

NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXIII. No. 44

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOVEY THEATRE, Bovey, -Rao Pickers of Paris -Jaco Harkness -Jenny Lion.

NEW YORK THEATRE, opposite New York Hotel -STREETS OF NEW YORK.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway -LITTLE BARFOOT.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway -THE WHITE FAWN.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street -OCEAN.

FRENCH THEATRE -LE SUFFRAGE D'UNE FEMME -LA FIELE DE JOURNEUX.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway -LITTLE NELL AND THE MARCHIONESS.

BARNARD'S OPERA HOUSE AND MUSEUM, Broadway and 21st street -HIDDEN HAND.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street -ORATION.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 5th Broadway -HARRISON CORNET TRIO AND MINISTERS CHIEF.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 23 Broadway -SONGS, DANCS, ECSTASIES, &c. -GRAND DUTCH "G."

ST. FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 33 Broadway -STRAIPE ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING AND BULLFIGHTING.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Broadway -COMIC VOYAGE, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c.

BUTLER'S AMERICAN THEATRE, 472 Broadway -BALLET, FANCY, ENTERTAINMENT, &c.

STEINWAY HALL -MR. JAMES E. MURDOCK'S READINGS.

LYRIC HALL, No. 725 Sixth avenue -GRAND CONCERT.

BENYAN HALL, Broadway and Fifteenth street -THE FUGITIVE. MATINEE AT 2.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn -GAMES.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC -LA TOYATA.

WHEELER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn -STRAIPE MINSTRELS, BALLADS AND BULLFIGHTS.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 415 Broadway -SCIENCE AND ART.

New York, Thursday, February 13, 1868.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

The news report by the Atlantic cable is dated yesterday evening, February 12. The London journals generally approve of the late report of the American Congressional Committee on the neutralization question and the action of Congress thereon. The shelter given by Austria to the Hanoverian exiles displeases Prussia. A Paris journal says Count Bismarck requested permission to resign the premiership of Prussia.

Major General Napier, leading the British advance in Abyssinia, is in close proximity to the King's troops. Skirmishing is said to have taken place between the contending forces, and official reports are looked for with great anxiety in England.

Consols, 95 1/2 and 95 3/4 in London. Five-twentieths, 7 1/2 in London and 7 1/4 in Frankfurt. Renten 3 1/2 in Paris. Cotton firm, but easier, with middling upwards at 5 1/4. Breadstuffs and provisions without marked change.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday a bill was reported to admit the Territory of Colorado. The resolution inquiring into the appointment of a colored woman from the Georgetown and Alexandria Railroad was called up and after considerable debate was adopted. A bill declaring Alabama rebeld to the rights of representation in Congress, in conformity with the fifth section of the bill for the more efficient government of the rebel States, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The case of Senator Thomas, of Maryland, was made the special order for to-day.

In the House a bill was introduced to prevent foreign convicts from entering the United States. The previous question was moved on the bill to protect citizens abroad, but the House refused to second it. Several amendments were offered and the bill went over until to-day. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill was considered in Committee of the Whole without a vote, the Department of Education being especially under consideration.

THE L. G. SLAUGHTER.

In the Senate yesterday bills were introduced to amend an act authorizing a railroad from Brooklyn to Jamaica, and to create a harbor district and Board of Warrents and Piers in New York. Several bills of a local or personal character were passed. The Senate then nominated Ira Buckman Commissioner of Metropolitan Police.

In the Assembly a bill to amend the charter of Brooklyn was reported favorably. Matthew T. Brennan was then nominated for Commissioner of Metropolitan Police.

The two houses met in joint convention and proceeded to the election by joint ballot of a Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and Matthew T. Brennan was elected by 44 votes to 60 for Ira Buckman. Both houses then adjourned.

THE CITY.

Judge Cardozo yesterday rendered a decision in the Chicago and R. & C. land cases on the motion to remove them to the United States Court. As regards Messrs. Fisk & Beiden, Tracy and the railroad company, the motion is denied, on the ground that they are non-residents of the State, but it is granted in the case of Mr. Hatch.

In the Supreme Court, Part 2, yesterday, before Judge Barbour, an action was instituted against the Second Avenue Railroad Company by the relatives of a boy named Prendell, for severe injuries sustained by him some time since, through the alleged negligence of the defendants' servants. The case has not concluded.

In the Superior Court, Part 2, yesterday, before Judge McCann, Judge Markson brought an action against Levi Cahn and another for false imprisonment. Plaintiff averred that he was maliciously arrested for a robbery of the defendant's premises in Nassau street in April last, lodged in prison and subsequently discharged. The defence was probable cause. The complaint was dismissed.

In the Court of Common Pleas, Part 2, yesterday, before Judge Barrett, the jury returned a verdict for \$3,000 in the case in which Anna Bell claimed damages against the Second Avenue Railroad Company.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday, before Recorder Hackett, Thomas White and Charles W. Wilson pleaded guilty to an indictment charging them with stealing two merchandise pipes worth \$85 from Frederick W. Kaldenberg. They were each sent to the State Prison for two years and six months. Thomas Johnson, charged with stealing five yards of cloth valued at \$60, pleaded guilty and was sent to the State Prison for two years. Ignatius Fox and Henry Kubasch pleaded guilty to assault and battery and were remanded for sentence. The matter of paying the fine of \$250 each, which was imposed upon George W. Trask and Arthur Taggart for cruel treatment of horses in overcrowding a Bleecker street car, was brought up. Counsel for the defendants staid his intention of appealing the case and the court granted him a week to prepare the bill of exceptions.

The North German Lloyd's steamship Union, Captain Van Ratten, will leave Hooken to-day (Thursday) about one o'clock for Bremen, via Southampton. The European mails will close at the Post Office at twelve M.

The steamship Eagle, Captain M. R. Greene, will leave pier No. 4 North river, three o'clock P. M. to-day for Havana. The mails for Cuba will close at the Post Office at two P. M.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our special telegrams from Havana state that the tobacco crop would probably be only half the average on account of drought. Madame Ristori had received a strong invitation from the Emperor of Brazil to visit Rio Janeiro. The news from St. Domingo confirms the report that Cabral had been overthrown. Hugiaria is being as President, being expected every day.

Secretary Howard declines to return to the General Assembly of Ohio the documents ratifying the fourteenth article of the constitution. He says there is no law permitting the return of any papers on file in his department.

In the State Constitutional Convention yesterday the

articles on finance and banking, currency and insurance, were referred to the Committee on Revision, without amendment. The article on towns and counties was amended so as to provide that the Board of Supervisors of New York county shall have no other power or jurisdiction except now or hereafter conferred by the Legislature, subject to repeal or modification by the same body. The revised report on the preamble and Bill of Rights was considered, but without definite action. In the Louisiana Convention yesterday nothing of importance was done beyond the reference of a resolution to repeal the article on the judiciary.

In the Georgia Convention yesterday the negro lawyer Bradley, who has been on trial for some time, was expelled by a unanimous vote for gross insults to the Convention. A franchise ordinance was adopted. The Mississippi Convention found it difficult to collect the taxes which they recently levied, and have requested General Gilliam to assist them.

The South Carolina Convention yesterday adopted ten more sections of the Bill of Rights. An explosion occurred in a paraffine oil factory in South Brooklyn last evening, by which two men were burned to death and one was fatally injured.

Another car was burned by a late railroad accident near Marshall, Iowa. No lives were lost, but most of the passengers were injured.

The Alabama Claims—England in Our Late Rebellion. The subject of the "Alabama claims" is now on both sides of the water undergoing a vigorous discussion. The letter of Lord Hobart to the London Times in reference to those claims and advising their settlement is as wise and judicious as anything which has appeared of late. Our own opinion has always been that England had better accept any form of arbitration, or, in fact, pay anything which our government might demand, in order to bring the matter to a speedy settlement.

Still, there are other views upon this question, and as the matter has been so long delayed we are half inclined to adopt them. When slavery was one of the compromises of our constitution, and when many loyal people in the free States felt obliged to give their support to that institution because the constitution did sanction it, England's emissaries were here to sow strife and the seeds of disunion upon that question. Meeting after meeting was held in Exeter Hall, at which the nobility and fashion of England gave their names and their influence, having the same object in view. Letters bearing upon this question and reflecting upon some of the best minds of our country were eagerly read and their contents heartily received by the press of that country; and whenever a traveller from our own land who had made himself obnoxious for his abolition views visited England his course here would be pretty sure to give him a passport to the best society there.

We have only had one view of what was intended by all this. Over and over again we have exposed the duplicity of that country in her general dealings with the world. England saw the enormous growth on this side of the Atlantic, and knew very well that the question of slavery or abolition might be fanned into a flame which would disrupt us and thus tend to divide our power. When, therefore, the rebellion broke out all honest, consistent people here supposed, as a matter of course, that the South would have no aid from England, but that she would, on the contrary, carry out her professions and give a death blow at once to slavery. We need not say how much such people were doomed to be disappointed when they saw her bells all her former principles, and when, contrary to all the uses of civilized governments, she hastily recognized the insurgent government of the South as a belligerent, giving it by such recognition a flag upon the ocean, and giving it, moreover, an indirect moral aid and support which was indubitably more effectual than direct action.

The reason for this course can be stated in a single word. Had England lent the weight of her power and her influence to sustaining the government of the United States the rebellion would have been abortive and the end of the account; on the contrary, siding with the South gave strength to the hope which has been the groundwork of her plotting for many long years. She saw what she supposed would bring about a permanent disruption of this government; and when Lord John Russell announced to the world that the great American Union was in reality broken up her aristocracy and her press could hardly contain themselves for joy. We have had to go over these matters somewhat in detail to show what has been the real feeling of England towards us. She can ill disguise even now, with all her professions of good will, her great disappointment at the failure of the rebellion. The whole groundwork is now changed, and it is a serious question with the thinking people of this country whether we ought not to so interest ourselves as to aid the great humanity of the world by lending our influence so to change the government of that country as to make it a pure republic upon the basis of our own, to do away with the whole doctrine and law of primogeniture and entail, with its Established Church, and thus, breaking down the monopoly of wealth and title, give her masses, who are now suffering slavery infinitely lower than that ever existing in our Southern States, an opportunity for political freedom and the enjoyment of an existence which is at present a mere burden.

We have taken occasion more than once to suggest that Fenianism was not a mere remedy for Irish wrong, but rather the ideal of what was wanted and demanded by the great working classes of Great Britain, who are held in servitude by their lordly masters, and who thus give voice to their wishes.

These reasons have their influence upon some of the best minds of our country in wishing a delay in this Alabama business. They think, very truly, that all things are working for good, and the time is near at hand when we shall commend the poisoned chalice of precedents furnished by England herself to her own lips, and that our ruined commerce will once more revive and take the place now wrongfully usurped by England through practices committed on ours by her own subjects; and in addition to all this the raising up on the other side of the water a republic, speaking the same language, and the masses of which will see in their own deliverance from oppression another of the wonder-workings of Providence, brought about by the rash action of their own government in giving aid to the attempted establishment of a pure slavery here at the expense and by the destruction of the government of these United States. But even in this broad view of the subject there is no urgent necessity for pushing these Alabama claims. These claims, as a sort of mortgage on the New Dominion, will keep, and while we hold them over England we have her under bonds to avoid any further "entangling alliances" in the domestic affairs of the independent States of this Continent.

The Western Union Telegraph Company as a News Telegraph.

The business of the newspaper press has been the principal support of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and would alone have handsomely maintained a line economically managed and representing no more capital than the legitimate cost of construction. The regular reports of the Associated Press and the special of enterprising journals all over the country have yielded a princely revenue in tolls, and have been the more profitable because usually transmitted over the wires out of business hours, when commercial messages are the least numerous and pressing. The newspapers have therefore been the best customers the telegraph has had, and have been mainly instrumental in building up the Western Union into a monopoly. "Assure me the exclusive patronage of the daily press," said one of our most experienced telegraph men a short time since, "and I will put up all over the country and make profitable from the start the best lines ever constructed in the United States."

So long as the telegraph company attended to its legitimate business and regarded the press as it would any other customer there was no conflict or difficulty between the two, any more than between the telegraph and the stock-brokers of Wall street. But the Western Union company, under the absurd belief that it could control the press by taking the whole details of telegraphic reporting into its own hands, stepped outside its proper sphere of action, and, as well as transmitting press messages over its wires, made reporters of its operators, obtained a contract for supplying the daily journals of this city with harbor news, undertook to get up and sell markets and commercial intelligence all over the country, and mixed up in a dozen other matters with which it had no right to meddle. The objectionable features of this policy can be seen at a glance. A telegraph employe is necessarily entrusted by private individuals with important secrets, and the strictest confidence can alone reconcile the public to the use of such a means of communication. But if telegraph operators are also news reporters, there can be but little probability that secrecy will be observed or confidence respected when valuable information gets into their possession.

The press derives no advantage whatever from this prositution of the Western Union Telegraph Company of its legitimate business and its grasping desire to meddle with news reporting. In the matter of harbor news, for instance, the reports of the company are notoriously unreliable and insufficient. The Western Union marine branch in the Exchange is valueless alike to the daily journals and to merchants, for vessels are constantly at anchor off the Battery or at the piers before their arrival has been announced by the company. So far as the HERALD is concerned, it pays no attention whatever to the Western Union marine reports, but relies upon its own resources for the collection of all harbor news.

The advantage of this to our commercial readers may be seen from the following comparative table of the arrivals for the last month, as reported by steam yachts for the HERALD and by the Western Union Telegraph Company respectively:

Table with 4 columns: No. of Vessels, Name, Date, and No. of Vessels. Rows include Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec, Total.

HERALD steam yachts arrived in one month... 234 vessels

Two hundred and thirty-four vessels whose arrivals were not recorded at all by the Western Union Telegraph Company, but were reported to the HERALD by the steam yachts.

But the company clings to the harbor news contract simply as a means of making a few dollars by running off and selling to consignees the intelligence of the arrival of such vessels as it does happen to catch, just the same as it makes a business of selling commercial news all over the country, thus interfering at once with the province of the newspaper press and the interests of private individuals, whose messages sent over the wires are left to the mercy and consciences of a string of news pedlars and speculators. In fact, the illegitimate interference of a telegraph company with news reporting is so clearly an abuse, destructive of individual rights and inconsistent with the idea of the secrecy necessary for such a business, that it seems to call for legislative action. A telegraph company may be driven by necessity or impelled by avarice to use the wires under its control for these purposes, but such a course is clearly inconsistent with the interests of the public and might well be prohibited by law. The officers and employes of our telegraph lines would then be enabled to give their full attention to the proper working of their wires and the faithful transmission of messages and reports, leaving the collection and the sale of news to those to whom it legitimately belongs.

General Grant and the Democracy.

General Grant having completely taken the radical wind out of the sails of Mr. Chief Justice Chase as the republican heir apparent for the Presidential succession, the main question suggested to the democracy is "What, under this new position of affairs, is our true course?" We think they are in no condition to fight Grant, simply because there is no available man within their reach who can defeat Grant. They seem to have given up McClellan by general consent; Horatio Seymour insists upon being counted out; Western copperheads would not touch Sherman with a forty-foot pole; the White House nomination of Hancock was only a nine days wonder; President Johnson himself is out of the question; and, in short, the only man who seems to have any footing at all for the Democratic National Convention is Pendleton, the 1864, broke down McClellan, East and West. Against Pendleton Grant will walk over the course, and against any other man picked up at the eleventh hour Grant will win. What, then, is left for the democracy to fight for? The next Congress. In Congress, after all, lie the sovereign powers of the government. The administration under Grant will

be shaped very much by the will of Congress.

Let the democracy and all the anti-radical elements of the country, after quieting Vallandigham, concentrate their efforts for the election of a conservative House of Representatives for the Forty-first Congress, and from and after the 4th of March, 1871, even under General Grant as republican President, we shall have a conservative administration.

The Operatic War.

History repeats itself. Diedrich Knickerbocker himself could only ring the changes in his famous description of the war between the adventurous Peter Stuyvesant and his hands against the crafty Governor, Jan Risingh, if called upon to recount the war which is now impending—nay, which yesterday evening began with the first big gun from the intrepid Max Strakosch at the Academy of Music—between the great rival opera houses of Manhattan. Diedrich the historian would have again to imitate his illustrious model, the humorous Thucydides, who, having arrived at the breaking out of the Peloponnesian war, "sounds the charge," as one of his commentators observes, "in all the disposition and spirit of Homer. He awakens our expectations and fast engages our attention. All mankind are concerned in the important point now going to be decided. Endeavors are made to disclose futurity. Heaven itself is interested in the dispute. The earth totters and nature seems to labor with the great event. This is his solemn, sublime manner of setting out. Thus he magnifies a war between two—as Rapsin styles them—petty States; and thus artfully he supports a little subject by treating it in a great and noble method." In like manner Diedrich Knickerbocker would lead his readers into the very teeth of peril and cry out as the present combat opens, "Stand by for broken heads and bloody noses!" His pen would a second time record a fiercer fight than either Falluis, Livy, Tacitus, Polybius or any other historian ever described. He would revive the bustle and stir in the city of New Amsterdam on that memorable day when the host of warriors encamped in the Bowling Green were striking their tents, when the drums beat and the standards of the Manhattans, of Hell Gate and of Michael Paw waved proudly in the air. He would cause the brazen trumpet of doughty Antony Van Corlear Kingsland to make the welkin resound with portentous clangor. The sturdy Van Corlear Kingsland would marshal all his forces and commence his warlike operations. "Distending his cheeks like a very Boreas, he kept up a most horrible twanging of his trumpet; the lusty choristers of Sing Sing broke forth into a hideous song of battle; the warriors of Breuckelen and the Wallabout blew a potent and astonishing blast upon their conch shells—altogether forming an outrageous concerto as though five thousand French fiddlers were displaying their skill in a modern overture." Thus prophetically hath the illustrious Diedrich already portrayed the scenes about to be witnessed in the battle between grim Governor Jan Risingh Pike and the intrepid Peter Stuyvesant Strakosch. Stout Risingh Pike stands firm as a thousand rocks. The intrepid Peter Stuyvesant Strakosch comes on, "his brows knit, his teeth set, his fists clenched, almost breathing forth volumes of smoke, so fierce is the fire that rages in his bosom. His faithful squire, Van Corlear Kingsland, truces faithfully at his heels, with his trumpet gorgeously bedecked with red and yellow ribbons." Then comes waddling on the sturdy chivalry of the stockholders. For their names—the Van Wycks and the Van Dycks and the Ten Bycks and the rest of the two hundred and fifty—we must refer to the chronicles of Diedrich Knickerbocker, who has duly set them all down upon Van Corlear's roll-call.

In sober earnest, the island of Manhattan has seldom been so greatly excited since the day when Van Corlear summoned Governor Risingh to instant surrender, and, turning aside, "took his nose between his thumb and fingers and blew a tremendous blast, not unlike the flourish of a trumpet of defiance." Managers, stockholders, ladies (responding separate sides and wearing the colors of one or the other competitor in this new War of the Roses), chorus singers, livery stable keepers (who have never before received so many orders in advance), ticket speculators (forgetful of the bitter lesson which they learned at the Dickens readings)—in a word, as the prophetic Diedrich says, "the entire population of the city, man, woman and child," are awaiting with breathless interest the impending operatic war. The keen competition it will excite must, at all events, revive the flagging fortunes of the opera, which we have been compelled to lament for several years past. With Pike and Grover and Max Maretzek, aided by Italian, Teutonic and Bourbon, and we know not what other potent agencies as yet unrevealed, of transatlantic or cisatlantic origin, on the one hand, and with Max Strakosch, La Grange, Brignoll and the stockholders, with gallant trumpet, on the other, the contest will be as fierce and lively as the political war which conservatives and radicals are waging with each other. On whatever banner victory may ultimately perch this "tremendous battle" will doubtless result in the triumphant issue of Italian opera out of all the difficulties which it has hitherto encountered in striving to acquire a permanent foothold in America.

Our Difference with the British Lion.

England gives it up. Yes, that proud Power finally sees the propriety of abating her impudent pretensions, and agrees to settle the Alabama claims fairly. We have received the proposition for settlement from a citizen of Manchester, who, of course, speaks in the interest of his countrymen and by authority. Here are his very words:—

Let three men of known position be voted by the American Congress to meet three men similarly voted by the English Parliament, in order to discuss the evidence on the Alabama question, and let their decision (by majority voting themselves) be final and binding on both nations. The meeting ought to be in America first and afterwards in England to hear both evidence.

It will be seen from this how much England is excited on the great topic. Here is a Manchester man whose head is evidently swimming sadly in the national bewilderment.

As for the proposition, we accept it in its main point. We shall not consent, however, to the commission sitting in England. We had enough of that when Heenan went to settle a little dispute with Sayers. The case must be settled here. We are sadly puzzled as to how the commission should be made up on our

part. We have thought over our great men in all lines, but, concluding that the three Britains and the three Americans will certainly fight before they get through, we conclude to shape it with a view to that event, and consequently nominate for the service the Hon. John Morrissey, Mike McCoolle and Dooney Harris.

Secession and the New Dominion.

The debate which is now going on in the local Parliament of Nova Scotia shows how thoroughly bent the people are on breaking up the New Dominion. The Legislature is but giving voice to the sentiments universally prevalent over the colony. Repeal of the Union act is the great question of the hour; and it is being vigorously discussed not only in Halifax, but wherever Nova Scotians are in the habit of congregating. The delegation charged with the prosecution of the repeal question in London is expected to sail immediately. It is a pretty little difficulty as it stands. It was only in June of last year that the Dominion was ushered into existence by the Queen's proclamation and a general flourish of trumpets. The confederation was to be the foundation of a mighty empire, and was to occupy, in course of time, on the American Continent the proud position which Russia now occupies on the Continent of Europe. So spoke Lord Carnarvon on the eve of the Queen's proclamation. These brilliant hopes are not much encouraged by the state of things now existing in Nova Scotia. New Brunswick, we have been led to believe, is quite as dissatisfied as Nova Scotia, and Lower Canada, it is said, is more dissatisfied than either. The Parliament at Ottawa has hard work before it, and it remains to be seen whether it shall prove itself equal to the task. The experiment of the confederation or dominion is a grand one. It will be watched with interest.

ADMIRAL FARAGUT AND THE AMERICAN SQUADRON.

Some people are at a loss to know what means this European cruise of Admiral Farragut. The same people reckon our naval expenses as so much waste of money. One answer is perhaps sufficient for the question and the objection. It is right that America, in the matter of her navy, should be worthily represented. We need a large and efficient naval force; it is economical that we should have it, and it is proper that the world should know something of it. Our great and growing commercial interests require that our navy should be adequate to all possible demands. The best training next to actual fighting is life at sea and experience in all waters. While the inhabitants of European countries are privileged through our ships to behold somewhat of the glory of the great republic, we may rest assured that Admiral Farragut is possessed of too much good sense to compromise our interests by an unnecessary display of sympathy either for Italians or Greeks. It is well that the world should know something of our greatness, and it is proper that we should have faith in our public servants.

CAPTAIN A TARTAR.—A copperhead journal of the East, founded upon religion, army contracts, straw hats, linen army overcoats and Philadelphia pories, has caught a Tartar in catching Vallandigham. This "viper," this "conegad," this "traitor to the party," this "faithful, most be excommunicated and left out in the cold." "He has worried the lambs of the flock long enough; let him be turned out of the fold with a brand upon his brow and a kick to start him." Vallandigham, however, does not see the matter in this light. "Suppose you try it," he answers; "here I am, and what is more, I am going to preach the democratic gospel to the brethren in New Hampshire. What have you got to say about it?" And from various democratic organs out West comes up the echo, "What have you got to say about it?" This is what may be called catching a Tartar. It is too late now for any Eastern copperhead to read out Vallandigham in the West.

COENIT DENMARK ON THE SICK LIST.—How much depends on the life of a single individual!

The loss of Napoleon to France or of Bismarck to Prussia would, in present circumstances, prove, perhaps, quite as serious to France and Prussia respectively as did the loss of Cavour to Italy. Men rather than measures are necessary in great crises in countries where constitutional government is but imperfectly known. Count Cavour has had no successor in Italy; hence much of Italy's misfortune. We see no man fitted to take the place of either Napoleon or Bismarck; therefore we say the loss of either would be a loss to the cause of human progress. Cleopatra's nose had to do with the fate of nations; so it must be admitted, though in a different sense, is it with Napoleon's imperial and Bismarck's moustache.

A NEEDLESS EXPENSE.—The merchants who pay the Western Union Telegraph for reports of the arrival of their vessels at this port put themselves to a very needless expense. We will furnish them with the same information, much more full and reliable, without cost, if they will apply at our office.

DELINQUENT TENEMENT HOUSE OWNERS.

Superintendent McGreggor's orders relating to the erection of proper fire and other escapes in tenement houses having been disregarded by many owners or agents thereof, he found it necessary to present them before the Supreme Court, as the law provides, and Judge Barnard has returned his action in the following cases to cause the work to be done and making the bills securing a lien upon the buildings:—

- No. 39 East Broadway (rear), owned by Robert Boyd; practical fire proof fire escape and stairway, connecting with a proper opening leading to the roof, to be erected.
- No. 20 Pearl street, owned by Joseph Ogden; practical fire escape, to be erected.
- No. 146 East Twenty-fifth street, owned by Francis McFar; practical fire escape, to be erected.
- No. 108 East Twenty-fifth street, owned by John Cain; same work.
- No. 152 East Twenty-fifth street, owned by Alfred McGreggor; same work.
- No. 132 East Twenty-fifth street, owned by Thomas Murphy; same work, and to have all the rooms, front and rear, connected by doors.
- No. 3 Worth street, owned by Peter Dolan; same work as last preceding.
- No. 242, 244 and 246 Monroe street (front and rear); same work as last preceding.

The last mentioned houses, running from Monroe to Cherry street, contain ninety-six families, comprising some four hundred and ten persons. The owner is Mr. William Miller, President of the savings' bank in Astor place. His agent, Mr. Schaffer, is Vice President of the Tenement House Association, organized for the purpose of applying improvements to the tenements on the above named streets. It is ordered that James McGreggor, Superintendent of Buildings, file an official report of the work done, and that he be authorized to place a practical fire proof fire escape, and a stairway connecting with a proper opening leading to the roof, on the building known as No. 1—bank street, the costs, disbursements and expenses incurred in carrying this order into effect to be paid by the owners of the above mentioned cases. Mr. McGreggor has already put the work into the hands of competent mechanics for speedy completion.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

To-morrow will be St. Valentine's Day, or the beginning of the season for it is supposed to last throughout the month—devoted to the exchange of postcard declarations of love and fidelity between those whose hearts have been pierced by the arrows of the naive little god. Of course there will be a host of sentimental verses, embowered in all styles of dainty design, sent and received, and a still greater number of comic allusions to the follies and frailties of the recipients will be despatched through the mails. The custom of sending Valentines is very old. St. Valentine flourished in the third century (rehearsed in Rome under the reign of the Emperor Claudius, A. D. 270), and was, according to Whalley, "so famous for his love and charity that the custom of choosing him as the patron saint of lovers took its origin from thence." Others derived the custom from birds; being supposed to select their mates on this day; others again from the practice prevalent in ancient Rome of the mutual exchange of love letters during the month of February, when, among other ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box and the names of young men were drawn therefrom. It is claimed for St. Valentine that finding it impossible to extricate this custom he changed its form among the good old men, and substituted the exchange of postcard transmission between lovers of scriptural exerts and religious notes, for the usual declarations of passion. The custom has greatly changed since that time, and the good old man, as the poet says, "is entirely extinct." Every style and description may be had, from the costly embossed and gilt musive that carries on its face the gorgeous broodings of the unfeeling peacock, to the entirely plain and most comical penny affair that can be imagined. Latterly the *bisavertine* incident to the former celebration of the carnival of St. Valentine has been greatly modified. Although the mass of trash among the veridical notices which make their appearance at this season, sometimes a gem may be found, as for instance:—

Though memory's fair record fades,
Though house and kindred be forgot,
Though friendships pass like fleeting shades,
Yet still I'll love thee as I love thee not.

Some of the attempts to become poetically devotional on the subject of Valentine's day, are as follows:—
Oh, thou, it is—thou art my love,
That rob my soul of rest;
Go forth and kiss me with thy smiling dove,
A pilgrim to thy breast.

Or the following, which hints fearfully in its metriced journey:—
Beauty and gold are fair to see,
But give me the girl with a heart for me;
The girl with a heart for me, I'll have,
My darling—my own—
And I'll love you Valentine day.

The following is associated with the earliest memories of nearly every one:—
The ring is round,
It hath no end,
The heart is true and true as steel,
For you, my friend,
If the decades of the custom continue it will not be many years before it dies out altogether.

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

A Texas paper gives an account of a "rising" among the negroes in Wood county. During the winter the leaders of the "rising" in the morning proceeded to certain places and made contracts with the whites, irrespective of politics, for the coming year. The white majority in Fayette county, Texas, will be over 300. Many whites in the county who can do so have not registered.

The Galveston (Texas) Bulletin (February 2) charges that Governor Hamilton, the great Texas radical high cook a-lorum, did, "on Saturday night, January 25, in the market house at Galveston, publicly advise the negroes not to run for office; and on the Friday night following, January 31, in the Loyal League, did privately approve and encourage the negroes in so doing." This statement has created a great commotion among the secret leagues, and Governor Hamilton seems to have suddenly insinuated himself into a cauldron of political hot water.

A democratic paper out West nominates a distinguished local politician as a candidate for the Presidency, with this singular proviso:—"Subject to the decision of a Democratic National Convention."

The Governor of Kentucky has sent to the Legislature a message, accompanying which is a copy of the preamble and resolution of the Ohio Legislature withdrawing its assent from the proposed fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution. The Governor, in transmitting the document, says:—"Such action by our sister State is in the opinion of the people of this State a violation of constitutional government in its perpetual preservation, and will doubtless receive such consideration by the General Assembly of Kentucky as its importance demands."

At the election in the town of Cornwall, on Tuesday, John Vischer, republican, was elected by 33 majority—a gain of 150 since last year.

A New Political Party—General Dix.

[Washington correspondence (Feb. 11) Boston Advertiser.] Information is conservative circles is to the effect that a considerable number of persons are quietly making throughout the country by those prominent in the Philadelphia Convention of August, 1860, towards the inauguration of a new party, to be known as the National Union party, and to be formed on the former plan of that convention. Hostility to Gen. Grant and such demagogues as Fremont and Fremont, and the name of General Dix, which is constantly used by these men, indicates the kind of party organization contemplated. The party have been numerous private meetings of sub-committees in various parts of the country, and it is expected that the national committee appointed at Philadelphia will soon assemble here.

THE LINCOLN BANQUET IN JERSEY CITY.

Yesterday, being the birthday of the late President Lincoln, was celebrated in an appropriate manner by the Lincoln Association of Jersey City, which gave a grand banquet in the evening at Taylor's Hotel. Some one hundred and fifty persons sat down to supper. The room, which was tastefully decorated, bore on its walls splendid oil portraits of Washington, Lincoln, General Scott and Grant, besides a large engraving of the first reading of the emancipation proclamation by Lincoln to his Cabinet. The following inscriptions were also conspicuous:—"Though dead, he yet speaks," "Great the soul, small the body," "The noblest of men," "The man of