NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXXIII..... No. 31

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

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

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—LITTLE NELL AND THE MARCHIONESS.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—WATCHMAN AND HIS DOGS—WIFE FOR A DAY—DON JUAN.

NEW YORK THEATRE, opposite New York Hotel.—UNDER THE GASLIGHT.

FIKE'S OPERA HOUSE, 23d st., corner Eighth av.—RIGOLETTO.

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

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

BANVARD'S OPERA HOUSE AND MUSEUM, Broadway and Thirtieth street.—NOBODY'S DAUGHTER.

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

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—HANLON COMBINATION TROUPE.

STEINWAY HALL.—GRAND CONCERT.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

New York, Friday, January 31, 1868.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated yesterday evening, January 30.

Herr Twesten, who was imprisoned for words spoken in debate in the North German Parliament, has been liberated. The religious classes of England advise Lord Derby to settle the Alabama claims. A Fenian head centre has been arrested in Cork. The question of more freedom for the press is under discussion in the French Legislature. A portion of the French expeditionary corps will remain in Rome.

Consols 93⅝ a 93¾ in London. Five-twenties 72 a 72¼ in London and 75⅞ a 76 in Frankfort. Rentes upward on the Paris Bourse.

Cotton firmer, with middling uplands at 7¾ pence. Breadstuffs heavy. Provisions without marked change.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday the bill in addition to the Tenure of Office act was discussed without coming to a vote. Mr. Cragin took the floor to debate on the Reconstruction bill and was followed by Mr. Hendricks, between whom and the republican members an interesting discussion ensued.

In the House a resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to investigate the reports that one of the Judges of the Supreme Court (supposed to be Judge Field) had declared privately that the Reconstruction acts were unconstitutional, and to report if such a remark constituted sufficient ground for impeachment, was introduced, and after some debate was adopted. The consideration of the bill concerning the rights of American citizens abroad was resumed, and after a lengthy speech by Mr. Wilson and the adoption of some amendments the bill went over.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate yesterday notice was given of bills to incorporate the New York City Central Underground Railway, and repealing the act for an experimental railway in New York and Westchester counties. The bill to extend the time for the collection of taxes in certain towns was passed.

In the Assembly the bill to extend the time for the collection of taxes was advanced to a third reading and passed. Bills were introduced to regulate South and Hamilton ferries, to abolish the Metropolitan Police district, to amend the Croton Aqueduct act, to amend the Metropolitan Fire District act, and for the better security of passengers on railroads.

THE CITY.

The Board of Councilmen met yesterday afternoon. A resolution was adopted directing the Street Commissioner to notify the persons owning the obstructions on the pier at the foot of Forty-seventh street, North river, to remove them forthwith. Resolutions were offered and laid over in favor of paving, with the Nicolson pavement, Thirty-third street from Fifth to Sixth avenue, Washington place from Broadway to University place, Twenty-seventh street from Fifth to Sixth avenue, Great Jones street from the Bowery to Broadway, William street where not already paved with Belgian pavement, Twenty-fourth street from Broadway to Sixth avenue, and Sixth avenue between Forty-second and Fifty-ninth streets.

A very enthusiastic mass meeting was held last evening in the Cooper Institute, under the auspices of the "Constitution Union," convened to give expression to public opinion against the "unconstitutional acts of a majority in Congress." One of the resolutions stated in substance that the meeting was not called to nominate directly or indirectly a candidate for the Presidency. Telling speeches were delivered, most of which favored Johnson for the Presidency. A good band of music was in attendance. The whole audience were in the best of humor, and the proceedings were brought to a close in the greatest harmony, and the audience separated with rousing cheers for "Johnson, our next President." General Grant's name was received with strong expressions of disfavor.

A young man, named Benjamin F. Bache, son of Surgeon Bache, of the Naval Laboratory, shot himself in the head in the presence of his affianced, at her residence in Bridge street, Brooklyn, yesterday. The cause is supposed to have been unreasonable jealousy.

In the Court of Common Pleas yesterday, before Judge Barrett, a motion was made to vacate the order of arrest of Daniel Noble, who was charged with being concerned in the robbery of $200,000 in bonds, securities, &c., from the office of the Royal Insurance Company. The Court reserved decision.

The Inman line steamship City of Antwerp, Captain Minshouse, will leave pier 45 North river at 1 P. M. to-morrow (Saturday) for Queenstown and Liverpool. The mails for Ireland, Great Britain and the Continent will close at the Post Office at 12 M. on Saturday.

The fine steamship France, Captain Grace, of the National line, will sail from pier 47 North river at noon to-morrow (Saturday) for Liverpool, calling at Queenstown to land passengers.

The Anchor line steamship United Kingdom, Captain Donaldson, will leave the company's new pier No. 20 North river at noon to-morrow (Saturday) for Liverpool and Glasgow, calling at Londonderry to land passengers.

The steamship George Washington, Captain Gager, of the Cromwell line, will sail from pier No. 9 North river at three P. M. to-morrow (Saturday) for New Orleans direct.

The popular sidewheel steamship San Jacinto, Captain Atkins, of the Empire line, will leave pier No. 13 North river at three P. M. to-morrow (Saturday) for Savannah, connecting at that city with steamers for the Florida ports.

The stock market was dull yesterday. Government securities were steady. Gold closed at 140¼ a 140¾.

The livestock markets exhibited no new features of consequence. Beef cattle were only moderately active; but prices were steady, ranging at from 13c. to 17½c. for common to good grades, with arrivals of about 160 head at Hudson City and 400 at 100th street. Swine advanced a trifle with a brisk demand, fair to prime selling at 7½c. a 7¾c. per lb., the receipts being 2,273 head—1,973 at Communipaw and 300 at Fortieth street. Sheep were in fair demand and steady at 5c. a 7½c. for common to extra; sixty-one car loads arrived at Hudson City.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the Constitutional Convention yesterday a section of the article on the powers and duties of the Legislature was adopted, forbidding the granting of the right to construct street railroads without the consent of the municipal authorities and the owners of one-third of the property on the proposed route. Three sections of the report of the Committee on Cities were adopted relative to the powers and duties of Mayors, Comptrollers and other municipal officers.

In the Virginia Convention yesterday several unparliamentary epithets were exchanged between two members of antagonistic politics, and considerable confusion ensued, but no fight.

The South Carolina Convention yesterday ejected the police whom the Military Commander had sent to preserve order. Propositions were introduced that Congress loan destitute planters from $1,000,000 to $2,000,000, and to divide the State lands into small farms for sale to the poorer classes.

In the Georgia Convention a proposition was made to ask Congress to loan the destitute planters in the South $30,000,000, to be secured by mortgages.

Governor Jenkins has notified the military appointees who act as Governor and State Treasurer of Georgia that he files a bill in the Supreme Court enjoining them from using the State money.

Sergeant Bates, who is walking from Vicksburg to Washington with the Stars and Stripes, arrived in Jackson, Miss., yesterday, and was kindly received by the citizens.

Rival companies having settled their differences, it is now highly probable that St. Louis will have a bridge across the Mississippi.

It was rumored in Atlanta yesterday that General Meade had asked to be relieved.

Mr. Thad Stevens' Bill for the Reconstruction of the Northern States.

Mr. Stevens proposes that Congress shall by law define who shall vote for members of that body in the several States; which seems to imply that he does not know that this point is expressly fixed in the constitution and that no mere Congressional enactment can change it. The second section of the first article of the constitution reads as follows:—"The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States; and the electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature." Here is certainly a clear declaration as to who shall vote for members of Congress. It is most positively the intention of this clause to make such a declaration. The right to say who shall vote for Congressmen is, beyond cavil, left with the States themselves, because it is purposely made dependent upon a point that no power outside of a State is competent to determine. It has never yet been urged by even the wildest centralizationist that the general government could dictate to a State in the function of choosing its local Legislature. That is the inner circle of its separate existence—the vital point in its machinery; without that right it falls to pieces. This is certainly, above all others, "one of the powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States," and which powers, therefore (to still quote the constitution), "are reserved to the States respectively;" and the determination who shall vote for the most numerous branch of the State Legislature determines who shall vote for members of Congress. As this is a fixed point in the constitution, nothing, of course, but a constitutional amendment can change it; and the proposition to change it by bill argues either ignorance that the point is fixed, or a revolutionary indifference to such points equally characteristic of Mr. Stevens and his party.

If the member from Pennsylvania should condescend to any argument in this matter—if he should so far acknowledge the binding force of the constitution as to care that his law shall agree with it—he will probably endeavor to base it on the fourth section of the same first article. This section reads thus:—"The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time, by law, make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators." This seems to give Congress authority in the case, but in fact does not. Here a certain power is recognized as primarily belonging to the States; and Congress is permitted to assume it, under restriction, for the purpose only of fixing the time, place and manner of holding the elections. Under cover of these words Congress can find no pretext for touching the qualification of electors; for it could only find it by implication, and a power cannot be based on the implication of one section when it is positively denied, and intended to be denied, by the express declaration of another. Indeed, if this fourth section were not to be construed in the light of the first, the present Congress might make itself a permanently sovereign body. It could do this as easily as it can do what Mr. Stevens' bill proposes, and has the same authority. Mr. Stevens proposes to wipe out that part of the second section of the first article that leaves it to the States to define who shall vote for members; and for this he can find only colorable power, if any. Suppose he should endeavor to legislate away the other clause of the same section—that which says that members shall be chosen "every second year." He could say that by the fourth section Congress is given power to fix the time for election, and may fix it fifty years hence. But it is plain this would be wresting terms; yet there is certainly as good a power in the fourth section to override one as another clause of the second section. If, therefore, Congress can change the suffrage in the Northern States it can also legislate itself permanently into office.

But this bill is only one more indication of the direction in which the nation drifts, or rather is driven, by the extravagant and reckless policy of these would-be rulers. It points to those encroachments on the liberties of the Northern people that must follow as a necessary consequence upon the destruction of constitutional government in the South; for if State lines and constitutional limits to the power of Congress are no safeguard in one State why should they be in another? Here, then, is made directly obvious to the people of the North how their interests are bound up with those of the people of the South; and in this bill they may, perhaps, even dimly see that there was some original error in conceding the first steps against the rights of States. Having conceded important steps against the States to this party of more than imperial arrogance, where will it stop? It is once more the old story of the trees and the axe. The woodman went into the forest and demanded of the fraternity of the trees the sacrifice of a single member to his necessity. All agreed to give up to him the slender ash. No sooner was the ash down than the woodman fitted its tough stem to the head of an axe, whose edge he laid so lustily to the roots of the "green-robed senators of mighty woods" that the forest began to disappear. "Ah!" murmured the oak, "if we had not consented to the fall of the first of our number we might have stood firmly for ages." The time is apparently not far distant when the Northern people may as vainly regret that in consenting to the exercise of an arrogant and outrageous power over the Southern people they gave a handle to be used against their own liberties.

Great Activity in Our European Diplomacy—What's in the Wind?

The diplomacy of the United States in Europe is particularly active just now; so much so, indeed, that it appears to us as if the monarchs and statesmen of that part of the world will soon have cause to regret our departure from the constitutional yet somewhat old-fogyish advice of George Washington when he recommended the nation to avoid as much as possible the "entangling" perplexities of foreign negotiation. We have progressed so far ahead of Washington's idea, however, that we have at present not only our commissioned representatives at the different courts of the Old World, but several special envoys, a good many roving diplomats and quite a number of individual citizens striking out for the establishment of new systems.

We find by our latest cable telegrams that a special agent of President Johnson has arrived in Rome on a secret mission to the Pope, and that General Carl Schurz was closeted with Count Bismarck in Berlin on the subject of some special American mission addressed either to the King of Prussia or the heads of the North German Confederation, we are not informed which. Messrs. Harvey and Hale are in Washington from Lisbon and Madrid, and although Mr. Harvey has been recalled there is little doubt but there is something of importance relative to the Iberian peninsula afloat, or else they would not be close to the President at such a time. The kings, queens and emperors will soon be waited on by Mr. Anson Burlingame, who, emerging from the antique recesses of Pekin, will plead the cause of dynastic right in China at the foot of their thrones on behalf of his friend the present ruler of that country.

Then we have individual representations such as that of the Chevalier Wikoff, of whom we have not heard much lately, but who is well received everywhere, and that of the Chevalier George Francis Train, who, like a thorough Fenian Head Centre—or Centaur, if the English like it better—compensates for Mr. Wikoff's modesty by forcing us to hear from him almost every hour in the day.

In view of this almost universal American diplomatic exertion we may with good reason inquire, What's in the wind? What is going on in Rome? Is the Pope to be requested to pray for the radicals or return a special ecclesiastical mission to Thad Stevens and the Congress generally, with the exception, perhaps, of the Honorables John Morrissey and Fernando Wood, who are in good odor with the Church already? Does his Holiness wish to sell us a port on the Adriatic or one on the Mediterranean? What is Carl Schurz doing in Berlin and where is Mr. Bancroft? Who will pay Mr. Burlingame? Who will pay Mr. Harvey? What amount of damages will that Irish policeman demand for being forced to hear Train read his own speeches? These questions, with others of like import, loom up from the European despatches relative to the progress of our diplomacy on the other side of the Atlantic every day; but we think they will not be replied to in any satisfactory manner until the Chevalier Wikoff makes a report.

Mount Vesuvius.

A special telegram to the HERALD, which we published yesterday, describes the culmination, as it were, of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius on the 28th inst. in an unusual and fatal catastrophe. The side of Mount Vesuvius opposite to the gate of Castel-Nuovo fell, tumbling outward. The detached portion buried several houses in the vicinity and overwhelmed carriages passing on the highway. This extraordinary event was attended with considerable loss of life, although the number of persons killed has not yet been ascertained. We have supplied our readers with information respecting this eruption, which has been steadily increasing in intensity and splendor. On the 31st of December the detonations, which were distinctly audible at Naples, became deafening to the adventurous observers who went up the mountain, and the scene presented by the eruption is described by correspondents of London journals as extremely magnificent. Curious travellers have, however, continued to make the ascent with their guides, so that we had been tempted to regard their descriptions as more or less exaggerated until we received our latest telegraphic despatch. It is now obvious that the marvellous perturbations of the globe which we have duly chronicled since the last meteoric shower are as striking at Mount Vesuvius as elsewhere, from the Indian Ocean to the West India islands, and, according to our latest letters from the city of Mexico, in the mud and water foundations of the "halls of the Montezumas." Nature has its mysterious and awful as well as its smiling aspects in the nineteenth century no less than in the old mythological times. It is now well nigh eighteen centuries since the first recorded eruption of Vesuvius buried the cities of Herculaneum, Pompeii and Stabiæ, with all their treasures. Not fewer than sixty eruptions have since taken place. In 1538 a volcanic cone was thrown up in the Bay of Baiæ. In 1631 streams of lava and boiling water were poured over the adjacent villages. The eruption in 1779 was one of the most terrible up to the present time. The present eruption threatens to show that, notwithstanding our boasted science, man is still powerless against the occult destructive forces of nature.

THE FORCE OF BAD EXAMPLE.—The frequency of murder, violence and the indiscriminate use of the knife and pistol, is having its effect upon the younger portion of the community. When children hear tales every day of homicide in the streets and in barrooms they not only become familiar with this kind of crime but they are led to its commission. We had a lamentable instance of this in Brooklyn on Wednesday, when two children, aged fifteen and thirteen, were arrested in the very act of murdering another child with a brickbat and a shovel. What can we expect from the immatured mind and ungoverned passions of childhood with so fearful an example every hour before them as the criminal records of this city present?

The Connecticut Democracy—Copperheadism Cropping Out Again.

The Connecticut democracy have had an enthusiastic State Convention, and have set up again their State ticket under which they wrested their Commonwealth from the republicans last spring. So far so good. But in their resolutions we discover some outcroppings of that old red sandstone copperhead formation which, in 1863, completely upset from one ocean to the other all those beautiful democratic calculations based upon their victories of 1862. For instance, in these Connecticut democratic resolutions of 1868 we find such suggestive expressions of indignation against the party in power as these:—"The present so-called Congress;" "they have denied the sovereign power of all the States;" "that the continued and increasing wickedness and usurpation of this fractional Congress;" "the destruction of State sovereignty;" "the domestic affairs of other sovereignties;" "the illegal acts of a dismembered Congress."

Now, these phrases mean something or nothing. If they mean anything they mean the reaffirmation of those South Carolina dogmas of State sovereignty and subordination of the general government to State sovereignty upon which the "so-called Confederate States" were organized and brought into war for the overthrow of the government of the United States. This "so-called Congress," this "fractional Congress," and "the illegal acts of a dismembered Congress," are terms of derision which involve the repudiation of all the acts of this Congress and of every Congress since the secession of South Carolina in 1860. According to these Connecticut democratic resolutions we have had no constitutional Congress since the secession of South Carolina, and all the sacrifices for the Union of a four years' war, and all the legislative acts of Congress since December 20, 1860, go for nothing. If we are to accept these Connecticut resolutions the seceding States were right in seceding, right in setting up a hostile confederacy, being sovereignties, and right if in giving up the war on their part as a failure they had demanded an immediate restoration to the Union, the same as if nothing had happened. On such issues as these the democracy cannot stand. The usurpations of this radical Congress are one thing upon which it may be fought with every hope of success to the attacking party, but the question of the illegality of this Congress as the legislative body of the nation is only a revival of the Chicago platform of 1864, which sided with the "State sovereignty" ideas of the rebellion and pronounced the war for the Union a failure.

The European Powers vs. Russia and the United States.

From a telegram which we published in yesterday's HERALD we learn that the army reconstruction bill has finally passed the French Senate. It was not doubtful that the bill would substantially become the law of France from the moment it was introduced into the Chamber of Deputies. It is not, therefore, any surprise that the bill has passed the Senate. It is, however, a matter of some interest that in the course of the debate an advanced liberal and an enlightened political economist should have assigned as his reason for opposing the bill his dread of the power of Russia and the ambition of the United States. M. Michel Chevalier opposed the bill, advised the cultivation of a closer alliance among all the nations of Europe, and spoke of Russia and the United States of America as Powers whose growing strength and unconcealed ambition were a cause of alarm to all the nations of Europe. We cannot say that M. Chevalier is wrong. He is learned and travelled, has lived in the United States, is a man of liberal ideas, and has correct notions of political economy, as is evident from the fact that he took an active part with the late Richard Cobden in carrying through the free trade treaty with England. M. Chevalier speaks, therefore, not without knowledge, and his remark is entitled to consideration. We know that we have no hostile intentions towards Europe so long as Europe behaves itself. Russia is a sensible Power and very much of our opinion. Russia and America are a fair match for the world in arms; and we echo M. Chevalier's sentiment by advising the nations, one and all, to cultivate the arts of peace. If they will blunder and misbehave, it may become the duty of the two young giants to correct them.

No More Contraction.

The anti-contraction bill passed by both houses of Congress has been before the President several days, and the fact that he has not yet signed it has given rise to rumors that he intends to veto it; but if he does so he will be very ill advised, and the result will be its passage over the veto by a two-thirds vote; for both Congress and the people are equally determined that Mr. McCulloch shall no longer have the power to contract the currency. The measure is one of imperative public necessity. The interests of the country demand that the volume of the currency shall neither be contracted nor inflated, and in order to secure this object Congress should pass a bill defining the Senate amendment to the bill already passed to include the compound interest notes outstanding as well as the three per cent certificates issued in exchange for those which have recently matured. Both of these are held as legal tenders by the banks and used like greenbacks as a portion of their reserve, and to cancel them without issuing their equivalent in new notes would be contraction to that extent. On the first of the present month there were about eighty millions of these in circulation, and it is important that this amount, or, what would be better, the same amount of non-interest bearing legal tenders in place of the interest bearing notes, should not be lost to the country after the exhausting drain it has undergone during the last eighteen months. Non-contraction, but not inflation, is what the people need.

Real Estate in This City—Its Value and Conditions Affecting It.

There is no department of industrial or speculative enterprise which presents so many and varied features in respect to its several conditions of price, demand, supply, inquiry, quality or quantity, as the aggregation of operations in lands and tenements, both at public and private sale, leasehold and freehold, which make up what men summarily describe as the real estate market. Different individuals view it from different standpoints, and consequently reach opposite conclusions, as the sum of their observations, more or less affected, no doubt, by personal interest in one way or the other. A survey of the situation, with a view to determine the correctness of one or the other deductions, establishes, however, the fact that neither is strictly correct, while both are to a certain extent true. The fact is, transactions in real estate this month give but very imperfect data upon which to base inferences respecting what the state of the market will be a few weeks hence. January is always dull, a lull in enterprise naturally succeeding the examination of a year's accounts, with their story of profit or loss; if the latter, retrenchment becoming necessary; if the former, grave consideration preceding any new investment. Greater activity is promised next month, and already announcements in large black letters adorn the fences and deadwalls about the city calling attention to many valuable lots offered for sale to the highest bidder. The value of real estate on this island has been well maintained throughout the various changes that have been so marked in the fluctuations in prices of all other marketable commodities during the last and previous years, and to-day in its aggregate it represents a higher value in dollars than ever before. Not alone is this the case, but in spite of special instances of depreciation, and notwithstanding its encumbrance by an irresponsible, spendthrift municipal administration, with a heavy and rapidly increasing burden of taxation, it is steadily advancing, more especially, or perhaps rather noticeably, up town. The various projects of bridging or tunnelling the East river, underground or elevated railways from the Battery to Harlem, a canal to connect the Hudson and Harlem rivers, or the removal of the obstructions at Hell Gate—all affect to a greater or lesser degree the value of real estate, this influence producing changes and fluctuations in price and demand according as they become the subject of discussion, and their feasibility or possible accomplishment is considered in a positive or negative sense. The opening of the new Boulevard will also have beyond doubt similar influence, the value of the land bordering on or adjacent to it being certain to be enhanced. This is already apparent from the sales that have thus far been made, but will be better observed when the publication of the awards takes place, many holders of lots thus interested being desirous of selling, but indisposed to do so until such time as they have learned the result of the appraisement. Present indications justify a conclusion that the value of real estate will advance, and with it the reduction in rents so anxiously hoped for by the overburdened working population of this city will be still further postponed. In the future, however, is to be found the solution of the problem thus raised. New York is but entering upon its career, and is destined at no distant day to become the great commercial centre of the world. Already its influence is felt throughout the extent of the United States; all the great steamship lines centre here, and soon when the great tramway which is to connect the two oceans and furnish a highroad for travel and transportation free from vexatious customs regulations is completed, it will be, as the Eastern terminus, the most important city in the world, the *entrepôt* of a continent enlarged and extended by the absorption within its political boundaries of all the neighboring islands. A rapid advance in the value of property here is, therefore, but the natural consequence of New York's destined future greatness; and as already land within twenty miles responds to the quotations of property in Fortieth street, so will all the surrounding cities feel the same improvement.

NOTES ON NEW BOOKS.

WOMAN'S WRONGS: A COUNTER IRRITANT. By Gail Hamilton. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1868.

This is a flippant, biting, noisy compound of argument and scolding—partly aimed at one Dr. Todd and stupid men in general, and partly and more wisely aiming to point out some fallacies of the "woman suffrage" theorists. Scarcely any person will read the first seventy pages and not concede that there is one right or wrong that woman fully enjoys with little dispute—that, namely, of fuming in print, or being inconsequent, nonsensical and ridiculous without limit, on tolerably fine paper and in good, clear type. This is the part in which the author toasts Dr. Todd. Perhaps the Doctor deserves all that the lady says of him; yet the good, easy man, as quoted in these pages, seems to have had at heart what Mistress Hamilton must certainly regard as an honest purpose, since all that part of the volume not specifically given up to scolding at the reverend worthy is specifically given up to the attempt to establish by argument and exclamation views essentially the same as the Doctor's. It may be, therefore, that the trouble between Hamilton and Todd is only that old and proverbial incompatability that still prevents agreement between "two of a trade."

Having gotten through that part of the volume which treats of the shortcomings of Todd, the reader will find that Mistress Hamilton's style improves with her temper. In all that early part she seems, in arguing against an adversary, to argue for the theorists, and her words are flimsy. In the part in which she points out the nonsense of the theorists she gives her thought in strong, clear lines, whence it may either be inferred that the former case, as she views it, is inherently feeble, or that her heart is in the latter view; for where her heart is must finally be a matter of inference, since, however positive she seems in style, she always rather tells what she would propose in a given contingency than what she actually does propose in this great open discussion of woman's relation to society. When she is positive it is on points so obvious and so often urged that they needed no new advocate. We have here what has been often enough seen before—a call on the world for arguments against woman's claim to vote. It is said "A remarkable feature of the discussion is the scarcity of reasons brought against female suffrage. * * * The burden of proof lies with those who deny the existence and the exercise of this right." Not at all; and such a thought could only be based on a misunderstanding of the simpler elements of argument. No one can be justly called upon to furnish reasons why women should not vote. Men stand upon the established order of things, in which the suffrage is denied to women. If anybody wishes to change that established order it is for that body to advance good and sufficient reasons for the proposed change, and it is for society to hear them, to answer them if it choose or be able, and then determine for or against. This misconception is one of the multitude of things in her book that Gail Hamilton has received and repeated from those who have gone over this subject before her.

Of course the relative capabilities of the subject could not go untouched, and we have the usual parade of the names of women who have proved themselves superior in some line to the average of male humanity. Is not this an argument more humiliating than any put forth by Todd? A woman argues the equal endowment of the sexes, and can number on her fingers the women who seem to fill her ideal of greatness, who could name in all Gail Hamilton's little volume the men who have been a thousandfold greater than any of these. Her very ability to name her women is the ruin of her argument.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT ASSOCIATION.

A numerously attended meeting of publishers and authors was held last evening at the Fifth Avenue Hotel for the purpose of forming an International Copyright Association, having offices in the different publishing centres of the four great nations mostly interested—namely, the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany—in which a book might be registered, and such registration should, so far as the organization is concerned, have the same effect as national law, or copyright law has at the present time.

Mr. EGBERT HAZARD desired, before the organization of the meeting, to state briefly the motives that had induced him to call it. He had travelled through the different countries of Europe during the last three or four years, and had encountered many authors, publishers and even readers of books who expressed a desire that some understanding between the different literary nations of the earth should be arrived at by means of which recompense might be yielded to authors for their labors in countries other than their own; and further, that on the part of readers some means be adopted by which, without studying so many languages, they would be enabled to extend their knowledge of the literature of other countries. The northern nations of Europe had been more earnest in their expressions. The literary men of Sweden and Norway were the first to appeal strongly to him upon the subject. He (Mr. Hazard) felt that they should be accorded the free privilege of translations. In conversing with publishers and authors in England the desire was universal, and they were willing to carry it out if assisted by their professional brethren on this side of the Atlantic. For the purpose of ascertaining the opinion of American publishers and authors this meeting had been called, and any measures that might be adopted here would secure the hearty co-operation of England and France.

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that Mr. Putnam be appointed president of the meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN remarked that he did not come prepared to take any active part in the matter, as he had not made it a subject of study, but was willing to act in any capacity that might be useful. Mr. M. N. Hurd was appointed Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN further observed that one of the last official acts of Mr. Everett when Secretary of State was an effort to effect a treaty for international copyright. Such treaty was prepared in expectation that it would be ratified by this Senate, but for some reason or other it fell through. The fact that the number of American books printed in England had largely increased was perhaps sufficient evidence that sooner or later it might be quite as much a selfish interest for American authors to have a copyright in England as it was for English authors to have a copyright here.

Mr. IVERSON supposed that the real question was to do justice to the great reading public, and at the same time to the authors. His firm paid on an average about $50,000 a year for the books published by them. If a plan would be devised by which the people could have cheap books, and, at the same time foreign authors have justice done them, it could undoubtedly be carried out. It seemed to him that the best mode would be to have a law passed by Congress and the British Parliament making it obligatory on the publisher to pay five per cent upon the wholesale price of the book belonging to a foreign author. Were such a law adopted there would be no opportunity for monopoly.

Mr. MILLER could not agree with the last speaker. He believed that authors were sufficiently remunerated abroad, and they ought to be satisfied with it. A great cry was raised about "poor authors," but he (Mr. Miller) never saw one yet. He was willing to pay authors as liberally as any one, but he objected to the plan proposed.

Mr. TOMPKINS, of England, said that the copyright in England was in a very unsatisfactory state, and it was absolutely necessary that some measures should be promptly taken for the benefit alike of publishers, authors and the reading public.

Mr. IVERSON desired to correct a misapprehension which Mr. Miller appeared to entertain. His (the speaker's) object was that there should be no restriction on publishers, but those who did publish should secure to authors this five per cent.

Mr. PRIME contended that if he wrote a book he had both a moral and a legal right to it the world over as well as to any other part of the property he possessed. Many of his works had been printed, and in one instance where upwards of one hundred thousand copies had been sold, on application to the English publisher he was forwarded the munificent sum of $100.

Mr. HAZARD earnestly wished that this meeting would take some forward steps in the formation of the society; for, fortified with our expression on this side of the water, there would then be plain sailing on the other. The publishers, authors and translators of Europe were willing to meet their American brethren on any just terms that they were disposed to present to them.

Dr. PRIME offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That this meeting is of opinion that measures should be adopted with a view to the establishment of international copyright between the United States and Great Britain and the nations of Continental Europe.

Resolved, further, That a committee of five be appointed to digest a system of regulation which may serve as a basis for an international copyright law, and to report at a future meeting, and that the chairman of this meeting be the chairman of the committee.

Dr. SHEPHERD proposed the following resolution, which was also adopted:—

Resolved, That it is expedient to make an appeal to the natural sense of justice and equity of the people of the United States on international copyright questions.

The following committee was then appointed:—Mr. Putnam, Rev. Dr. Prime and Messrs. James Parton, Egbert Hazard and Henry Iverson. The meeting then adjourned, subject to the call of the committee.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The Board of Health held their regular weekly meeting yesterday afternoon, the President, Dr. Crane, in the chair. The Commissioners occupied almost the entire session in amending and in some cases modifying certain sections of the regular "Regulations relative to the execution of orders, judgments, &c., of the Board." These regulations pertain exclusively to the internal workings of the Commission in its various departments, and were adopted some time ago, with a view to systematize the machinery of the Commission and so to fix the responsibility of the heads of each that there could be no technical methods by which those in the employ of the Board and who might not well perform the duties of their position could long draw pay without doing their duty.

A communication was received from Dr. Emerson, Sanitary Inspector, resigning his position under the Board. Among the applications for the position thus made vacant was one from a Dr. Lee, a relative of the rebel general of that name.

Pursuant to a recommendation of the attorney a resolution was passed authorizing him to commence suits against twelve persons who had refused to comply with certain orders made by the engineer in the way of not ventilating certain apartments in tenement houses, &c.

Dr. STONE, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the Sanitary Superintendent be directed to report to this Board all the information in his possession relative to the houses for the reception and boarding of newly born infants; to state where they are situated and by whom kept, and also to report the names of those physicians who, when children have died in these houses, have rendered false certificates to the Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Dr. STONE, in presenting the resolution, remarked that he believed that certain physicians in this city were in connivance with the keepers of these houses, and it was his desire that their villainy should be properly ventilated.

INTERNAL REVENUE MATTERS.

Some excitement was created at headquarters yesterday in consequence of the rumor that a conflict of authority existed between Collector Shook, of the Thirty-second, and Collector Bailey, of the Fourth district, growing out of a seizure made on Wednesday. The circumstances of the affair are these:—Inspector Craig, it appears, suspecting that there were irregularities and contraventions of the Revenue law in the manner in which business was being conducted at the rectifying establishment of Trott & Co., in Cherry street, detained all the whiskey therein and reported his action to Collector Shook, who thereupon put a man in charge of it. Shortly after this, and while the keeper placed in the establishment was in the performance of his duty, Colonel Porter, Collector Bailey's deputy, entered the premises, accompanied by other revenue officials, and made a formal seizure of the whole establishment. Collector Shook, however, refused to acknowledge the right of the Fourth district officers to assume any custody over the whiskey, and they left, it is said, taking with them the books and papers belonging to the establishment. Collector Shook's officer still in charge of the whiskey, and the whole matter has been turned over for investigation.

Collector O'Callaghan, of the Ninth district, yesterday placed under seizure the distillery of Eames & Ryan, in West Forty-ninth street. The charge against the establishment is not known.

Inspectors Rollins and Morgan report having seized the rectifying establishment of Wm. Kelly, 503 West Twenty-ninth street, on a charge that eight barrels of spirits had been delivered therefrom to Messrs. Watson & Crary without any entry of the same having been made on the books. It is further alleged that the spirits so delivered are of illicit manufacture.

The same officers also seized the rectifying establishment of Watson & Crary on the charge above mentioned.

Inspectors Smythe and Edsall yesterday seized twelve barrels of spirits found in a stable in Twenty-ninth street, near Tenth avenue, supposed to have been taken from Kelly's rectifying establishment in Twenty-ninth street and to have been illicitly distilled.

All the above seizures are to be investigated.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The first anniversary meeting of this association, established at the Northwest Reformed church, Twenty-third street, near Seventh avenue, was held last evening at the church, and was attended by a large portion of the congregation of the church and friends of the members. A pleasing programme had been arranged for the occasion, comprising music, prayer, reading of the Scriptures and addresses by the Rev. M. C. Sutphen, Rev. Dr. E. P. Rogers, and the Rev. H. D. Ganse, each of whom spoke in terms of the highest praise of the great good which an association such as the Young People's could accomplish, and of the amount of benefit already derived by the members of the congregation from the association already established. The President of the association read a short, concise report, showing that the members had not been idle during the twelve months which have elapsed since the formation of the society. The exercises closed with the singing of the doxology and a benediction by the pastor.