

NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXIII. No. 142

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—LITTA NELL AND THE MARCHIONESS.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—AMANDA OF LYONS—MORNING BROTHERS.

NEW YORK THEATRE, opposite New York Hotel—SHERIDAN'S NEW YORK.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway—FANCION, THE CUCKER.

MILLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—THE WHITE FAWN.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 11th street—FANCION.

FRENCH THEATRE, LES BRUX MESSURES DE BOIS-DORÉ, &c.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street—GYMNASIUM, EQUITATION, &c.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 84 Broadway—HAMILTON COMEDIAN TRUOPS AND MINISTERS CIRCUS.

KELLY LARON'S MINSTRELS, 78 Broadway—SONGS, DANCES, EXERCISES, &c.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 68 Broadway—EMMA'S ENTERTAINING MINSTRELS, DANCES, &c.

TOBY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 301 Bowery—COMIC VIOLETTA, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c.

MULLER'S AMERICAN THEATRE, 67 Broadway—MULLER, FINE, FANTASIES, &c.

STEINWAY HALL—GRAND CONCERT.

LYRIC HALL, No. 726 Sixth avenue—MR. JAMES H. MCGONAGLE'S READING.

BUNYAN HALL, Broadway and Fifteenth street—THE FLYING MACHINE, &c.

MRS. R. B. EDWARDS' PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn—MRS. EDWARDS' PARK THEATRE, &c.

ROOPLY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn—EMERSON'S MINSTRELS, BALLADS AND ROMANCES.

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

New York, Tuesday, February 11, 1868.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated yesterday evening, February 10.

The Italian Minister in London forwarded his resignation to the King. The German Customs Conference is likely to promote a reunion of Fatherland. Fenian riots, attended with deadly assaults on the police, took place in the streets of Cork. Warwick, England, was in active preparation against a Fenian surprise.

The Chinese imperialist claim very decisive victories over the rebel forces. The United States Minister Burlingame was at Shanghai, bound for America on a special mission from the Emperor in Peking. The natives were thrown into a panic in Shanghai and Ningpo by extraordinary shocks of earthquake.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, after the transaction of some unimportant business, the Reconstruction bill was taken up and Messrs. Harlan, of Iowa, and Tipton, of Nevada, made speeches upon it. The Senate adjourned.

In the House the usual number of bills and resolutions for reference were offered under the Monday call of States, among them one to provide for the exportation of distilled spirits in bond, and another providing for a gradual return to specie payments by the exchange of gold for legal tender notes after the 1st of December at the rate of one dollar in gold for one dollar and thirty cents in currency, the rate to be lowered one cent every succeeding month. A resolution declaring that the capital ought to be removed to the Valley of the Mississippi was rejected by 77 yeas to 97 nays.

The drawing of seats for members was then proceeded with. A resolution was adopted referring all business on impeachment before the Judiciary Committee to the Reconstruction Committee. The Executive, Legislative and Judicial Appropriation bill was considered in Committee of the Whole without a vote.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate yesterday notice was given of a bill to amend the ordinances relative to street paving contracts in New York. A resolution was adopted requesting the Comptroller, for the purpose of equalizing taxation, to furnish a list of all stock corporations in the State, with the amount of their capital, funded debt, number of shares, &c.

THE CITY.

The trial of Rev. R. H. Tyng, Jr., commenced before the Board of Freeholders at the chapel of St. Peter's church, West Twentieth street, yesterday. A letter from Jay Cooke was read by the President of the Board, urging that the lady were on the side of Mr. Tyng and that the Board ought not to render a decision calculated to increase differences in the church. The evidence for the prosecution was taken, showing that Mr. Tyng preached in a Methodist church at New Brunswick, read prayers out of a Methodist book of Common Prayer, gave out the lines of purely Methodist hymns, and wore, instead of the orthodox episcopal surplice and gown, a full suit of Methodist black. The assembly that formed the audience at the trial enjoyed some of the comical portions of it with great zest.

The Legislative Committee on Privileges and Elections, at present investigating the grounds on which Mr. Claussen petitions against the return of Mr. Van Brunt as member of Assembly from this city, resumed its sittings yesterday at the Metropolitan Hotel. A quorum not being present the proceedings were adjourned till Saturday next, at the Brevoort Hall.

The American Exchange National Bank, on Broadway and Cedar street, was discovered to have lost about sixty thousand dollars yesterday by the speculations of its assistant cashier.

There were 137 deaths in Brooklyn during the past week, of which twenty-three were from scarlet fever and one from smallpox.

The case of the United States vs. eighteen bales of blankets commenced before Judge Blatchford in the United States District Court was resumed yesterday, and was not closed at the rising of the court. Adjourned till this morning.

In the United States District Court yesterday, Judge Benedict presiding, Keis Erickson was put on trial on a charge of having stolen from one Herman Grotz, on board the steamer Muscovite, \$220. The case being submitted to a jury, that body failed to agree on a verdict and were discharged.

The hearing in the case of the United States vs. Jacob Lohenstein, charged with running an illicit distillery, was commenced yesterday before Judge Benedict, and adjourned till this morning.

Judge Benedict delivered judgment in the United States District Court, Brooklyn, yesterday in the case of the steamer City Christian, which is libeled for salvage. The facts in the case are that the steamer was on fire and the libellants labored to save her at the risk of their lives, at the request of the owner. The Judge decided that the facts are sufficient to maintain the action of the libellants, but dismissed the plea on account of an irregularity, giving leave, however, to file a proper pleading on payment of costs of the exception.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday, before Recorder Hackett, Richard Hayes pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with stealing a gold watch and chain. Sentenced to the State Prison for three years.

The case of Livingston, the alleged Fifth avenue diamond swindler, who is charged with obtaining \$2,160 worth of diamonds from Tiffany & Co. on false representations, came up and after some evidence was adjourned.

The stock market was strong and at intervals excited yesterday. Government securities were firm. Gold was strong and closed at 142 1/2 a 142 1/2.

A vigorous demand prevailed for beef cattle yesterday at the National Drive Yards, where 1,200 head were on sale, and prices were generally 1/4c. per lb. higher, extra selling at 15 1/2c. a 16c.; prime, 17 1/2c. a 18c.; first quality, 16 1/2c. a 17c.; fair to good, 15 1/2c. a 16 1/2c.; ordinary, 14c. a 15c.; and inferior, 11c. a 13c. Much corn was dull and prices favored the purchaser; Michigan extra were quoted at \$45 a \$110. Veal calves were about 1/4c. per lb., with a good demand and light offerings; extra selling at 15 1/2c.; prime, 15c. a 16c.; and inferior and common, 10c. a 11 1/2c.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Judge Nelson delivered yesterday in the Supreme Court at Washington the unanimous decision of that body in the Georgia and Mississippi cases. It is a very lengthy and exhaustive opinion, and declares that the court has no jurisdiction in cases of a political character between the general government and individual States. In effect it gives to Congress complete supremacy in the political affairs of the country.

The Alabama election resulted in a complete defeat of the proposed radical constitution, notwithstanding five days were allowed to poll the vote.

In the Constitutional Convention yesterday a resolution was adopted that the Judiciary Committee report their complete and revised article to-day and that the report be referred to the Committee on Revision, which is also directed to report. Reports on the Indiana, industrial interests and practice of medicine were rejected. Resolutions were adopted recommending further provision for disabled soldiers and requesting the Committee on Revision to report on Wednesday morning such articles as they had passed on, directing the final adoption and engagement thereof as soon as acted on by the Convention, and directing the secretary to notify by telegraph each absent delegate that the Convention will consider the report of the Committee on Revision on Wednesday morning next.

In the Mississippi Convention yesterday resolutions were introduced and referred proposing to disfranchise for five years all planters who prevented their colored employes from attending elections and political meetings, and also declaring released from all debts persons who take oath to be worth no more than \$20. The latter was offered to make up supposed delinquencies in the Bankrupt law of Congress.

There were rumors in circulation last week in New Orleans that resists, mon, arms and ammunition to the Yucatan rebellion were to leave that port. General Marquez and Gomez were said to be at the bottom of the affair.

Hon. James Guthrie yesterday sent his resignation as United States Senator to the Governor of Kentucky on account of his continued illness, and the Legislature will elect his successor on Tuesday next.

Sunday night, in portions of the Northwest, was the coldest of the season. The thermometer stood yesterday morning at Madison, Wis., 24 degrees below zero; at Dixon, Ill., St. Paul and Winona, Minn., 40 degrees below, and at Sparta, Wis., 51 degrees below. At the same time the thermometer at Key West, Fla., stood at 75 degrees above zero.

Highly Important Decision of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Justice Nelson yesterday, in the Supreme Court of the United States, delivered the opinion of the court upon the Mississippi and Georgia reconstruction injunction cases. It will be remembered that last summer these cases came up in the form of a petition, in behalf of each of the States of Mississippi and Georgia, for an injunction to restrain Andrew Johnson, Edwin M. Stanton, U. S. Grant, General Ord and General Pope from the execution of the reconstruction laws of Congress in Mississippi and Georgia, on the plea of the unconstitutionality of those laws. It will also be remembered that after a full argument on both sides these applications were dismissed on the ground of a want of jurisdiction. The opinion of Judge Nelson, elaborate and comprehensive, rests upon the foundation that the issue between these parties being purely political it was not within the jurisdiction of the court, and must accordingly be dismissed. In this opinion, too, all the judges concur.

Now, it seems to us that in this decision the Supreme Court virtually declares that it cannot interfere in this work of Southern reconstruction—that it is a matter exclusively belonging to Congress. In short, we cannot perceive, after this comprehensive opinion of yesterday, how any application or appeal affecting the constitutionality of the reconstruction laws can be entertained by the Supreme Court, because, in assuming to take cognizance of any of such cases, the court touches a political issue and invades the exclusive power of Congress to declare what is and what is not a State under the constitution. The opinion delivered by Chief Justice Taney in the Dorr-Rhode Island case and certain opinions of Chief Justice Marshall bearing upon the same question are in accordance with this view of the subject—that the Supreme Court can have nothing to do, and will have nothing to do, with any case affecting the political status of the ten outside States while they remain unrecognized as States by Congress.

The Congressional bills, therefore, lately introduced to regulate the Supreme Court may now be permitted to lie on the table. The court is out of this reconstruction fight. The issue is between this Congress and this administration, and between the radicals and conservatives, in the struggle for the next Congress and the next Presidency.

The Tunnel to Brooklyn.

At the last session of the State Legislature a company was incorporated to build a bridge over the East river to Brooklyn. The abuses, inconveniences and dangers of the East river ferries induced a general demand for some such means of communication between the two cities, and the hope was entertained that a remedy for all existing troubles had at last been discovered. But the bridge project, for some unexplained reason, seems suddenly to halt, and the best informed persons believe that it is destined to be a complete failure, for the reason that it is impossible to build a bridge that will not obstruct the navigation. This impression is strengthened by the recent introduction in the State Senate of a bill to incorporate a company empowered to lay a pneumatic tunnel between New York and Brooklyn. This, although a more modern invention than a bridge, is regarded as a practicable undertaking, and at least deserves a trial. It would be free from all the objections that attach to the project of a bridge, and it would remove all the annoyances, delays and dangers of an overcrowded ferry. There can be no reasonable opposition to the passage of this bill. If men of capital choose to invest money in the experiment it can do no harm, even if it proves a failure, and it will be productive of great public convenience if it proves to be a success. The best thing that the Legislature can do will be to grant the charter which has been asked for, and thus let the undertaking have a fair trial.

The Impachment Question—The Commotion Among the Radicals.

There was a time when, if John C. Calhoun took a pinch of snuff, all South Carolina took to sneezing. At this day, if anything goes wrong at Washington, or in Alabama or Texas, the hue and cry is revived of the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. Since the failure to indict on Ashley's accusations the impeachers have given notice from time to time that the project has not been abandoned, and that if "we take up again the recreant Andy we shall swing him as high as Haman." Some say that the late sensational impeachment newspaper despatches from Washington were contrived by the gold gamblers of Wall street, and that until "Old Thad" makes his report these gentry will continue to speculate in the ups and downs of the gold room, buying on a fall and selling on a rise. "Impeachment is but the jacksaw of the gold gamblers, and they trot him out on every pretext," says Jones. "No, sir; it is the old scorecrow, the Mumbo-Jumbo of the radicals, which they flout in the wind now and then only to frighten Andy Johnson," says Smith. "You are both wrong, gentlemen," says Brown; "there is a plot in this thing, a deep and cunningly contrived plot among the radicals to bring out Grant and to swing Johnson; and we think that the facts and the testimony are in favor of Brown, though Jones likewise hits the bull's eye with the gold gamblers."

On the question of contesting the return of Stanton to the War Department Grant says one thing and Johnson says another "diametrically the reverse" of what Grant says. Grant has his believers and Johnson has his, and the Johnson party are sure that when the President's reply to the General's last impertinent letter is fired it will knock the Appomattox apple tree into a cocked hat. But this bombshell hangs fire, and a knowing conservative organ, devoted to Johnson but pledged to Grant, declares that upon this question of veracity some members of the Cabinet "didn't" exactly see it as the President put it; that the shrewd Secretary of State has even intimated to Mr. Johnson that he was going it a little too strong; that this is true as gospel, and that "this is the sticking point" in the matter of Johnson's reply. "Call you this backing your friends?" Of what value is that servant who carries his master through ninety-nine tight places but abandons him in the one hundredth? Mr. Adams is coming home from England, and surely after this we may believe that Mr. Seward has become sick and tired of the cares and troubles and ugly scrapes of the State Department, especially when called upon to fight Grant.

But whether Grant is right or Johnson wrong, or vice versa, in his recollections of these aforesaid understandings and conversations, is a mere matter of moonshine. The question is, what will they do in Congress with the charge made against the President by General Grant of a deliberate design to violate the law? The subject is before the Committee on Reconstruction, and "Old Thad," a Lancaster county lawyer, is said to pronounce it a good case of impeachment. His committee and sub-committee are at work hunting up and examining witnesses. They have commenced with certain newspaper correspondents; and when through with them Grant and Stanton will be examined and cross-examined; and then will follow the members of the Cabinet, from Seward to Stanbery; and then, perhaps, some of the Southern Military District commanders, Governors and "Johnson officeholders," may be sent for, inasmuch as the leading radical organ of this city declares that in Florida "there was a dark intrigue, engineered by a Johnson officeholder, and sustained by a lavish outlay of money, to break up the Convention in a row, and thereupon set up a shunt, to be echoed from Maine to Arizona, that reconstruction under the acts of Congress had failed, exploded, gone up." Furthermore, says the same authority, "how far the Treasury has been bled in aid of this conspiracy we may never know, but the engineer was evidently lavish of other money than his own."

This is impeachment fuel thrown into the Reconstruction Committee. It shows that there is a serious purpose to make up a case this time which will not fall. Some of the so-called republican conservatives in the Ashley experiment, dubious about the position of Grant, were afraid to risk it. Now the coast is clear, and it is thought that an indictment from the House can in a fortnight be pushed through the Senate, to say nothing of the Edmunds bill for the suspension of the President on being arraigned for trial.

But what is the prospect? The case of the radicals is desperate. The late election in Alabama for the ratification of the new constitution and the election of members of Congress, &c., having turned out a failure in failing to bring out a majority of the registered voters, some one of the various new bills pending in Congress must be hurried through, or Johnson must be removed, or all these reconstruction dogs from Virginia to Texas will fall by default of the people. In this view Johnson's removal is most desirable to the radicals, and the failure of the Alabama election to meet the requirement of the law may possibly turn the scale of impachment in favor of "Old Ben Wade." The Presidential election approaches, and if these outside States meantime are not brought in the battle may be lost, even under the banner of Grant. While, therefore, the legal materials for a case against Mr. Johnson are apparently frivolous and preposterous at best, the necessities of the adverse party are powerful and urgent; and after all that we have seen we are prepared for anything from this radical Congress. The mountain is in labor again, and its delivery may be another ridiculous mouse; but it may be a roaring monster, with seven heads and ten horns.

The Threatened Oyster Famine.

The protracted cold weather of the season has almost completely closed up the ordinary sources of supply of the delicious oyster, without which New York is miserable enough. The ice in the Sound and its estuaries, and the great mass of frozen water covering the famed Oyster Bay, have effectually prevented the crysmermen from gathering their usual supplies, and we have been threatened with a famine that touches the sensibilities of all our people of high and low degree. Fortunately we can draw limited if not abundant stores from another vast repository, where the winter sun shines with fervor enough to keep the oyster-men's fields clear of ice. The prolific waters of Virginia are still open to us, and we shall

not yet experience absolute want. The steam yacht of the Herald, announced exclusively that a fleet of five vessels had arrived on Sunday from Virginia, bringing from five to seven thousand bushels of the precious bivalves, and we learn that more are coming. Thus, by our enterprise in obtaining ship news exclusively for the Herald, our readers have been able to learn that there is no danger of their being out of from the greatest luxuries in the people's reach.

The Proposed Reform in Naval Administration.

We are not surprised to learn that a strong opposition has developed itself in one department of the naval service against the new bill creating a naval board of survey. The ground of opposition is that it does not provide for a marine engineer and naval constructor in the board. The same course of reasoning they adopt, and by which they reach the conclusion that the board would be inefficient without representatives from those bureaus, applies with equal force to the claims of surgeons and paymasters, and it might be logically pushed to embrace chaplains and professors of mathematics. The marine officers should have a representative, and the sailmakers, too; for although our officers are happy in cutting out sails, they are not always able to cut and make up a suit of sails, and must rely upon the professional sailmaker to perform the work; therefore has the sailmaker a claim to a place in the board. We may follow this line of reasoning out ad infinitum. If the claims of all these people were allowed, instead of a compact, responsible board of three, we should have an unwieldy body of eleven or more, which would defeat the end aimed at by the bill. Persons who make these absurd claims do not know the true principles of successful naval administration or the requirements of an efficient department.

The organization of the Navy Department should correspond to that of a perfect man-of-war. In the latter we have the paymaster, to take charge of stores and provisions; a surgeon, to care for the sick and wounded; a marine officer, to command the guard; the engineer, to control the engine, and the officers and crew, to care for the decks, each and every one performing his separate duty and all harmoniously working together under the control of one head, the captain. He has absolute control of the ship in all its divisions, but carries out his will through obedient subordinates. When he ceases to have supreme authority anarchy takes the place of system, and the value of the ship as a man-of-war is gone forever. In the Navy Department there is one supreme head, with subordinate branches. Each branch is a component and essential part of the whole, which must be controlled by one head if its administration is to be efficient and successful.

In the nature of things it is found impracticable at the commencement of each new administration to find certain essential qualifications combined in one person to form this head. Few statesmen are familiar with naval affairs; hence the necessity of giving him an assistant who has the necessary professional education and is familiar with the details and wants of the position. But the difficulty in finding a proper and perfectly responsible person, free from political bias and influence and private schemes, to fill this important position of assistant to the Secretary of the Navy, has led intelligent and thoughtful men to suggest the creation of this professional aid to the department in the persons of a board of officers of the highest scientific attainments, the widest experience and the best executive ability. To them should be assigned the extensive and important duties of the assistant of the head of the department. To obviate strong objections to similar boards this commission should be reduced to the smallest number practicable—viz., three. We have shown how the captain of a ship has full control on board his own vessel, and consequently over the battery, engines and personnel. To a greater extent the commander-in-chief of a fleet has under his control the captains of the individual ships of his fleet, each a petty monarch subject to his will. It is clear that in selecting officers to govern the destinies of the navy these great commanders-in-chief will have the preference far above and beyond all others, and to mix with them on such a board their subordinates would be as great a blunder as could be well perpetrated, and one that could only emanate from ignorant, narrow-minded and jealous men. Such an idea cannot be entertained for a moment.

The distinguished admirals who would compose the board of survey can no more build engines than they can make topsails, guns or ship bread, but they are the very best judges of those things when made. The best art critics are not always artists, and it is possible, we conceive, that the Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering may be able to design and even build an engine, and yet may not prove a good judge of engines. English officers, though not naval architects, were excellent judges of ships, and they so appreciated French models that the French prizes retained in their navy could be numbered by the hundred. If two ships are compared in respect to their displacement and area of midship section—say the English iron-clad Achilles and our cruiser Wampanoag—and it is found that compact, durable and simply constructed engines drive the ponderous six thousand ton iron-clad fourteen knots an hour, while the fragile, complicated and expensive engines drive the American clipper no faster and in two hours is almost a wreck, any tyro could decide which type of engine to select as the better. Nor is there so dull a midshipman in the junior class at Annapolis who could not give his opinion upon the relative merits of the Lancaster and Guerriere—the former a success in every respect, the latter a complete failure. We do not want too many staff officers in the new board. The doctor, engineer and paymaster would prove only an encumbrance. Why, then, increase the numbers by the addition of these lower grades, rendering the board heterogeneous, ineffective and irresponsible? It is folly to create a board which possesses within itself elements of disintegration and failure. Our admirals commanded their squadrons and fought their battles without staff officers to aid them, and they can certainly govern the navy without them. During the war the staff officers did their work bravely, efficiently and in splendid style, but did it at their respective and proper posts, and rightly earned the highest com-

mendations. In the future, as in the past, they should labor in their own peculiar spheres of duty, and not seek to enter on higher and to them foreign plans of action, where they are not needed and where they do not rightfully belong, and we shall see the service under the new organization a credit to our country and the admiration of the world. We therefore urge in the interest of our navy the necessity of creating a board of three officers, as the bill provides, which shall at once enter upon their labors, the final result of which will show us that we can have an efficient navy at moderate cost, instead of the present expensive, nondescript and worthless affair.

Defeat of Reconstruction in Alabama.

Our latest advices from Alabama indicate with almost positive certainty that the proposed new constitution has been defeated by some ten thousand votes. This result was not unexpected, as the white conservatives refused almost en masse to vote, and a "black list," not very lengthy, is prepared for publication, giving the names of those whites who did. What Congress will now do we may be able to state in a few days. It is not likely to let its whole plan of reconstruction go by the board on account of this fiasco in Alabama; for the fate of the new constitution there is no doubt indicative of that which awaits the constitutions in most of the other proscribed States. And whatever steps Congress may adopt to press Alabama, willy nilly, into the Union will probably be taken as a base of operations for the remaining States. This will be applying the principle of "coercion" in a new and novel manner. But, reasoning from past experience, there is no legislation, however unique or unparalleled, which the present Congress is not capable of initiating. Meanwhile, the radical journals are already beginning to advocate the adoption of harsher measures toward those obdurate and obstinate States which refuse to accept the Congressional plan of reconstruction and restoration. We may, therefore, look for something exciting from Washington in this connection before the expiration of many days.

The Herald's Special Telegrams—Practice of Our Contemporaries.

We have incurred a very heavy expenditure for the perfect collation and instant transmission to the Herald of important news from all parts of the world, and our correspondents have been instructed to keep our readers informed by special telegrams of all such events immediately they transpire, no matter where or how distant the point may be. We have used the Atlantic cable for such purpose almost daily from the moment it was laid down to last Saturday evening, when we received the highly important despatches from Paris, Madrid and Alexandria, Egypt, which we published on Sunday morning, announcing the sudden change in Napoleon's policy towards the Pope and reporting the advance of the British troops in Abyssinia.

This intelligence is placed freely at the service of our contemporaries of the city press; but in many instances our special telegrams are taken bodily and transferred to their columns without even the courtesy of an acknowledgment. Of this there was a remarkable instance yesterday morning, when our special cable despatches from France, Spain and Egypt were taken from the Herald and given to the public as having been sent to another paper.

In this we have a just subject for complaint. We merely ask in such cases an ordinary credit for our enterprise and outlay, a return which we will not fail to reciprocate should any of the other metropolitan journals publish exclusive news of a character sufficiently interesting to be deemed worthy of transfer to the pages of the Herald.

What Shall Be Done with Hell Gate?

There is a movement in the State Legislature on the removal of the obstructions at Hell Gate to the eastern entrance to New York harbor; there is a movement on the same question in the New York Common Council, and the subject is even heard of through all the din of nigger reconstruction in the United States Senate. It is to be hoped that a matter agitated in so many lawmaking bodies may not fall quietly out of sight before something is practically done to set on foot the necessary measures for opening a good channel at Hell Gate and otherwise improving the East river so as to make the entrance to this port by Long Island Sound as practicable as that by the Narrows. The advantages that this measure will secure to our city are hardly calculable; but it will have other advantages than these. It will have its most immediate result in the greater facility with which this port can be reached in the winter. We shall have done with that dreadful catalogue that the wintry storms bring us of richly freighted merchantmen driven on Barnegat and other points of the Jersey coast in their attempts to come by Sandy Hook. Winter passages will be shorter also; for it now often happens that ships after having made Montauk are five or six days before they come into port. By the eastern passage such ships would have a short and easy run. Passenger steamers coming by the Sound could, if desired, land their passengers at the east end of Long Island and save a day on the trip, just as now the French Havre steamers land their passengers at Brest. Not the least of the advantages would be the immense development this eastern passage would give to the upper part of our island and to the shores of the Sound. Messrs. Legislators, hurry up the Hell Gate opening.

Prussia and the United States.—Where is Mr. Bancroft? Peradventure he sleepeth or is on a far journey or is overwhelmed with his Russian honors. Somewhere our distinguished ambassador no doubt is, but judging from the intimations of the Associated Press he is practically non est at Berlin. Carl Schurz, who has become enamoured of the rôles of Colorado Jewett and George Francis Train, is now doing the honors. We are grateful to Count Bismarck, not ungrateful to King William and not dissatisfied with Carl Schurz; but where is the Hon. George? The Prussians are a sensible people; we wish them all success; but still we ask, Where is Bancroft?

Prussian Suicide.—An unknown man, apparently a foreigner, was found last evening by officer White, of the Twenty-second precinct, lying in a lot on Ninth avenue, near Fifty-seventh street, bleeding profusely from a wound in the throat. Beside the man, lying on the snow, the officer found a common pocket knife, which it is supposed, he had attempted to use to commit suicide. The injured man was dressed in a light vest, dark pants, coat, overcoat and high hat. He was conveyed to Bellevue Hospital and properly cared for.

BOOK NOTICES.

CHILD-PICTURES FROM DICKENS. With Illustrations by R. E. Rytting, Jr. Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

The children whom Dickens has introduced into his various novels are among the best creations of his genius. Little Nell, the Marchioness, Paul and Florence, the Fat Boy, Tiny Tim, Smike and Oliver Twist, are here brought together to move to rest or to laughter both children and "children of a larger growth." The illustrations are reproduced from the Diamond Edition of Dickens.

THE BROTHERS' BET; OR, WITHIN SIX WEEKS. By Emilie Pygare Carlen, author of "Ivar; or, The Skute-Boy." New York: Harper & Brothers.

This curious picture of Swedish life will interest all who have read with pleasure the novel in which the late Frederika Bremer revealed the wealth of human nature in the cold regions of Northern Europe. The two brothers are represented as rivals for a young widow who jilts them both for a lover to whom she had pledged her troth long before she was forced to marry her defunct husband. She is at last happily married to this lover, and the two brothers marry their cousin, Hilda and Bertha. However foreign to English and American young ladies this novel may seem, it is a faithful picture of life in Sweden, and, moreover, true to human nature.

It is a more full dramatization than most of the second hand English adaptations of French plays with which the managers of our theatres provide the American public.

A JAPANESE FUNERAL.

Obsequies of Ha-yah-ta-kee, the Japanese Author and Juggler—A Novel Ritual Conducted by Nouji Peopie.

A scene novel to most New Yorkers was enacted yesterday morning at No. 20 Bleecker street, the quarters of the Japanese juggler troupe, which recently made a sensation at the Academy of Music. The demise of Ha-yah-ta-kee, the foremost figure of the group who have so often fumigated, with opium and tobacco, burned in strange-shaped pipes, the premises at No. 20 Bleecker street, has already been recorded as having occurred on Saturday evening. The deceased, accompanied by his coadjutors in the deplorable act, was brought to this country by Señor De Rosa, who has since acted as interpreter and to some extent as business man for the Dickens of Japan. Ha-yah-ta-kee is said to have been a cousin of the Tycoon, though this assertion is apocryphal, and was a personage both of distinction and of condition in his native country. He was the author of several Japanese dramas, which have been enacted with success before the assembled nobility of Japan, and had won the reputation of an eminent scholar, story-writer and essayist in the literature of his native land, which renders his death a matter of importance to his countrymen. Famous as a gymnast and juggler—a profession of far more honorable distinction in Japan than in New York—the deceased came to this country nearly a year since, accompanied by an effective organization for a prohibition purpose, and was received in committee to Greenwood, without even a priest to bury him according to the ritual of his native land. In the last stages of heart disease, and holding out a brief and ailing existence, he was neglected which could in any way contribute to his comfort or hasten his recovery. The attending physician alleges that he died of a violent dysentery, which was aggravated and terminated in his disease had arrived, and that the deceased could not have survived Saturday night, judging from the extreme severity of the symptoms manifested in his last days—an allegation which may be taken as deciding the question and negating the whisper of vague gossip.

Deceased was about thirty years of age, and leaves a wife, three little ones, a sister and an aged and infirm mother in this land of strangers. There was committed to the care of the trustees of the estate of the deceased the last bequests of the dying gymnast.

The funeral, according to Japanese custom, was to have taken place at the residence of the deceased on the second day after the demise (yesterday); but, owing to circumstances necessarily beyond the control of the relatives, the remains were not conveyed to the house until Friday, and it was not until after the funeral services, which were held at the quarters of the troupe, and in the presence of a large number of the next half hour, the bears were joined by the several coadjutors which had been engaged for the convenience of the mourning, and the remains of the deceased were being evoked within by as moley an assemblage as was ever enacted for any special pin painting of Dickens. According to the custom of the deceased, the body was laid out in a room at the left of the staircase the spectator found himself ushered into a rather cold and somewhat disagreeable room filled with people of every nationality. By the stove, which was a half prepared, whose faces the red rash of the cold had broken out, on the table near by had been erected a pyramid of solid rice, and in the center of the room were disposed groups of men in twos and threes, some conversing in low, eager tones, and others intently smoking; now and then a member of the press, eager to turn a penny even at a funeral, propounded some pertinent question to Señor De Rosa; and the members of the troupe, who were clustered in a pair of Japanese sandals, and a swarty son or daughter of the Orient gazed stealthily into the apartment through the long passage way which led to the interior. Here the sprinkling of Japanese rice, and the various members of the troupe; and over all things reeked a staidly odor of mingled opium and Japanese tobacco, which emanated itself quietly but surely into one's nostrils and into one's clothes and into everything with which it came in contact. The relatives of the dead and the members of the troupe grouped here and there in an improved and more attentive preparation, as the non-presence of any priest prevented the full observance of the usual rites.

Passing through a side door at the left and into what ordinarily would be termed a hall bedroom, the spectators found themselves in the presence of a couple of the cross-like figures, by whom not a word was spoken, not a motion made and not a sound permitted to break in upon the religiously observed silence of the occasion. The figures were the mouthpieces of the three, and as it in it was concentrated the meaning that might have been triply expressed.

Presently, however, the spell was broken, and at half-past ten A. M. the coffin was borne to the hearse. Sobbs and tears followed it from a rather irregularly moving procession of mourners, who were conveyed to the hearse, the followers thereof being assisted to their several carriages. The hearse was a large and heavy one, and the marks at the window of No. 22 grined more horribly and showed their great white teeth more menacingly the ghastly countenance of the deceased.

The remains were conveyed to Greenwood to be deposited for a short time in the receiving tomb—Greenwood's Castle Garden of the dead.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

The Vermont House, at Island Pond, Vt., was burned on Monday night.

Mr. John R. Hudd, one of the oldest Philadelphia merchants engaged in the New Orleans trade, died on Sunday evening, aged seventy-one years.

It is stated that the Robinson route has been positively decided upon for the Intercolonial Railway by the Canadian Cabinet.

A fire in Mattoon, Ill., yesterday morning destroyed seven buildings, involving a loss of \$24,000, on which there was an insurance of \$4,000 in Illinois companies.

A messenger in the employ of the Merchants' Union Express Company was arrested at St. Louis yesterday charged with embezzling \$700 from that company.

The Memphis City Council yesterday passed a resolution authorizing their fire department after the first of next March in consequence of the condition of the city treasury.

Miss Greenough, a young lady of Burlington, Vt., aged seventeen years, was burned to death