NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXIII..... No. 23

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE, 23d st., corner Eighth av.—BARBER OF SEVILLE.

FRENCH THEATRE, Fourteenth street.—THE GRAND DUCHESS.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—FELON'S DOOM—DODGING FOR A WIFE—SIXTEEN STRING JACK.

NEW YORK THEATRE, opposite New York Hotel.—PICKWICK PAPERS.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE WHITE FAWN.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—CAPTAIN OF THE WATCH—WOODCOCK'S LITTLE GAME.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—PEEP O' DAY.

BANVARD'S OPERA HOUSE AND MUSEUM, Broadway and Thirtieth street.—FROST KING.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Nos. 2 and 4 West 24th street.—FAKIR OF BRAHAM.

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

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—HANLON COMBINATION TROUPE.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, ECCENTRICITIES, BURLESQUES, &c.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BURLESQUES.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELSY, &c. Matinee at 2½.

BUTLER'S AMERICAN THEATRE, 472 Broadway.—BALLET, FARCE, PANTOMIME, &c.

BUNYAN HALL, Broadway and Fifteenth street.—THE PILGRIM. Matinee at 2.

STEINWAY HALL.—ORATORIO OF THE CREATION.

LYRIC HALL, No. 752 Sixth avenue.—VANDENHOFF'S READINGS.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—OUTALANCHE.

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

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

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, January 23, 1868.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

Our Atlantic cable report is to last evening.

The Alabama claims were being again discussed in the newspapers.

Russia denies having sent troops to her southern frontier.

In Liverpool last evening consols for money and account were 92¾ a 92⅞. United States five twenties were dull at 71⅞; at Frankfort they were 76. Middling upland cotton sold for 7⅜d. in Liverpool. Produce and provisions were without great change. Petroleum was dull.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday the House Reconstruction bill was laid over on motion of Mr. Doolittle, who wished to report an amendment. The report of the Conference Committee on the Anti-Contraction bill was agreed to, the Senate receding from its amendments. The discussion in the case of Senator Thomas, of Maryland, was then resumed, during which Mr. Doolittle said that Edwin M. Stanton had urged A. G. Brown to go to the confederacy and wished him God speed. The debate was closed on the announcement of the death of Congressman Noell.

In the House the Senate amendments to the Deficiency bill were all concurred in but one. The consideration of the bill declaring forfeited to the United States certain public lands granted to railroads in some of the Southern States was resumed. During the discussion Mr. Julian spoke of the rebel character of Mr. Chanler's friends in the South. Mr. Chanler immediately retorted that he used the words of a "coward," whereupon he was called to order, but continued to make the assertion. Mr. Julian said he had a chance to test the truth of the remark, and Mr. Chanler said he would take an early opportunity of doing so. The bill then went over until to-day.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate yesterday the committee to investigate certain alleged canal frauds made a report. The amount lost by the State through certain contracts is reported to be $240,000. Notice was given of bills to widen West street, New York, and to incorporate several city railroads and the New York, Brooklyn and New Jersey Pneumatic Transportation Company. The bill authorizing the raising of $500,000 in aid of the poor of the city, the vote being reconsidered, was referred.

In the Assembly bills were introduced in relation to the New York Marine Court and to prevent the intermarriage of first cousins. Motions and resolutions were offered for an investigation of the Water Board of Brooklyn and the management of Prospect Park, the Croton Aqueduct Department and the life insurance companies, favoring the abolition of the Bank Department, and declaring the acts of the Constitutional Convention null and void, refusing to acknowledge any appropriation for its expenses and earnestly requesting the members to adjourn.

THE CITY.

Mr. Peter Cooper has written a letter to the President of the State Constitutional Convention at Albany, suggesting a new arrangement of the city government. He favors appointments in the judicial and executive offices to serve during faithful performance of duty, by a council of appointment, selected, one member from each ward, without regard to politics or religion. He recommends that the executive work of the city be done by bureaus and departments, over the heads of which the Mayor shall have the power of suspension and dismissal.

The Corporation Counsel has decided that it requires a three-fourths vote of each Board of the Common Council to expend money.

The number of emigrants who have arrived at this port since the 1st instant is 2,834.

Monsieur P. B. DuChaillu last evening was the guest of the Travellers' Club at their rooms in the Fifth avenue. There was a highly intellectual audience, many ladies being present. He briefly, but with great effect upon his hearers, recounted some of the incidents and scenes of his explorations, which he illustrated by numerous diagrams. The entertainment was highly enjoyable.

The suit of Stephens versus De Coto, both proprietors of Spanish newspapers of this city, came before Judge Monell, in the Superior Court, yesterday. The plaintiff seeks to prevent the publication, under the name of *El Cronista*, of the defendant's paper, claiming that the title is an infringement on that of the sheet of which he is the proprietor, and which is an old paper called *La Cronica*, but is at present suspended. Case not yet concluded.

The case of Fisk & Belden versus the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company came before Judge Cardozo yesterday at Supreme Court, Chambers, on a motion to compel the defendants to answer certain questions put to them by the referee. A motion was also made by defendants to dismiss the plaintiffs' proceeding, but both motions were finally adjourned until Saturday next.

Recorder Hackett filed his decision in the case of The People, &c., vs. Charles H. Sweetzer—the *Gazette-Mail* newspaper controversy—deciding that, as the evidence was conflicting, he would have to hold Sweetzer to bail for his appearance for trial before a jury.

The North German Lloyd's steamship Bremen, Captain Neynaber, will leave Hoboken to-day (Thursday), about one o'clock, for Southampton and Bremen. The mails for Europe will close at the Post Office at twelve M.

The elegant screw steamship Morrimac, Captain Timmermann, will leave pier 46 North river, at three P. M. to-day (Thursday), for St. Thomas and Rio Janeiro, touching at the intermediate ports. The mails will close at the Post Office at two P. M.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our Panama correspondence is dated January 13. The United States Minister at Bogota had officially explained the action of Salgar in the purchase and equipment of the R. R. Cuvier, relenting very seriously on Salgar and Mosquera, and had received from President Acosta an assurance of the high consideration in which Colombia holds the friendship of the United States.

Our letters from Peru are dated respectively at the headquarters of the national army before Arequipa and the headquarters of the insurgents in that town on December 20, at Islay on the 23d, at Lima on the 26th, and Callao on the 28th. President Prado's three days of grace before bombarding the rebels was about expiring, but he had determined to wait eight days more for the arrival of a two hundred and fifty pounder gun that was on the way from Islay. In Arequipa the effects of the siege were plainly visible. The insurgents had two rude mortars made out of bells, with which they attempted to bombard the national camp, but the casualties resulting from them counted more on their own side than elsewhere. They were in great straits for money, and forced loans on the rich citizens were frequent. On returning to the loyal camp our correspondent found that Prado's communications had been cut by the capture of Cuzco, and the town of Islay was seriously threatened. The two hundred and fifty pounder had been captured and dismounted. Balta, a revolutionary chief, was intrenched at Chiclayo; Lima itself was threatened by Colonel Benndez and another plot to revolutionize Callao had just been discovered.

Our Buenos Ayres correspondence is dated December 14, and gives further information relative to the war in Paraguay. Lopez still kept open his communication with the interior. A raid aiming at the capital of Paraguay was in contemplation by the allies. The Paraguayans have been forwarding troops towards Cerrito, a little island from which an attack on the rear of the allies could be made. It is reported that six new iron-clads have recently been purchased by Brazil. The cholera was prevailing all along the Parana.

Our Chilean correspondence is dated December 17. Congress had concluded its extra session. Some complication was pending with Peru, and in the event of the revolution proving successful, war between the two countries was imminent.

Our Yokohama, Japan, correspondence is dated December 2. The items of interest have been anticipated by our special telegrams from San Francisco. The same may be said of our correspondence from China, which is dated Shanghae, November 27.

Our New South Wales correspondence is dated December 1. Prince Alfred had prolonged his stay in South Australia until the 20th of November, and had gone to Melbourne on the 23d.

The New England manufacturers met in convention at Worcester, Mass., yesterday, and endorsed the proceedings of the National Convention at Cleveland.

George B. Lincoln was confirmed by the State Senate yesterday as a member of the Metropolitan Board of Health.

At the meeting of the Peabody fund trustees at Richmond yesterday General Grant offered a resolution, which was adopted, authorizing the expenditure of a portion of the fund for the relief of destitution in the South.

The State Military Association in Albany yesterday elected officers for the ensuing year, adopted amendments to the military code and adjourned.

In the Constitutional Convention yesterday the time was mainly consumed in debate on the report of the Committee on Cities.

In the Georgia Convention yesterday a committee was appointed to ascertain if one of the members had been in the penitentiary.

The members of the North Carolina Reconstruction Convention have contented themselves with $8 per diem.

The Quebec Legislative Assembly is discussing the causes of emigration from that province to the United States, and proposes to prevent the same.

The city railroads of St. Louis, Mo., all lost money last year except one, which cleared $1,200.

The New Reconstruction Bill—The Question Before the Senate.

The House of Representatives, by a solid party vote on each side—one hundred and twenty-three to forty-five—has passed the new Reconstruction bill, which makes General Grant provisional dictator over the ten excluded Southern States. The authority with which he is thus invested is as absolute as that of the Czar of all the Russias. The bill in the outset declares that "the so-called civil governments in said States shall not be recognized as valid or legal State governments either by the executive or the judicial power or authority of the United States;" and thus, having cleared away all civil and judicial obstructions, General Grant is made the supreme regulator, manager and director of all the military, civil and judicial authorities in the States concerned in the execution of the Reconstruction laws of Congress, to the end, strangely enough, "that the people of said several States may speedily reorganize civil governments therein republican in form, and be restored to political power in the Union."

This is the bill. But what is the political power to which it proposes to exalt these States? It is the political power of their black race, just emerged from the barbarism of negro slavery. In all the reconstruction conventions, from Virginia to Louisiana, the negro element, through the ingenious radical Congressional device of universal negro suffrage and white disfranchisements, has carried the day. Every one of these outside States, therefore, will be reconstructed on this negro supremacy basis, and so reported for restoration to Congress. This is "the political power" to which they are to be exalted—the governing power of the black element of their population over the white element. The old Southern slave-holding oligarchy of three hundred thousand white men, which so long held the controlling balance of power in the government through its control over the old democratic party, being at last done away with, a new oligarchy, made up of the poor ignorant negroes, only yesterday the slaves of the exploded white oligarchy, is to be fixed upon the country as its Southern political balance of power. In this capacity the radicals expect to use these Southern negroes and the votes of these Southern negro reconstructed States to a good purpose in the coming Presidential election against all contingencies in the way of losses in the North. This is the object of this last Supplemental Reconstruction bill.

What, then, is the prospect? Will this bill pass the Senate? The hope is expressed in some quarters that in the Senate it will stick—that the usurpations of power here proposed are too flagrant and audacious to be imposed upon the old republican sachems of that body, who have still a lingering weakness of respect for the landmarks of the constitution. All such hopes, however, we fear, will prove delusions. The question before the Senate, under cover of this bill, is the next Presidency. It is not a constitutional question, nor a question of justice or the fitness of things, but a simple question of party expediency. The republican party, as Calhoun said of the old democratic party, and as we may say of every party, political or religious, "is held together by the cohesive power of the public plunder." Every republican in the House (except one, Cary, of Ohio, elected as an independent,) voted for this bill. The conservative wing of the party in the House is gone. It has been absorbed by the radical wing, and so we conclude it will soon appear in the Senate. We think it may be safely assumed that this bill, substantially as it stands, will be passed by the Senate—that it will be vetoed by the President, and that it will then be passed over his veto by a two-thirds vote in each house, and that so, by act of Congress, we shall soon have a provisional dictator set up over the ten outside rebel States superior in his authority not only to the President and the judiciary, but to Congress itself.

The plan of operations covered by this bill involves the restoration of the ten outside States into both houses of Congress on the negro basis of reconstruction before the meeting of the Republican National Convention in May next, so that those States, on this negro basis, may have a voice in the Convention and in the election, and so that, being in Congress, they may be, in any event, beyond the reach of a new order of things. The Presidential battle, then, with the republicans is to be fought upon this question of Southern negro supremacy, and a Southern negro political balance of power in Congress and in our Presidential elections for the maintenance of the republican party in power. So far as Congress is concerned we can, from present appearances, talk no more of conservative republicans. We must turn, therefore, from this radical Congress to the people; and we expect from New Hampshire, in her approaching State election, a voice from the people which will be apt to bring confusion into the radical camp at Washington and to strengthen immensely the cause of the constitution, so bravely upheld by Andrew Johnson.

Mexico and Cuba—Is Cuba in Danger?

Our telegraphic news letters given yesterday depict the disturbed state of the Mexican republic and sketch a programme of very extensive fighting for its immediate future. The important points are that the revolution in Yucatan is not yet put down, that there appear to be active relations between men in Cuba and the revolutionists in Yucatan, and that a quadruple alliance is to be formed between Mexico, Chile, Peru and Bolivia. What is the immediate purpose of the alliance of these Spanish American States? Mutual support, of course, against common enemies. Nearly all the Spanish American States have made these alliances in times past, and the mutual support has been found to mean very little in the hour of danger. But it is to be noted that this alliance is made at a moment when Mexico is inflated with the ridiculous notion that she has just driven the armies of one European Power from her soil, and when the South American republics are really at war with another European Power—albeit that war does not rage very furiously at present. It may do for a pretext, though. Mexico goes understandingly, no doubt, into an alliance with Powers actually at war with Spain. This, then, if the terms of the alliance are as strong as Spanish American terms generally are, establishes war between Spain and Mexico, as well as between Spain and the South American republics. Spain has not prosecuted the war actively of late. How if the five republics should take it into their queer noddles to throw some vigor into it? What then? There lies Cuba under their very hands, the last American dependency of Spain—the richest appanage of the Spanish crown—the tender point of the common enemy. In Mexico there is a notion that the revolution in Yucatan was fomented in Cuba and draws all its life thence; and men argue that if Juarez would strike that revolution down effectively he must strike at it in Havana. Is this why Mexico goes just now into an alliance with Powers at war with Spain? It is proposed in the city of Mexico to raise a Mexican navy of twenty-four steam frigates. Are they intended for an expedition against the Queen of the Antilles? *Quien sabe?* Such a force, raised by Mexico, would be manned, as Spanish American navies have always been, by volunteers from the United States, and to them Cuba would fall an easy prey. Our restless filibustering spirits would like no better fun, and the whole plan may have been elaborately laid in Washington before Romero left. It was reported in Havana that the Spanish troops there were under orders to hold themselves in readiness to move at two hours' notice, from which it would seem that the Captain General deems it possible he may receive a sudden blow from some quarter. Altogether, there is reason to anticipate that some fine morning not very remote may bring us lively news from the Gulf.

Alabama and Its Proposed New Constitution.

The first election under the Congressional Reconstruction acts for or against the adoption of the proposed new constitutions for the Southern States will occur in Alabama on the 4th and 5th proximo—less than a fortnight hence. It has been supposed that by a strenuous effort the white population might muster strength enough to defeat the measure, but a timely calculation forbids any such conclusion. Many of the leading conservatives of the State, comprising some of its most influential and enlightend citizens, have united in preparing and publishing an address to the people, in which they strongly and logically urge upon them the necessity of refraining from voting upon the question at all, arguing that whether or not the obnoxious and oppressive constitution be rejected, Congress, in its refinement of political torture, will find some other means of carrying out its radical aims; moreover, they allege that by entering the polling lists in a contest with the blacks it will be considered a tacit recognition of the right of negro suffrage, against which the North has already spoken in unmistakable tones. It is a question upon which the Southern whites, as a class, have no reservations or concealments. This whole subject is an extremely interesting one, and should be left to the white people in their several localities to determine. By mingling with the deliberations of these negro conventions, in sending elegates to them and by other acts of recognition, the Southern whites have already taken a step which the Alabama conservatives seek now to retrace. If it be dangerous at the present time to acknowledge, even indirectly, the political status of the blacks on the score of voting, it was fully so at the outset of this unhappy controversy. By touching the pitch the whites became defiled, and those conservatives who entered the negro assemblies as delegates at all paved the way for future political fraternization with the blacks. In a majority of instances, however, this was not the case, and, as a mass, the white population of the South may be declared to have set their faces against any political contact whatever with the blacks. The whites will now act wisely, perhaps, in letting the negroes and their allies "severely alone" in all matters of political complicity. This would have been their best policy from the first; for in all their struggles at the polls the odds, by the aid of radical machinery, were always against them.

Radical Wirepulling for the Presidency.

It has seemed to the country for some days past as if Congress were discussing a new reconstruction law, but all the time it was only manœuvring with a view to the Presidency. Men have thought that Congress was setting up a dictator; it was only pulling wires to see how well the Presidential puppets would jump; it was only moving the pawns to make way for its game. In simple truth the new military bill means the Presidency first, the Presidency second, the Presidency last. No one can find a clause in it which means anything else. Bad as it seemed in its expressed purpose to crush the South under military rule, to obliterate every vestige of popular freedom, to make the white man a creature of nigger caprice; bad as it made its authors appear in these respects, it in truth, when rightly understood, makes them appear a great deal worse, since it exhibits them to the world as men who actually ignore the greatest national necessities, defer the most pressing requirements of the country, push them aside and make them altogether secondary and subservient to corrupt and selfish party scheming. But the thing has been done so well, the actors have all had such serious faces, that the people at large have not yet understood that Congress was in all this only playing at law making, and had beneath all a purpose of more moment than any it could secure by law. Indeed, as we follow the speeches of Mr. Bingham, for instance, we can hardly escape the thought that he had worked himself up to that point that very sympathetic actors sometimes reach when the fiction of the play becomes to them a reality, when they forget the mimic nature of the scene and lend their very inner lives to the story. Bingham seems actually in earnest. But there may be another explanation of this. He may be only one of many dupes—not let into the real purpose—kept ignorant with a view to giving the thing an appearance and expression of earnest sincerity.

Republicans in Congress as a mass seem to feel that Grant is necessary to their party—that with any other candidate it must be beaten. Hence they frame him into a legislative machine, extort from him a more definite assent to their reconstruction schemes than he has been ready to give, and thus take him out of the reach of any other party and commend him to the mass of republican voters. And the radicals—the extreme fanatics, who hate Grant—assent to the game, because they see that while it certainly does take Grant out of the reach of any other party it can also be relied upon to kill him before the republican party. Moderates hold that Grant must be made to leave his conservative position before he will do for republicans; and the radicals say that when he has once left that position his strength is gone, and they will not fear to drop him entirely. Each believes it will accomplish its purpose by this last Reconstruction bill. Hence the universal agreement on the bill of republicans of every stripe and shade. "Put on Grant's shoulders," says one savage radical, "the weight of responsibility that this bill carries, and not an old cart wheel shall be broken in the ten Southern States—not a nigger baby shall choke with the croup down there but Grant shall be held to blame." What man could come through unscathed who is to be watched in the spirit such words indicate? It is to make Grant a candidate on one hand and to kill him on the other that the House passed the bill. And now the bill is in the hands of the Senate. Does that body regard the law as affecting the South? Not at all. There also it is looked at solely in relation to the effect it may have on the question of the Presidency. And it is mooted that the Senate will throw it out, not because it would ruin the South, debase the nation, destroy popular rights, but because it may destroy Grant. Moderate Senators see its probable effect in that way. But the radical forcing pressure is on, and it will pass that body also.

Cock Fighting Extraordinary.

Mr. Bergh is keenly solicitous for the comforts of the animal creation. He wept over the sorrows of the calves who suffered indignities at the hands of the butcher boys. He sang a jeremiade over the woes of the turtles who were laid on their backs (a position in which turtles have been accustomed to lie for centuries), and he invoked all human sympathy for the ducks who were tied by the legs (as ducks have been tied from time immemorial), and would fain have each live duck sent to market in a neat little tub of water of his own, so that he might swim gracefully to the block which was to consign him to the housekeeper's table. Now, if the tender-hearted President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had only been in a favored spot in Jersey on Tuesday night he would have been doubtless rent in twain with grief at the scene there presented by a match of seventeen male birds, the pride of the barnyard, pitted in deadly combat as fierce as the gladiatorial strife that used to make "a Roman holiday." But of course Mr. Bergh was not there, as his jurisdiction does not extend to Jersey; however, as the birds were native New Yorkers, and the match was undoubtedly made here, Mr. Bergh might have arrested the progress of this horrible and atrocious festivity by a little premature caution. But as he was not present he can form an idea of this shocking sight—so fascinating to the eyes of the "fancy"—from the report in the columns of the HERALD yesterday. He can learn that the "gaffs" (steel points) were one and a quarter inch in length. He will find with what surgical accuracy one cock cut the other's throat, yet left his adversary life enough to fight it out with gameness; how dexterously live birds were carved by their brother birds, the breast, neck and shoulder being most adroitly handled; how eyes were stabbed out at an early portion of each conflict, and how the blind creatures fought on, like Samsons, more maddened in their blindness. This was but the evening pastime. At midnight the sport was only commencing, and the "hearts" of the spectators were beginning to warm to the sport. The affair was no doubt carried on till morning. This is a tangible question for Mr. Bergh to take hold of. In his judicious dispensation of justice and the exercise of his wonderful vigilance he can certainly ferret out the parties to this transaction and bring them to punishment. The cruelty practised towards horses, calves, turtles and ducks for a whole year is not equal to that of one such "main" as that witnessed on the other side of the North river the night before last.

The Convention of New England Manufacturers.

When it was announced that the manufacturers of New England were to meet in convention two questions naturally arose: Is this Convention at Worcester to be another Hartford Convention? With a single eye to local interests will it be sublimely indifferent to the interests of other portions of our great country and the rest of the world? Senator Sprague found it necessary the other day to declare in Congress that his course relative to the currency question was dictated by a regard, not for manufacturing interests, but for the interests of the whole country, and to explain why his financial views differ from those that prevail in his section. The views of the manufacturers of that section are well known to be peculiar and exclusive. They profess, indeed, that the object of the present Convention is not to originate any theories of legislation upon currency or finance, but simply to endorse those recommended by the Cleveland Convention. One of their first acts after assembling yesterday was to adopt unanimously a resolution to the following effect:—"That as the sole purpose of this Convention is to obtain from Congress the immediate removal of all taxes upon manufactures and productions except luxuries, and to change the mode of assessments and collection of the revenue and the appointment and removal of revenue officers, we will strictly confine the action of the Convention to such purposes." The main object of the Convention is, according to a Boston journal, "to ask the repeal of all taxes upon manufacturing industry." On this point the same journal presumes that the financial views of the East and West do not conflict, however much they may conflict on other points. Nevertheless, it is altogether unlikely that the New England manufacturers will abandon their pet notion of the necessity not only of relieving their manufactures from taxation, but also of piling taxation on all foreign manufactures. Hitherto they have never been averse to inflicting upon manufacturers anywhere outside of New England the heavy burdens of taxation which they are unwilling to have their own bear. Like the humorist who avowed his patriotic readiness to sacrifice in the war all his wife's relatives, New Englanders endure with exemplary patience the sight of the political disabilities and financial distress under which other sections of the country may be condemned to groan. But do not touch a hair of their own heads. Impose no taxes on their manufactures; otherwise they will hold conventions, pass resolutions, petition Congress and in every possible way protest. Some may even become almost furious enough to threaten secession, like certain members of the old Hartford Convention, and to leave the rest of the Union and the world "out in the cold."

Congress appears to be so determined to strain to the utmost the tax-yielding resources of the nation, without making any provision for the liquidation of the national debt, that no disinterested citizen can favor the accumulation of vast sums to be chiefly employed in carrying out partisan schemes. From this point of view, at least, the resistance of the New England manufacturers to taxation on almost everything except articles of luxury might well meet with universal approbation. The people are tired of being bled so freely in order to aid and enrich the leaders and agents of the dominant radical party.

Train and the Possible Consequences.

Her Majesty's officials have finally estimated Train at his true value and set him free. He is now in the enjoyment of the largest liberty, and may make a Judy of himself to any extent the British public will permit. This is well—for we cannot but recognize that even Train might have lighted up war between two great nations. Things quite as improbable have happened. Events as important have resulted from causes as seemingly inadequate. Pascal's famous epigram, that "the fate of the world might have been different if Cleopatra's nose had been shorter," is at best only the most felicitous of many statements that might be made of the great general truth that trivial circumstances often precipitate the great events of the world's history. For a tremendous collision between the two nations that dispute the empire of the world on the sea everything has been preparing since the time when the war of 1812 ended in a draw. Then the nations ceased their prematurely begun struggle, not because the points at issue were given up on either hand—not that the quarrel was fought out—but because it was mutually seen that each had undertaken more than it counted upon—because either combatant saw that he might gain his point at the expense of things more immediately important. That great dispute was adjourned, and the bitter spirit that did not die has manifested itself occasionally in many occurrences since. It seemed at one time that the Alabama case would open the conflict again. It did not, however; but it would have been quite consonant with the history of nations that a struggle which that great cause did not open might yet have been started by such an altogether unimportant and ridiculous creature as Train.

The Carnival Season.

The reign of the merry Prince Carnival will commence to-night at the Academy of Music with the grand fancy dress ball of the *Cercle Français de l'Harmonie*. The advent of his royal highness, with his train of mischievous, laughing sprites, cosmopolitan costumes, grand processions, bewildering dances and heel-stirring music, throws all Japonicadom into a flutter of preparation. *Modistes* are summoned and lengthy debates are held on the momentous subject of "something to wear" at the soirées of the jolly prince. Belles transform themselves into Swiss peasant maidens, Lucretia Borgias, Queens of the Night, Indian squaws, Mary Stuarts and forsaken Leahs, and their masculine admirers become bandits, Ethiopians, Mephistopheles or, perhaps, uncanny animals of the wood and prairie. The scene at night is highly picturesque. From the balconies of the Academy one looks down on a surging sea of humanity presenting more colors than Joseph's coat or the never-ending changes of the kaleidoscope. The crash of the orchestra is heard and the entire mass is set in motion. As the strains of one of Strauss' waltzes float through the building the crowd of dancers on the floor resemble a huge snake, whose bright scales glitter in the gaslight and whose sinuous folds envelop every luckless dancer that ventures within their reach. Over the gay scene Prince Carnival presides and flourishes his enchanted wand, and care and trouble are flung aside by the merry maskers. The principal masked balls of the season, in addition to that of the *Cercle Français de l'Harmonie*, are the Liederkranz, Arion and Purim balls. The first of these will take place next month at the Academy, and promises to eclipse all its predecessors in splendor and brilliancy. The ball season seems not to be affected by the dulness of trade; for the numerous balls given at the Academy of Music, Irving Hall and the Germania Assembly Rooms have been well attended, and the display of toilets is equal, if not superior, to anything seen before on the dancing platform.

The Paraguayan War—The Position of Lopez.

A telegram by the Atlantic cable informs us, upon the authority of a letter from South America published in the Paris *Moniteur*, that President Lopez of Paraguay was secure at Humaitá, that his communications with that place were open, and that the attempts of the allies to take the fortifications by siege are hopeless. It was believed, too, that the cholera at Buenos Ayres and financial embarrassments in Montevideo and other parts would prevent a vigorous prosecution of the war against Paraguay. In all the vicissitudes of a prolonged war and with much superior forces against him Lopez holds his strong position, and the chances are at present that he will be able to wear out and exhaust his enemies. On the part of Brazil it is a war of ambition and of monarchical ideas against republicanism, and she ought to be defeated. Her allies have been foolish enough to suffer themselves to be placed in a false position in their hostility to Paraguay, and ought to suffer for their folly. However much we may object to the assumption of dictatorial powers by Lopez or to the tyrannical acts of which he has been guilty, still he has the sympathy of the American people, because he is defending the independence of his country and the republican principle of the American Continent. We hope news will soon arrive that the allies have wisely abandoned this bloody, stupid and hopeless war.

A Jersey Judge on Prize Fighting.

A Jersey Judge in Hudson county has delivered himself of some excellent words touching prize fighting to the Grand Jury of that county. Alarmed at the fact that Jersey has too often become the "dark and bloody ground" whereupon itinerant gladiators from other States carry out the provisions of our modern but brutal *duello*, Judge Bedle waked up to his duty and invited the Grand Jury to indict all parties, whether at large or under arrest, who may be charged with participating in prize fighting. But, although this Judge has done no more than his duty, it is refreshing to find a magistrate with honesty and pluck enough to do this thing at all; for it is time that official action should be taken to put a stop to this demoralizing custom. England has cast forth the foul blot from her soil, and there seems to be a disposition to nourish her outlaws of the ring when they throw themselves into the embraces of this community. The latest notorious fight was that on an island in the Missouri river, opposite St. Louis, and that ended fatally. Such results are hardly to be regretted. If every prize fight within the next six months were to terminate by the death of one of the combatants and the seclusion of the survivor in the State Prison for the rest of his natural life for manslaughter, it would do more to put an end to prize fighting than all the police interference that can be brought to bear. The Jersey Judge in the charge referred to took occasion to notice that the penalties for abetting a prize fight were very severe—two years' imprisonment and a heavy fine, and persons visiting the fight from another State are liable to one year's imprisonment. Captains of steamboats, or other vessels also, knowingly permitting their boats to be used for the conveyance of persons to assist in or witness a fight, are liable to two years' imprisonment and five hundred dollars fine. Forewarned is forearmed. If the Grand Juries of New Jersey do their duty they may succeed in cutting off this excrescence from their body politic. New Jersey hangs her murderers right out without any *dilettante* preliminaries or mock sympathy, and for this she has gained the envy of surrounding States. Why not indict and incarcerate her prize fighters with equal promptitude?

Proposed Tariff for Freight and Passengers on the Pacific Railroads.

Mr. Washburne, of Wisconsin, offered a joint resolution in the House of Representatives on Monday to establish a tariff of prices for freight and passengers over the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads; but it met with opposition and went over under the rule, even though offered a second time by Mr. Windom, of Minnesota. We cannot understand why such an excellent proposition—such a necessary one, indeed—should have been opposed. We know of no cause for it except it be found in the fact that a large number of the members of Congress are stockholders or otherwise interested in these railroads, and that, consequently, they wish to maintain the enormous profits this vast monopoly enjoys. It is surprising how any member could venture to oppose a measure to regulate the tariff of prices for freight and passengers. Why, these railroads are a positive gift by the government and people to the companies. The government furnishes hundreds of millions of capital to build the roads and makes a gift of forty to fifty millions of acres of land besides—that is, the government builds the roads and then makes a free gift of them to the companies, with the additional present of forty to fifty millions of acres of land. Yet the friends of the companies in Congress have the assurance to oppose a tariff of prices being fixed by law. It is the imperative duty of Congress to fix the tariff, both for freight and passengers, at the lowest rate possible, and to see that there be no loophole by which these gigantic monopolies can cheat or oppress the people. There should be a law passed, too, to prevent such grinding oppression of settlers on the companies' lands as the Illinois Central Railroad Company have practised—some such law, perhaps, as that introduced on Monday by Mr. Lawrence, of Ohio, to secure to actual settlers the right to buy lands granted to railroad companies at a price not exceeding a dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. Something must be done to hold in check these vast and grasping monopolies and to prevent them from holding a sort of feudal