

NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXII. No. 359

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NEW YORK THEATRE, opposite New York Hotel, Under the Gaslight, Matinee at 2.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, Broadway—A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, Matinee at 2.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street—DORIS GALLANT.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—LADY ADELLE'S SECRET, Matinee at 2.

FRENCH THEATRE, Fourteenth street—THE GRAND DUCHES.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery, Eight Pieces, Afternoon and evening.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—BLACK CROOK.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street—MARI ANNE—COKE HERE.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC—TICKET OF LEAZE MAN.

BANVARD'S OPERA HOUSE AND MUSEUM, Broadway and Third street—OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, Matinee.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street—GYMNASTICS, EQUESTRIANISM, &c. Matinee at 2.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Nos. 3 and 4 West 24th street—THE GRAND QUEEN BEAR, Matinee.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway—WHITE, COTTON & SHARPLEY'S MISTRESS, Matinee at 2.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 72 Broadway—SONGS, DANCES, ECCECENTRICITIES, BURLESQUES, &c. Matinee.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 55 Broadway—EROTIC-FARIS ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUES.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery—COMIC VOCALIST, NIGRO MINSTRELS, &c. Matinee at 2.

BUTLER'S AMERICAN THEATRE, 42 Broadway—DALLAS, FARRIS, VANDERBILT, &c. Matinee at 2.

BUNYAN HALL, Broadway and Fifteenth street—THE PHOENIX.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, corner Thirty-fourth street—MINSTRELS, FARRIS, &c.

STEINWAY HALL—GRAND ORATORIO.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn—EROTIC-FARIS ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUES.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway—SCIENCE AND ART.

New York, Wednesday, December 25, 1867.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

By special telegram through the Atlantic Cable, dated in Florence yesterday, we learn that General Menabrea, who had resigned the premiership, has been commissioned by King Victor Emanuel to form a new Italian Cabinet.

The debate on the new Army bill was continued in the French Legislature, the opposition denouncing it as a measure preparatory to war. The Fenians made attempts to blow up the gas works in Glasgow, Scotland, and Warrington, near Liverpool, but were unsuccessful. The English authorities were extremely vigilant, and the kingdom is reported quiet.

The Duke of Wellington's message on behalf of the Royal Polytechnic, of England, to President Johnson, with Mr. Johnson's reply, is published. The Jewish Emancipation bill has passed the Austrian Parliament. The Cabinet crisis in Italy continued France uneasy, and the Bourne was flat.

The British troops in Abyssinia were in steady and favorable advance. The people of Formosa promise to the foreign officers to treat shipwrecked sailors more humanely in future, and the Chinese government guarantees their good faith.

Consols closed at 92 1/2 for account, and 92 1/2 for money, in London. Five-twentieths were at 72 1/2 in London, and 70 1/2 in Frankfurt. The Paris Bourse opened flat.

The Liverpool cotton market closed dull at a decline, middling uplands rating at 7 1/2 pence. The trade advices from Manchester are unfavorable. Broadstairs quiet and steady. Provisions dull and steady. Produce steady.

The Ministerial Crisis in Italy—General Menabrea to Reconstruct the Cabinet.

Italy has passed through a ministerial crisis, a political phase which has become almost chronic in the present history of her statesmanship. As we informed our readers yesterday by special telegram through the Atlantic cable, General Menabrea, the Premier, placed his resignation in the hands of the King, in consequence of the adverse opinion expressed by the Parliament on his Roman policy.

This ministerial crisis in Italy was evidently tending to a more serious state of affairs. During his pendency Franco was much agitated lest a Cabinet hostile to the present ideas of Napoleon towards Rome would be formed in Florence, the Paris Bourse was flat, and the legislative opposition characterized the new bill for the reorganization of the French army as a measure anticipatory of an immediate war.

The premiership of Italy involves an anxious and oppressive trust, and it may be that the King did not find many persons over ready to take up a government which—as our mail advices published to-day show—is being carried on with a treasury deficit amounting to over nine hundred millions of francs, and in face of a most troublesome and suspicious diplomacy from Paris.

No one who has taken pains to make himself familiar with the present condition of Italy but is fully convinced that the Italian people are of one mind as to the necessity of having Rome for the national capital. The vote of 1861 has been substantially reaffirmed, and if the Italian Chambers at all represent the national will the Italian people must again be considered to have emphatically declared, "We must have Rome for our capital." Estamir retired because such was his opinion, and because pressure from without compelled Victor Emanuel to differ from him.

The return of Rattazzi to power would place Italy in direct antagonism to France; for France is just as determined that Italy shall not have Rome as Italy is determined that she shall. What will follow then? France will march her troops from Civita Vecchia to Rome. The Roman territories will be guarded by French bayonets. Collision between the soldiers of France and the soldiers of Italy will be inevitable.

It is quite possible, however, that the other Powers of Europe may stand aloof and leave Napoleon, Victor Emanuel and the Pope to settle matters as best they can. In that case it will not be difficult for Napoleon to dispose of Italy and Rome entirely to his own satisfaction. A material victory, however, is sometimes a moral defeat. Napoleon may yet find it so. In re-establishing a French garrison in Rome and otherwise humiliating Italy he undoes much of the work which he has done, lowers his reputation as a statesman and renders necessary at no distant day another and more humbling evacuation. Mexico seriously damaged his prestige; he has not, in fact, been the same man in the eyes of the world since; but Rome may prove his ruin, at least the ruin of his dynasty.

Our telegrams by the Atlantic cable, published to-day, inform us that the recent fresh eruption of Vesuvius is continually increasing in power and splendor. No such eruption has occurred, probably, for centuries. Many people in the neighborhood of the volcano had left their homes, fearing an earthquake or some other terrible calamity. It is evident from the simultaneous volcanic action in this and other old craters at different parts of the globe, as well as from the vast area of the subterranean disturbance of the earth's crust, that there is some extraordinary cause at work.

changes may have, we have not yet learned.

We seem to be just now passing through one of those extraordinary periods of disturbance which come only at long intervals of time.

Christmas.

Christmas comes but once a year, according to the old song. When it comes, however, nowadays, it is more widely and more heartily celebrated than ever. No longer a mere Church festival, it still retains the sanction of the Church, while it has extended its influence over almost every household in the land.

Christmas is now a universal holiday throughout the United States; and in this cosmopolitan city, where every nationality is represented, the salutations of the countries of Northern Europe, "Christ is risen," and of Great Britain, "I wish you a merry Christmas," have been repeated over and over again since early dawn. The Christmas tree and the Christmas stocking are established institutions among us. The Christian churches of all denominations are open for worshippers. The Christmas chimes ring for all ears.

High mass in the Catholic churches, almost equally imposing ritualism in Episcopal churches, with operatic music and fashionable toilets in churches of every name, attest the observance of this holiday by all "who call and profess themselves Christians." And to the credit of the religious community be it added that ample provision has charitably been made to enable the inmates of our public institutions and many of the poorest inhabitants of the most destitute quarters of our town to share to some extent in the festivities of the day.

As we have intimated, Christmas Day has somewhat lost its distinctive peculiarities as a religious festival. Few are shocked at finding how largely the theatres as well as the churches contribute towards its enjoyment as a holiday. "It is too bad," said the sensible Wesley, "that the Devil should monopolize some of the prettiest tunes." And he did not hesitate to set many of his pious hymns to such profane tunes as "God bless King." Christmas Day opens not only the church doors, but the doors of all the theatres. During the day and in the evening the managers, as well as the parsons, are impressed into the service of enlightening the joy of the public. To this end the "Grand Duchess" and her court must appear to the sound of Offenbach's sparkling melodies. Old English plays, some of them sterling and some of them stale, must be admirably cast at Wallack's. Mile. Janaschek, at the Academy of Music, must challenge comparison with Signora Ristori. The "Midsummer Night's Dream" must supply indifferent acting by the scenery at the Olympic. "Lady Audley's Secret" must be revealed at Barney Williams' Broadway theatre. "Our Mutual Friend" must be "found drowned" at Banvard's. "Nobody's Child" must share with a "New Pantomime" the ready applause of frequenters of the Bowery. Piau, the unrivalled Russian athlete, must repeat his marvellous exploits at the New York Circus. "Under the Gaslight" must be exhibited at the Worrell Sisters' theatre, although, alas! it might seem that real railroad tragedies have been too frequent of late to require fictitious representations of them on the stage. John Banyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" must be illustrated at "Transformation Hall" on Union square. Burlesques and pantomimes and all sorts of mirth-provoking spectacles must be given, from the Fifth Avenue theatre and Tony Pastor's Opera House to the smallest of the minor theatres throughout the city. Negro minstrelsy must swell the concert. Even the "Devil's Auction" at Niblo's, with its crying bittern, its chirruping frog, its yelling alligator and all its other "water fowl," as well as its captivating nymphs of "the light, fantastic too," must do homage to the day. And the day must be wound up not only by festive gatherings around the family table, but by the cheerful and brilliant balls, but by the grand oratorio of "The Messiah" at Steiny Hall.

Let the music of this oratorio at least and that which we shall hear to-day in the churches remind us of the angel song which announced to the shepherds watching over their flock on a certain night somewhat more than eighteen centuries ago, "good tidings of great joy that shall be to all people." "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

General Fritz in Paraguay.

General Fritz, the favorite of the Grand Duchess, must have commanded the Brazilians and their allies in their recent successful repulse of the Paraguayans at Tuyuty. The general whom the Grand Duchess extemporized from a private soldier won his victory by "intoxicate-cating" the enemy's entire army. And whoever commanded the Brazilians on the day of the attack on the allied camp at Tuyuty by the Paraguayans, on the 31 of November, waited until the latter, "whooping like men driving cattle," had entered the camp and reached the sutlers' wagons. Then he took his revenge for the rout which the Brazilian freedmen, the teamsters, the women, the sutlers and all had experienced. Let loose among the loaded wagons and deserted tents, the Paraguayans were soon overcome by drunkenness, and then their rout and defeat in turn succeeded. The victorious allies report two thousand four hundred Paraguayans buried, and estimate their own loss at one thousand. The loss of the allies has since been estimated at two thousand. If the attacking soldiers had not become unmanageable, and thus exposed to easy defeat, our Buenos Ayres correspondent believes that the result would have been the annihilation of the allied camp under General Porto Allegre at Tuyuty. As it is, the allies have been greatly inspired and the Paraguayans proportionately weakened. In Paraguay there is, indeed, no diminution of loyalty to Lopez, and no disposition to yield to the

triple alliance. The women continue to work and to provide for the army, both by cultivating the ground and tending flocks and herds. Such an instance of union, pertinacity and suffering for the sake of the country has not been surpassed in modern times as is found now in Paraguay. But it is certain that Paraguay has her last army in the field, and that it is wasting away under privation and the forings of war. We fear that a few more such demoralizing victories as that of General Porto Allegre, the General Fritz of the 31 of November, will utterly destroy the patriotic hopes of the Paraguayans.

Significant Movements in the Unreconstructed Southern States.

Gloomier with each succeeding day are our advices from the unreconstructed Southern States. Our latest information from North Carolina involves a deplorable account of the depredations of vagrant negroes, some gangs of them being represented as armed and carrying terror along their line of thieving operations. In Georgia it appears the members of the Reconstruction Convention, in adjourning over for the Christmas holidays, had to leave without any money, the State Treasurer refusing to honor the requisition of the Convention for a little bill of forty thousand dollars. A detachment of troops, however, on the 23d had left Macon for Milledgeville, supposed to have some connection with the State Treasurer's refusal to fork over this aforesaid sum of forty thousand to the order of General Pope and the Convention. How or whether or not the State Treasurer has managed to accumulate as much as forty thousand dollars does not appear.

In the Louisiana Reconstruction Convention the members were as much embarrassed on the money question as in Georgia. A resolution providing for the payment of the members' warrants out of any funds in the hands of the State Treasurer would perhaps meet the difficulty, and perhaps not. It will certainly be rather rough upon the delegates of African descent from the interior if they have to walk or paddle home to spend their Christmas, in consequence of no funds or credit to pay their way by stage or steamboat.

In Mississippi it appears that General Ord, Commander of the Fourth Military District, embracing Mississippi and Arkansas, had ordered boards of arbitration to be appointed for the protection of laborers (the blacks), when asked for by a laborer complaining that his share of the crop had not been given him, or when called for by landlord or merchant complaining under oath that the planter has fraudulently assigned to his laborers an undue share of the crop, to the injury of the complainant. These specifications of complaints are painfully suggestive of the general distress in Mississippi among landlords, merchants, planters and laborers, and of the tricks against each other to which this general distress has driven them.

It is evident from our advices from every quarter of the South that the creation of a political black party in the unreconstructed States, in active political hostility to the white race as enemies and oppressors of the black race, is fast destroying all relations of harmony and confidence between whites and blacks, and spreading the idea among the men of each race that the other will have to leave the country or fight to maintain its position on its native soil. Nor can we perceive how the two races in any of the cotton States (especially in any one where the blacks are in excess of the whites) can long remain in the same community, with this idea in full operation on both sides, that whites or blacks will have to emigrate. It appears to us that the radical programme of reconstruction means the removal of the whites and the occupation of their lands by the blacks. At all events, the actual state of affairs in the South between the two races suggests the necessity of a trenchant message to Congress from President Johnson.

The City Poor.

We hear a great deal of the depression of business, of fifty thousand people being out of employment and fearful distress existing everywhere; yet it might be regarded as remarkable that we see so few poor creatures craving alms to those who do not know that we have many charitable institutions and benevolent societies to step in and rescue them from absolute poverty. That we have such is an honor to the city; that many of them are not well managed is a misfortune, because it too often happens that vanity and ostentation are sufficiently gratified without a discreet exercise of charity. What a man gives to a public charity is, unhappily, more considered than how his donation is disposed of; but the left hand of donation ought to know what the right hand of liberality doeth; and on this point the bad management of our public charitable institutions compels us to differ somewhat from Holy Writ. But it must be admitted that these societies nevertheless do some good. They might extend their benevolence to the suffering poor of the Southern States, however, where, according to recent statements, it is more needed than at the North. Let us take the various charitable societies of New England, for example, which have always been advocating the cause of the negro. In his servitude the black man was an object of perpetual sympathy with these people, but now in his freedom he is more than ever an object of charity; for it appears that he is altogether helpless, starving and wavering between the alternatives of a miserable death or rapine and spoliation. The New England philanthropists have done a good deal to bring about this state of affairs for the poor negro; therefore it is their duty now to look after him, and we hope they will do so.

That there is no poverty in this city, because it does not flood our streets with mendicants such as the cities of Europe are afflicted with, it is not, perhaps, fair to assume; for there is a personal pride in our people which investigates even the poorest rather to suffer in secret than to relieve their wants by applying for alms. With all the faults of our charitable institutions, and making allowance for a good deal of humbug which certainly attaches to many of them, they do a good deal, in addition to private charity, to relieve poverty which would otherwise present itself in a very harrowing form in the public highways.

We are not disposed to believe that great distress exists in the city, notwithstanding the dull trade and manufactures, although many may be restricted in their incomes and necessarily in their domestic comforts. If there is poverty to be found within the reach of any one this is a most acceptable season to relieve

it. Those who are gifted with abundance usually dispose of a portion of it in their Christmas festivities. Let them remember the city poor, who are not as largely blessed as themselves.

The New England Dinner—Yankee Greatness.

Selfassertion is the disease of the New England type of civilization; and the annual carnival of Yankee glorification indulged at the New England dinner, and which occurred on Monday night, did not fall behind its predecessors of former years in windy laudation of all that the Down Easter calls his own—rightfully or wrongfully. We were told that the Yankee ran to braids, believed in the supremacy of brain, and had so developed it as to breed "a race of thinkers not second to the Athenian." We may agree with the orator that these Down East thinkers are "not second to the Athenian." They are not—nor third, neither; nor fourth, nor fifth. They are, indeed, so far away from the intellect which they assume as their type that the richest of New England thinkers will palm off as a fine banquet the crumbs he pilfers from an Athenian feast. We are told that the Puritans "believed from the time they landed on Plymouth Rock that the most valuable part of a man as God created him was his brains;" yet the world knows well that under these same men there was no crime so great as for a man to think and express his thoughts, and that he did it at the risk of having his tongue torn from his mouth with hot pincers; not that hot ones would do it better than cold, but the heat seemed to give a fine vehemence of horror to the act. Boasters are always those who have least that they may rightly boast on, and it is thus with boasting, self-glorifying New England. Stripped of all that it has stolen from others and spoiled in attempted adaptation, New England is the poorest of all lands on the face of the earth in every sphere of intellectual labor. It boasts itself in literature without a single work of imagination that can by any stretch of courtesy be called great. In art it has Trumbull and his pictures, and the Bunker Hill Monument, built on a plan that will enable future generations to utilize it as a distiller's flue. And this is brain. In the number of public men of the present day New England contributes such prodigies of mental endowment as Sumner, Beecher, Wendell Phillips, Lloyd Garrison and Neal Dow—all no less enough, no doubt; but where is the vein of greatness? On what possible theory can it be claimed that any one of them is greater otherwise than as a nuisance? New England is fertile in trouble—in fanatical endeavors to force its small notions on others—and this it mistakes for greatness because sometimes it has terrible results. Such terrible results of New England fanaticism are now to be seen throughout the South, where a whole people is reduced to starvation; and they who glorify Yankee fame would better further it just now if they would modestly hold their tongues and spend their superfluous energy in the effort to feed the victims of their tremendous errors.

Cleaning the Streets—Ice and Snow.

An Alderman offered on Monday a resolution that the Mayor be directed to notify the street contractor that he does not keep the crosswalks clean, and that he cannot draw any money from the city treasury until he does his duty in this respect. The present condition of the streets, the imminent danger to life of crossing through the snow, ice and slush, and dodging between the inextricable jam of vehicles that Broadway presents through nearly the whole day, have already sufficiently called public notice to the fact that the "crosswalks are not clean;" but who is to blame? Is it the contractor? Contracts for cleaning streets are like contracts for many other purposes—there is a fair proportion of sharp practice in their making. When labor is to be given on estimates to the lowest bidder it seems sometimes that there are men in the world who can live on air and are superior to the mundane need of money—they work so cheaply. But when the work is to be paid for the original price is always found to be smothered in such a bill of "extras" that it dwindles to be the most insignificant part of the account; and the man who pays may wonder what the original price was for, or why there was any original price, since every particular part of the work done figures in the larger list of "extras." This is the dodge by which the inflated bid the less shrewd bidders for all public employment, whether building ships for the general government, hospitals for the State or court houses for the city. Simple minded men, competent in their trades, put in honest bids, and regular contractors underbid them sometimes fifty per cent. The honest bidder has no thoughts of extras; the other thinks of nothing else, and knows that by his relations with those in authority he can always get his bill of extras through. By this system all public work costs five or six times its price, and yet the plan of doing work by contract was adopted to save the public purse. Analogous to this great dodge of "extras" is the other one of exceptions. A contract, for instance, is made for cleaning the streets; but when the time comes for its enforcement it is found that nearly everything that is a real nuisance in the streets is included in an exception, and that thus the contractor is absolved from his obligation to do half his duty. "Ice and snow" are, we believe, in this category in the present contract for street cleaning. By this the public may understand that the Alderman's resolution will rest lightly on the contractor. So soon as the snow covers our streets it covers all his responsibility, and he may fold his hands till the spring time comes to thaw out his labor. It is a fitting occasion to call attention to the necessity of having the contracts for cleaning the streets of this city made in a different form. Why except ice and snow? Is it because these give greater trouble in our streets than anything else we ever have there? Broadway has been within a few days past almost an impracticable street on account of the huge blocks of ice and deep ruts, and yet no provision is made for getting rid of such obstruction. We must sit and wait for the sunbath to help us. Is it not nearly time that we had done here what is already done in many other cities in respect to snow? Others can have it carted away as soon as it falls; why cannot we?

Hell Gate.

We have already urged the necessity of clearing the channel at Hell Gate. For many years past we have had to record numerous wrecks and much loss of life in that channel, but perhaps we have to wait for some fearful disaster, involving the death of some five or six hundred people on one of the Sound steamers, before we thoroughly wake up to the danger of navigation in this locality. The Chamber of Commerce has been wasting its time on appeals to Congress with no effect. Why not the merchants who compose that body raise a subscription to pay the expense of clearing away the rocks at Hell Gate, and thus opening a new and much desired channel? This is the quickest and best way to do it.

Our Real Estate Speculations in the West Indies. We are told by a telegram from Havana, and as the correspondent says, "from a highly confidential source," that our Consul at that place had received a telegraphic despatch from the Consul at Santiago de Cuba of such a peculiar character, in relation to the St. Thomas purchase, that he immediately telegraphed to Mr. Seward advising him to defer further proceedings with regard to that island. This seems a roundabout sort of story and a little muddled; still there may be something in it. What can the matter be? Is St. Thomas still in such a shaly condition that our consuls are apprehensive it may sink beneath the ocean? Is that seven millions of our gold likely to be swallowed up as promptly and as neatly as roulette, faro, or lotteries swallow up the money of unsuspecting greenhorns? Have the harbors been destroyed by the late earthquakes, and is the island consequently no longer valuable to us? Or are the Danish colonists so disgusted with the negro madness raging in this country that they decline to become citizens of the great republic? If there be any foundation for the report we shall soon know what it is; we shall soon know why further proceedings on the part of the Secretary of State should be deferred. In the meantime we do not think there is any ground for alarm. The island of St. Thomas is pretty safely anchored, and the purchase of it is pretty well assured.

We notice by the same despatch from Havana that a commission was about to leave St. Domingo for Washington to complete arrangements for transferring the Bay of Samaná to the United States. It is said, however, in another despatch, that an offer to lease the bay to the United States for ninety-nine years, at an annual rent of three hundred thousand dollars, was to be made. This telegram has also a muddled look; for we do not suppose the Dominicans or any other persons are so stupid as to suppose the United States would take a lease and pay an annual rental for this property. We hope Mr. Seward may soon finish his land speculations and let us know how much he has actually purchased and where it is. Our enterprising citizens and a host of down East speculators are anxiously waiting to pounce down on the new purchases. Will the Secretary of State, then, be kind enough to let us know what we really possess or are likely to possess, and relieve the anxiety or apprehensions of all?

More Fenian Alarms in England and Scotland.

We have reports by the cable of an attempt or supposed design of the Fenians to destroy the gas works of Liverpool and of Glasgow, ending in each case in nothing but fresh alarms among the people of the cities and towns of both England and Scotland and occasioning greater vigilance among the local authorities. If it be true, however, that the Fenians in Great Britain have adopted, as intimated by some of the English journals, a system of warfare limited to gunpowder plots and incendiary fires, the inhabitants and the authorities of every city and town of any importance in the kingdom may well be alarmed. When it is considered, too, that Kelly, the escaped Fenian from Manchester, still believed to be in England, remains undiscovered, although there is a reward of two thousand pounds upon his head, and that no satisfactory developments have been reached touching the late Clerkenwell jail and Newcastle explosions, there is evidently a system of secrecy among the parties concerned in these enterprises even more alarming than their mysterious operations. At last accounts all was reported quiet in England in reference to these ominous Fenian movements, but we apprehend that the worst of them in connection with all the revolutionary elements of England are yet to come.

Christmas Compliments Between John Bull and Brother Jonathan.

The complimentary international despatches through the cable yesterday between the Duke of Wellington and President Johnson are very nice—just the thing—couldn't be better—as Christmas reciprocities in behalf of the divine and glorious doctrine of "peace on earth" and "good will toward men." But this mutual admiration society style of toasts between John Bull and Brother Jonathan through the cable might have been vastly improved by Mr. Johnson had he said to the gracious Duke, "Our compliments to my Lord Stanley, and say to him that after New Year's we shall invite the attention of Congress to those aforesaid Alabama claims." How strange it is that our great men should so often miss their greatest opportunities!

COMPROMISE RAILROAD CARS.—It having been satisfactorily proved that the Angola disaster was caused by the peculiar construction of one of those cars which are built to run upon roads of different width of gauge, Congress should pass a law prohibiting their use on any of the roads in this country.

THE LATE RAILROAD SLAUGHTER AT ANGOLA.

The Cause of the Disaster. (From the Rochester Democrat, Dec. 23.) It is now quite clear—the breaking of the tread of a wheel. Had that been the sole cause, it would have been regarded as an accident that human foresight could not have guarded against and the company would not have assumed the responsibility by the payments of damages. We understand that the company's agents are paying damages and making settlements as fast as possible. It is said these cars were running upon what is known as the "compromise gauge." The Norfolk and Erie being of the narrow gauge the damages were the result of the cars being run on the "compromise gauge," and nearly all (80% upon the usual level, the western end of the late run, under the same conditions the track was broken up for 200 feet or more higher than ever before remembered. At Kelly's Island apple trees and grapevines on the north end of the island, one hundred feet from the shore, the water was 10 feet high and the houses were 15 feet above the water from the lake dashed over it so as to leave the water run. The water stands on a bank about twenty-five feet high, and the roof was 15 feet from the 100 feet above the water mark.—Ottawa Daily, Dec. 21.