

NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET. JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXIII. No. 126 RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-DAY.

First Street Universalist Church.—Rev. Day K. Lee, on "Order of Creation." Evening.

Church of Our Saviour.—Rev. J. M. Peckham, Morning.

Church of the Atonement.—Committee of the American Church Society. Evening.

Canal Street Presbyterian Church.—Rev. David Mitchell, on "And it Was Night." Evening.

Catholic Apostolic Church.—Sermon on The Lord's Prayer. Evening.

Church of the Resurrection.—Morning, afternoon and evening.

Central Presbyterian Church.—Rev. James B. Dorr, on "Representative Character." Evening.

Church of the Strangers, Hall of the University, Washington square.—Rev. Dr. Drake, Morning and evening.

Church of the Incarnation.—Rev. Dr. Tracy, Evening.

Chapel of the Holy Apostles, Rutgers' College.—Morning and evening.

Dodworth Hall.—Spiritualist Society. Morning, afternoon and evening.

Forty-second Street Presbyterian Church.—Rev. Dr. Scott, on "A Manual of Pleasures." Evening.

Fifth Avenue Baptist Church.—Rev. A. B. Earle, Morning and evening.

Methodist Episcopal Church, 12th Street.—Rev. Thomas A. Jackson, Afternoon.

Moravian Protestant Episcopal Congregation, at the Hall in East Twenty-ninth street.—Morning and evening.

Masonic Hall.—The Association of Spiritualists. Morning and evening.

People's Meeting, Sixth Avenue.—"How to Save the Country from Existing and Impending Evils." Evening.

St. Theresa's Church.—Rev. J. T. Hecker, on "Spiritualism." Evening.

St. Luke's Church.—Rev. Dr. Morgan, Evening.

Seventeenth Street M. E. Church.—Rev. Wm. F. Coburn, Morning and evening.

St. Ann's Free Church.—Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, Morning and evening.

Trinity Baptist Church.—Rev. J. S. Holme, D. D. Morning and evening.

Trinity Chapel, West Twenty-fifth street.—Sermon and Musical Service. Evening.

University, Washington square.—Bishop Snow, on "The Nature and Location of the Coming Kingdom of God." Afternoon.

Upper Church of the Ascension.—Afternoon.

West Presbyterian Church, Forty-second street.—Anniversary of Sunday School, Methodist Association. Evening.

Zion Church Chapel, Third Avenue.—Morning and evening.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, January 26, 1868.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

By special telegram through the Atlantic cable, dated in Paris yesterday, we learn that on newspaper editors of that city were sentenced to pay heavy fines and each ordered a term of imprisonment for having published "slandering" reports of debates in the Corps Legislatif, in violation of the constitution. The illegality consisted in printing a report of a discussion on the Army bill other than that given by the government stenographer.

By special cable telegrams dated in St. Petersburg yesterday we are informed that all the newspapers of that city unanimously voted the maintenance of peace. One journal recommended Russia to set a good example for the other Powers by an immediate disarmament.

The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated yesterday, January 25. The French excitement still prevails in England, and appears to be extending to the Channel Islands, the Sheriff of Alderney having been arrested and held for trial for complicity with the organization. Reports of naval aid from the United States to France in the event of war were current. Political riots had taken place in France. The French government has promulgated the new Army bill in the provincial departments. The London journals comment severely on the action of the American Congress relative to Fenianism.

Cotton fair, with middling uplands at 7 1/4, a 7 1/2. Breadstuffs and provisions without marked change.

ABYSSINIA. By special telegram from Abyssinia, forwarded by way of London and through the Atlantic cable, we have advised dated at Addis Ababa, the next post of the British advance to the interior after Zoolia, to the 10th instant, General Napier had not ordered a movement. The captives were in good health. The sincerity of the friendship expressed by one of the Tigre chiefs for the English was doubted.

CONGRESS. The Senate was not in session yesterday, having on Friday adjourned over to Monday. The House, immediately after the reading of the journal, went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union for general debate, and speeches were made on the financial and reconstruction questions. No business was done or was transacted.

THE CITY. At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen yesterday a resolution was adopted authorizing the Presidents of the two Boards of the Council and the Committee of Finance of each Board to proceed to Albany for the purpose of watching the interests of the city. The trustees of the Cooper Union presented a financial exhibit for 1867, from which the receipts appear to be over \$20,000; expenses, \$12,000. A proposition was offered for reconstructing the lower bridge from Broadway to an obstruction. Another proposition was made recommending that it be erected on the corner of Thirty-fourth street and Fifth-avenue, both of which went over under the rules. The tax levy was passed through after striking out the item of \$25,000 for street sprinkling.

Last evening the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns was celebrated with much style at a banquet given by the Burns Club, at the Pacific Hotel. Over a hundred persons sat down to dinner. Mr. John Nicholson, President, occupied the chair. Several toasts were proposed and responded to, and the proceedings were diversified by many excellent songs.

We publish in another column a list of failures in this city for the four weeks ending January 25, which totals aggregate liabilities of over eight million dollars, of which the assets will cover about one-fourth.

An interesting compilation of religious intelligence will be found on the eleventh page of this morning's Herald.

action in relation to the cable that is to connect Florida, Nassau, N. P. St. Thomas, Barbados, Trinidad, Demara and Brazil. An English Monitor had arrived at Kingston, Jamaica.

An ordinance was proposed in the North Carolina Convention yesterday to the effect that the Convention has the right to declare null and void all laws and acts, except those relating to marriage, of previous Conventions and Legislatures until the meeting of the next General Assembly.

It was stated in the Georgia Convention yesterday that General Stead had applied to General Grant for the loan of a sufficient amount of the funds sent by the State of Georgia to pay its indebtedness to the government on the Western and Atlantic Railroad, to defray the expenses of the Convention, and that General Grant favors the proposition so far as his power extends.

The members of the Arkansas Reconstruction Convention yesterday voted themselves \$8 per day and thirty cents mileage each way.

Captain Augustus Depuyter, late Governor of the Salton's "Sour Harbor," who has been missing since Thursday last, was found yesterday drowned in a small packet ship, the *Drummond*, sailing between Liverpool and London, and was one of the oldest captains sailing out of this port.

A resolution was introduced in the Quebec House of Assembly yesterday that Parliament should devise some measures to arrest the great emigration of the inhabitants of that province to the United States.

The old meeting house in Newbury, Mass., erected in 1806, was burned yesterday morning. The bell was among the oldest in the country, having been cast in London in the year 1705.

The bonded warehouses of Mattison & Co., in New Orleans, were destroyed by fire on Friday night, involving a loss of \$200,000.

The Rev. George W. Bush, of the Central Ohio Conference, committed suicide yesterday by hanging himself.

Mr. William D. Bishop, it is said, will be appointed Commissioner of Patents in place of Mr. Teaker.

War Alarms in Europe. It is only a few days since we expressed our opinion as to the probable consequences of the new French Army bill. Our worst fears promise to be realized quite as soon, if not sooner, than we had expected. Our latest telegrams are far from reassuring as to the continuance of peace on the European Continent. Provincial revolutions are announced as having broken out in Spain; *coups d'Etat* are contemplated in Portugal; in Russia the press criticizes the French position and expresses defiance; the French press informs us that Russia is the only Power not now in harmony with the rest of Europe; and, to crown the whole, France, it is reported, is about to negotiate an extraordinary loan of seven hundred and fifty millions of francs. There are two inferences which this exhibition of the case renders irresistible. The first is that the European Powers, one and all, are in a state of discontent and uncertainty compared to which war itself would be a positive relief.

The second is that in the event of present complications leading to war France and Russia, rather than France and Germany, will, with subordinate help on either side, appear as the great rival combatants. The present alarm, as we have said, is due mainly to the measures which France is adopting to re-establish herself as the umpire of Europe. We are not by any means satisfied of the Emperor Napoleon means war. He is far more ambitious of power in the councils of the nations than of victory on the battle field. War becomes probable only in those circumstances in which this power is persistently ignored by the other nations. The new Army bill places Napoleon as well as France in a new and more favorable position. If the power now at the Emperor's command is courteously and respectfully acknowledged by the rest of Europe, Napoleon is too much a man of modern ideas and too keenly alive to the follies of his uncle to allow war to form part of his programme. War will only be resorted to when the honor of France and the prestige of the Emperor render it absolutely necessary.

It is impossible, however, even while crediting Napoleon with the best and noblest intentions, to refuse to admit that the European situation is critical in the extreme. There are little difficulties in Italy, in the Iberian peninsula, on the German frontier, on the shores of the Baltic, in the Christian provinces of Turkey, any one of which may at any moment assume such proportions as to precipitate war on the Continent. But every one of these difficulties is even now loudly demanding solution. If Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Prussia, Russia, gratefully accept the Emperor's advice and follow it, all things will go on well and peacefully enough. But will the Emperor's advice be so taken? The presumption is that it will not. French dictation has for the last fifteen years been carried so far that it has quite undone itself. The nations no longer tremble at the nod of the Jupiter of the Tuileries. So long as France was surrounded on all sides by numberless petty governments her immediate neighbors had no choice but to obey. Now, however, that Italy has become a unit on the one hand and Germany a unit on the other—now, in fact, that the immediate neighbors of France have entirely changed their character and have grown in strength as they have diminished in number—the voice of France is naturally less powerful. France, of course, by the new army arrangements will be able to present a more formidable front to the nations; but it is by no means certain that the force she has acquired from within will be sufficient compensation for the losses she has sustained without. That French dictation will continue may be taken for granted, but that French dictation will be accepted and followed is less likely than ever. It is this which makes war a probability in the early future.

We do not feel that we would be justified in making much of either the Italian or Iberian question. They do not necessarily involve a European struggle, nor do they necessarily tie up the hands of Napoleon. It is in the power of the Emperor so to arrange matters in both peninsulas as to convert both into sources of powerful material help. The real difficulties are to be sought on the Rhine and on the Danube. The tendency of the South German Confederation is to draw the bonds of alliance closer with its sister in the North. A closer alliance than that which now exists France will be certain to oppose. It is our opinion, however, that if the life of Count Bismarck is spared the complete unification of all the German provinces will be so quietly and steadily effected that cause of war it will be impossible to find. Nothing but a fearful blunder on the one side or on the other will furnish the occasion for war between France and Prussia. We cannot speak in the same terms of the war cloud which is already looming up portentously in the East. Russia has not forgotten the Crimean war; nor has she in the least abandoned her ambitious designs upon Constantinople. The state of feeling which now exists among

the Christian subjects of the Porte, both Greek and Slavonic, is entirely to her mind and will. She is, she persists in regarding herself, their natural protector, and nothing but defeat in another gigantic struggle will compel her to abandon her purpose regarding them. Russia is already at fever heat. No such a stupid combination, of which France is the life and soul, hinders her from marching to her predestined end. Events are ripening in the East rapidly under Russian guidance and control. Russia, in truth, is revealing a disposition to precipitate events. French dictation, in regard to the affairs of the East generally and to the conduct of Russia in particular, is an immediate certainty. That Russia will resent such dictation is just as certain. Neither Power is in a mood to yield. War, and war alone, can settle the question between them; and war between these Powers will range Europe in two great hostile divisions.

Theatrical Music. It is seldom that the voice of prophecy or warning has its value exemplified within such limit of time as will permit of its receiving due appreciation or acknowledgment; seldom, indeed, that the consequences foretold follow so rapidly and with such distinctive force as they have done in the case of our own romances against the incompetency of our orchestras. We have on more than one occasion lately called attention to theatrical music, pointing out how and why the band was usually the worst feature in the theatre, and showing that, although the conductor may in many instances be worthy of blame, a large share of the fault most commonly lays at the door of the management. For technical reasons, which every musician understands, the orchestra of a theatre, to be a good one, must be considered in a more liberal spirit than is, perhaps, absolutely essential for other auxiliary departments of the business; and where the manager, ignorant of music, ignores the advice of his leader and introduces his administrative power into the music circle he usually injures his own interests and illustrates the old saying of penny wise and pound foolish. While censuring that which is bad and against the permanent welfare of the theatre, we desire only to speak in the public interest and as well wishers to all our city houses, and feel more pleasure in acknowledging and applauding the results of care and liberality than in condemning the failings attributable to parsimony. "Painful qui marvell ferd" is the compass that guides our criticisms.

The instance that we allude to at the moment as showing the realization of our fears and the truth of our warnings occurs in the new spectacle at Niblo's Garden, and in speaking of this we would have it understood that we do not for a moment question the musical ability of the conductor at that theatre, nor are we in a position to state definitely that the blame we allude to that house is attributable to him alone. The "White Fawn" has been a long time in preparation; artists have been brought from theatres both at home and abroad to fill the several parts, and in point of fact London and Paris have been laid under contribution for every department. Gorgeous dresses, beautiful scenery and relays of ballet are there in such profusion as is seldom found in any one theatre; but where is the music? The introduction alone is worthy of being heard. For the rest it is unadorned, tuneless and totally without effect. The songs are badly accompanied and the assistance the singers should receive from the wind instruments is wanting. If an opportunity was ever found for musical display in such a piece as the "White Fawn" it exists in the procession that brings that play to a close, while the march that occurs in the earlier part of the piece affords room for grand orchestral effects. The final situation is so similar to one of the principal scenes in "L'Africaine" that we presume it has been borrowed from that opera, and for that admirable music was provided by Meyerbeer himself. Had the music as well as the scene been taken, or had the march from the "Prophece" the "Druid's March," or some other work of melody and instrumentation been used, the prosperity of the piece would have been considerably facilitated.

Many managers appear to think that, provided their company is a good one or their stars attractive, the orchestra is altogether a second consideration; but they make a great mistake. The audience are pleased or displeased with the general effect of the evening, and though few may take the trouble to analyze their pleasure or discontent, those who do so have generally something to say on the score of the music. To cite an instance from the Old World, it was neither Grisi nor Mario that made Covent Garden the first Italian Opera House in the world. It was Costa and his band; and his with other cases might be named to show that while a good orchestra may save or make the reputation of a theatre, a bad one will sooner or later destroy it.

The Fashions.—There is little novelty to record this month in the fashion line. The modistes are reserving themselves for a grand *coup d'etat* in the spring, and on opening day we may look out for a startling *pronouncement* from the headquarters of fashion. The toilets of this winter are very becoming, and it would be well for the ladies to exorcise a little judgment in making any change in their dresses and cloaks on opening day. The bonnets still retain their microscopic dimensions and variety of ornamentation. There are some very rich and elegant colors, or rather shades of ordinary colors, to be seen on the robes of our leading belles. The unbecoming Bismarck brown is still worn, although to a limited extent. No lady of taste or refinement would select such a shade of brown for her toilet. The styles which have been imported from Paris by our leading modistes have undergone so many modifications to suit the tastes of the metropolitan ladies that they may now be called American styles. Such independence of spirit on the part of our ladies is gratifying and augurs an early emancipation from the dictates of Paris modistes.

A PALPABLE HIT.—Senator Doolittle's star reply to Senator Nye, of Nevada, when asked whether he would march under the "Old Glory" or the Stars and Bars. "I would march," said Doolittle, "under a flag having thirty-seven stars!" Nye had to fall back under the shelter of his Jacobin flag of only twenty-seven stars for protection, amid the laughter and applause of the galleries.

Delmonico and the Sportsmen's Club—A Great Pun About a Little Trout.

Delmonico, the traditional caterer, of more importance to a dinner to than the guests themselves, has fallen into a muddle with the New York Sportsmen's Club, through the revelations of an editor of the *Citizen*, who most likely is not accustomed to trout, either in season or out of it. The facts are curious. Some time since a breakfast to General Sheridan was given at Delmonico's. It being no season for trout, and the guests wanting trout regardless of the times and seasons, Delmonico's "subs"—for the king of caterers was not in the country—were at some pains to procure trout, thus exhibiting an enterprise which cannot be too highly commended to restaurant managers. Sheridan partook of trout out of season; so did the guests in general; so did, no doubt, the editor of the *Citizen*, who, discerning no difference in fish, ate thereof, and was not aware of the quality of the fish until after he had partaken. We are not informed as to which editor of the paper was present. It might have been the dramatic; it might have been the psalm singer of the immortal weekly; it might have been the sporting editor; it might have been him of the Sportsmen's Club who was betrayed into gulping trout out of season—though certainly a member of the Club should have known his trout at sight. It might have been either of these or some other, for weekly journals are sometimes remarkable for the number and industry of their editors. It matters not. The deed was done, and it was enough. Remorse of conscience followed, demonstrating the editorial incapacity for swallowing even so small a matter as a trout without compunction of conscience and due apology to the animal swallowed.

The trout was delinquent when it came into the hands of the cook, therefore there could be no complaining to Mr. Bergh, except on the ground of cruelty to those that ate it; the trout had been eaten and was half digested, therefore there could be no amending of the misdeed except with tartar emetic—an antidote not good to take after breakfast. The next best thing was done. The editor lodged a formal complaint with the New York Sportsmen's Club; made affidavit that he had unwittingly eaten trout out of season, and that, too, at Delmonico's; swore that the military digestion of the gallant Sheridan had been compelled to digest trout out of season; averred that the guests in general had breakfasted on trout out of season, and prayed that legal proceedings might be instituted against Delmonico, not to compel him to take back the trout and refund, but to compel him to furnish gratis a breakfast of trout in season by way of apology for what could not be mended.

In this matter Delmonico has slyly outwitted his persecutors, who are likely to be done out of the suit for flagrant violation of the game laws. The smooth gentleman has, in expressive phrase, proved "too many" for them, and in a recent letter of apology declares that he was out of the country at the time, that the poor trout eaten out of season has his warmest sympathies, that he himself belongs to the Southside Club, at Islip, and that the "sub" who did the trout to death and after it was dead has been duly reprimanded. The New York Sportsmen's Club has been, therefore, adroitly flanked, and the breakfast of trout in season is lost. Meantime, we must advise Delmonico that the whole matter is wrong. It is American to have trout at all seasons, and Americans are a free people and will have their own way. The Czar of Russia used to import foreign fish in tubs of water and alive at all seasons; and there is no reason why Delmonico should not be the Czar of caterers—an autocrat in trout trade, serving them at what season he likes. Let Delmonico stand his ground, therefore, and decline to be done either legally or illegally out of the coveted breakfast.

Economy and Death. The recent car accident in Brooklyn, by which an aged lady was instantly killed, has gone into the past with the legal investigation which terminated in the discharge of the driver of the street car. We shall hear no more about the affair, and the names of the unfortunate victim must wander unavenged. But the evidence of the driver revealed some information rather alarming to passengers on the Brooklyn City Railroad and pedestrians who may happen to cross the tracks in the vicinity of the terminus of the roads. It appears that the humane directors of the company allow the drivers no time for meals except such few moments as they may snatch at the end of the line by making "headway"—that is, getting in a few minutes ahead of time; so that if there is no headway there is no food, for the driver is strictly forbidden to eat anything on the cars. Now, this headway is made by these poor fellows—who are kept seventeen hours on the road—by driving the horses to their utmost trotting capacity for several blocks as they approach the terminus; and it was by this process that the lady was slaughtered on Graham avenue. The driver swears that he had eaten no breakfast. He was therefore hurrying for a chance of a mouthful at dinner time. The pressure was upon the horses, which were going at a full trot. The brakes were apparently inoperative, and the unwary victim was trampled down by the animals and almost out to wain by the car wheels.

It would be absurd in such a case to lay the whole blame upon the driver, although to trifle with human life, even to appease an eager appetite, is a thing not to be pardoned. The blame lies most heavily upon the designers of that inhuman system which compels a man either to starve at his labor or to imperil the lives of his fellow citizens by driving at a dangerous pace through a public thoroughfare. The directors cannot shield themselves from the charge of encouraging this fast driving—may more, they are open to the accusation of commanding it; for it is impossible to expect that their employes can travel all day without food, and as long as they are "allowed" no time to eat they will certainly make the time at all risks; and who can reproach them?

We are weary of calling upon the proper authorities to make an example of some railroad directors when disasters of this kind occur on their roads; but we think that in this instance, where the cause of the calamity is so directly traceable to the rules of the company, their regulations ought to be subjected to a strict investigation to see if there be any others on the schedule as brutal as this one, sanctioned by a like inhuman system of economy, which regards not human blood.

The Decay of Pulpit Influence in America—Some Hints to Our Clergymen.

Every commercial community—in so far as it attends to religious matters at all—is naturally conservative and practical in its theories of religion. Nor is New York any exception to the workings of this principle, as is thoroughly manifest from the decay of Bostonisms in this city, especially within the last ten years. Notions of the genesis of things, vague theories upon very vague topics, queer quips about the relations of trinity and unity, which, borrowed from Boston, were formerly affected by metropolitan thinkers, have now gone out of date, or have been buried fossil-deep under the layers of vigorous practical thought which the present generation of New York thinkers has developed. Boston, which ten years since affected the lax and liberal, now affects the German in religious thought—borrows extensively from German rationalism, mysticism and criticism, and, with true Bostonian instinct, insists loudly that what it borrows and retails considerably diluted is of its own invention and quite original. With the exception of the clerical fraternity neither of these peculiarities of Boston thought has any currency in this city; and in making this exception we are giving one reason for the decay of clerical influence here.

Some years since the metaphysical was in vogue and popular. Fashionable people, not over fond of being reminded of their sins and selfishness, were exceedingly glad that the minister found it convenient to talk about something which nobody could understand, not even the talker himself. At that time, too, Theodore Parker, famous for philosophical abstractions, which were mostly abstracted from the German, was in the zenith of his reputation. New York copied the Parker cant about the "divinity in humanity," the "absolute human," the "goodness of physics" and the like; and as to the New England pulpit, it was simply a vast force pump, deluging Yankee congregations with Parker diluted in water and sweetened to taste. To these phrases the Yankees sniffed their huzzas, and matters got on swimmingly for a decade or more.

The thought of the great mass has outgrown the stilted lucubrations of that day—a fact of which clergymen seem to be utterly forgetful. Pulpit influence is, therefore, on the wane; not because the people have no reverence for the pulpit *per se*, but because the pulpit has no sympathy with the people. At present, in religious worship, the musical element is everything; and the sermon is of no earthly account; and yet clergymen will keep on retailing the same dreary, dunderheaded platitudes as formerly, which, because they mean nothing, are very easy to say. To the people these platitudes are no longer either morally or intellectually tonic. Maudlin sentiment and maudlin transcendentalism have ceased to be effective. The popular mind cannot at this day be fed with shadows. It demands something with blood and pulse in it; and, instead of declaiming against the callousness of the public, it would be well for clergymen to set about amending their own stupidity. The clerical cant must be dropped; pulpit orators must stuff less from musty volumes and think more, or pulpit influence as a power in the land is likely to be snuffed out altogether.

We want no clerical cant; we want no parade of dead dogmatics. We want strong, healthy, vigorous thought from the pulpit; and from the pulpit we must have it, or we shall look elsewhere before buying. It is useless for the pulpit to affect Delphic oracles, after the manner of Carlyle and Emerson. Any man who has clear ideas upon what he is talking about can and will express his ideas with precision and intelligibility; and if any man be unable to express himself intelligibly we can really see no especial propriety in his expressing himself at all. But the clerical seer will say in defence of his unintelligibility:—"I am a transcendentalist; I speak of things in *poese* as well as of the things in *esse*; and I am not profound to be comprehended, and I am not, therefore, to be hampered with the ordinary modes of English; if I vaticinate at all I must vaticinate in my own peculiar English, and vaticinate I must vaticinate with the excess of my inspiration." Very well; vaticinate. Suck your thumb—that is an evidence of profundity too profound to be spoken. All we ask is that you vaticinate in good English or cease vaticinating altogether. You may perish with the excess of your inspiration; but if you should we will see that you are decently buried, which is all a transcendentalist has a right to expect, and more than most of them get.

But, to be serious—and we always like to be so, if possible—the decadence of clerical influence in New York city—a decadence of which clergymen themselves complain bitterly—is largely due to this same affected mouthing of the obscure. Nine out of ten of all the sermons weekly delivered from our pulpits are simply clever bits of circumlocution, thirty-six written sheets of about and about and all the way round to nonsense and nothing. There is no directness, no earnestness, no intelligible meaning in them—no bold, manly thought for people who think, no sympathy with the human needs of a great commercial community. They are simply moral nothingness decked about and sugar-coated with rhetorical flourishes.

The style of clerical composition needs pruning. It is too indirect, too smooth, too wordy, too flaccid. Plain English is the true rhetoric of the age. Ideas in themselves are what are wanted from the pulpit, and the sooner a recognition of this fact is extended the better. The people have had enough of political, social and moral abstractions from the sacred desk—enough and more than enough of the former especially. The Union square apostle has by the logic of events been compelled to give place to pictorial travesties of Bunyan, as the Plymouth apostle, to gain a fresh lease, has been compelled to eke out his breath upon the shoulder of Dickens. Henceforth there must be thought in the pulpit, or the people will not listen. They cannot be beguiled with twaddle; they cannot be hoodwinked with vague generalities about universal freedom. They demand clergymen who think—think intelligibly and in sympathy with their needs. The day of pulpit sensations has passed; we must now have a sound pulpit literature or nothing. Thus far our religious literature has been sensational, ephemeral, contemptible. There has been no *poebulum* in it, and this fact furnishes a third and conclusive reason for the fact that the pulpit in America has no adequate influence upon American thought. Morbid intellectual dyspepsia cannot be expected either to feel or

think vigorously; and morbid mental dyspepsia most of our clergymen are—men who mingle little with common humanity, understand little of its needs and temptations, and, wrapping themselves about with cloaks of fashion, wonder that the world will not listen to their prating.

We say it deliberately, a new order of affairs must be inaugurated, or the influence of the pulpit is gone. In New England the people as a rule are in thought ahead of the pulpit; in New York the people have no sympathy with the morbid nothingness of pulpit talkers; and in the West the tendency to speculative scepticism, just beginning to crop out, is stronger than the whole army of clergymen throughout the Union. Everywhere the pulpit is inadequate to the wants of the people, and is likely so to remain until it studies the people and draws the inspiration of its thought from their needs, and not from Carlyle, Emerson, Parker or theological dogmatics.

The War in Abyssinia—England on the Eve of Telegram with Theodoros.

By special telegram from Abyssinia, forwarded by way of London and through the Atlantic cable, we were enabled to announce yesterday the important fact that the British expeditionary army, under command of Major General Napier, marching from the place of landing at Anseley Bay, had arrived in position of the camp of King Theodoros, fixed in a position near to and most likely covering his palatial stronghold at Magdala. General Napier had thus, with that promptness which characterized all his movements in India and China, narrowed the difficult question existing between Queen Victoria and the African potentate to a very simple point—the release of the prisoners, a complete indemnity, of course, of course. As our special despatch was dated at Zoolia on the 14th inst. it is very probable that result has been already obtained. The conflict may have taken place and the prisoners released, or they may have been summarily executed even before the engagement commenced. As the most important consequences will ensue from either event later advices from the seat of war in Africa will be looked for with great interest.

King Theodoros is placed in a very difficult position. Surrounded by jealous and rebel chiefs, he is called on by the representative of one of the most powerful military nations of the world to do an act at the point of the sword to which he haughtily refused to accede through diplomacy or Christian mission. Yielding or vanquished, his illustrious ancestral claims, his dynasty, his rigorous halo, discipline and self-denial avail him nothing, and he will have to endure the mortification and humiliation of beholding his more docile countrymen subjugated and "put to work" universally, and the most ancient Continent on earth fall gradually under the dominion of the plain master of fact, yet unsubmitted, masters of Hindostan. The glories of a thousand years of successful defiance to the warlike Mahomedans on the frontiers will have been dissipated and in his hands.

Easy, good-natured people have imagined, indeed, that the very appearance of British troops in Abyssinia would have accomplished all this. It is prudent, however, not to venture too far on theories and chances in calculating the consequences of this war.

The English expedition to Abyssinia is a difficult undertaking, and the selection of such a man as Sir Robert Napier for its chief command proves of itself that the difficulty was duly estimated by the authorities. King Theodoros may endure a series of defeats in his mountain defiles. In such a war England can suffer the loss of only one battle. The undertaking is not popular with the millions in Great Britain. It is known to them merely as the cause of an addition to the income tax, and their inclinations prompt them rather to save that extra penny immediately and postpone the calculation of the prospective profits of the war. The expression and tone of the most recent mail advices from England on this subject indicate pretty plainly to us that the country would scarcely bear the publication of news of a victory by Theodoros, and changes, political and social, of the most marked character might follow all over the United Kingdom after the announcement. The ministers of the Crown would be held directly responsible for loss or blunder by some very plain expression of public feeling; so that it is of the utmost consequence, both to Queen Victoria and Earl Derby, that General Napier should be completely successful over her Majesty's able admirer from the very beginning.

Whatever can be accomplished by twenty thousand brave soldiers, supplied with all the modern appurtenances of war—whatever English "pluck," endurance and good generalship can do will be done, and the British in Abyssinia must, we think, rely more on these than on the promises of African rebels or the expected exhaustion of Theodoros. In confirmation of the accuracy of this view of the case, we need only refer to our special telegram from Senate, published to-day, which informs us that the hitherto avowed friendship of one of the great Tigre chiefs for the English is doubtful.

Musical Publications.

It is not very creditable to some of our music publishers for the public to know their mode of transacting business in publishing either trash or pieces stolen from European composers. A music publisher has a business reputation to take care of, and he should not sacrifice it for the sake of immediate gain. When a young man comes to him with a composition that is not worth even the manuscript, much less being engraved, the publisher should remember that the publication of such a piece inflicts incalculable injury on his business reputation and is an insult to his customers. The same may be said of any piece that is stolen, not for note, from an opera or other work and brought to the publisher by the pilferer. The bargain is sometimes concluded in this manner: The person who brings a piece of music for publication will tell the publisher that he can effect the sale of one hundred copies among his friends, and the publisher, although well aware of the character of the composition, consents to its publication. If this be not a clear case of humbugging the public and degrading art, then the trade of the individual who exhibits a monkey with a fish's tail as a Pelee mermaid, or a deformed negro as a gorilla, is an honorable one, and such actions should be incorporated by us as got of the Legislature. Yet we have a few