brooklyn, in the shape of a supposed suicide or probable murder.

The testimony of the druggist who staggered and buffeted his way out of the house, half blinded and bewildered by the effects of a narcotic, would suggest the suspicion that his life, too, was endangered, but for what reason does not appear.

Such, briefly, is the history of British resumption—of forcing specie payment before the country was prepared for it, and before a portion at least of its enormous debt was liquidated.

The New Board of Directors of the New York Central Railroad.

The election of directors of the New York Central Railroad took place in Albany yesterday, and resulted in the removal of all the last year's board, with the exception of Mr. H. H. Baxter, of this city, who has recently filled the position of president of the road.

This great railroad triumph of Vanderbilt points him out as the proper man to take hold of the now bewildered, disorganized democracy, half crazed by their recent accidental successes, and to thoroughly reform the party and put it into proper shape for the next Presidential contest.

The Butchers and the Board of Health.

A very important decision has been made by Judge Barnard, of the Supreme Court, in reference to the interference of the Board of Health with the slaughter houses of the butchers of this city.

Just at this moment the report of a quarrel resounded loudly throughout the street, proceeding evidently from the spot near the theatre door where, during the fight, between Sam Sharpey and Kelly, the latter had been struck by the former.

Sam took the whole scene in at a glance, and drawing his revolver, rushed manly toward Kelly, discharging one of the barrels of his weapon at the spot where the effect just behind his intended victim's left ear and lodging over the temple.

It would be impossible to portray the terror and confusion that reigned in the street at the moment of the terrible affray. As soon as Sam Sharpey had fallen, struck by the first bullet from Kelly's revolver, the multitude of people, men, women and children, large portions of whom had just come from the theatre, and whose numbers were being at every second augmented by the people coming out of the house and the streets, all turned to look at the spot where the fallen man lay.

The Sudden Freezing Up of the Canal.

We have intelligence that the Erie canal has been frozen up and probably closed for the season, in one stretch alone on this main artery of interior navigation—viz, from Syracuse to Troy—it is estimated that not less than four million bushels of grain, besides a vast amount of other produce, will be locked in until spring.

STEWART HALL—ORATORY.

Dickens made way for "Gumidge" last night, and the strong man drew a larger audience than even "Sam." The performance was better than last season, the choruses being given with more spirit and precision.

NUBICIDE IN THE FOURTH WARD.

Shortly before twelve o'clock last night two sailors, named respectively David Scott and James Griffin, became engaged in a quarrel in Cherry street, near James, which was ended by Scott drawing a pistol and shooting Griffin in the breast, killing him instantly.

MURDER IN BROADWAY.

The Manager of Rival Bands of Minstrels the Parties in the Affair—A Full Statement of the Facts. It would seem, judging from the criminal records of the past few months, that there is a certain type, become epidemic, of otherwise speaking that whenever some fearful deed of blood is done in one of the city or country, for a week or two afterwards crimes the most heinous of which make one's blood run chill with an indescribable terror, follow, one after the other, in a quick and awful succession.

Yesterday afternoon a man was given at the Fifth Avenue theatre, which is situated in Twenty-fourth street, near Fifth Avenue and just adjoining the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

It appears that there has been for some time past an intense feeling of rivalry between these persons and other performers of the same profession.

THE SCAFFOLD.

Execution of Ethan Allen at Montreal. [From the Evening Telegram of yesterday.]

Montreal, C. W., Dec. 11, 1867.

The execution of Ethan Allen for the murder of Cornelius Driscoll took place here to-day. The facts of the murder are as follows:—

On Monday, September 22, Driscoll, a watchman at Norton's brewery and distillery, was found dead near his post, with a wound above the eye, craning in his skull, and another, behind his ear, imbedding a piece of the skull in the brain, with other serious and fatal wounds.

The other prisoners also turned evidence and all agreed that Allen struck the fatal blow. At the trial on the 22d of October, the evidence was so strong that he was sentenced to be hung and the other prisoners were sent to the Penitentiary for various terms.

Since his sentence Allen has behaved well and bravely. He did not take any notice of the public curiosity, as he sat on his cell, and he was very friendly to the officers of the government for a communication, based on the ground of former good conduct, was granted to him.

THE PRIZE RING.

Arrival of O'Balduin, the Irish Giant, and Jack Hicks, also a Noted Pugilist, from England.

A guest of the last five yesterday came to New York, a not a character from O'Balduin, the "Irish Giant," who was some time since matched to fight Sam Mace, the champion of England.

Jack Hicks has also arrived in this city yesterday morning by steamer from England, and was received by a delegation from the sporting community of New York, among whom were the best pugilists of the city.

BROOKLYN INTELLIGENCE.

The Mysterious Poisoning Case.—Coroner Lynch was engaged nearly all day yesterday in making preparations for the inquest over the bodies of Mrs. Fall and her daughter, who were found dead in their bed at their residence in Brooklyn, on Monday morning.

It took but a few moments for the physician who was called in to attend him to examine and partly dress Kelly's wound, and as soon as this was done he, with Kelly, was placed in a carriage with an officer on the box beside the driver to anticipate "accidents," and was conveyed to the station house.

It was not until about ten o'clock that the body of the murdered man or the murderer was in any way exposed to view.

STEWART HALL—ORATORY.

I went to the Stewart Hall this afternoon, having some business to attend to with Mr. Galtard, and on entering, an agent, approaching me, presented a great score that the performances at the Theatre Comique should not be stopped that evening on account of the affray in which Sam Sharpey and Kelly were evidently engaged.