NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

FRENCH THEATRE, Fourteenth street and Sixth avenue.—GENEVIEVE DE BRABANT.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—HUMPTY DUMPTY, WITH NEW FEATURES.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—MRS. F. W. LANDER AS MARIE ANTOINETTE.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—THE LANCASHIRE LASS.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—MATILDA HERON AS CAMILLE.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—PIRATES OF THE SAVANNAH—SNOW BIRD.

PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and 23d street.—LA BELLE HELENE.

GERMAN STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—EIN GLASS WASSER.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—FANCHON, THE LITTLE CRICKET.

BRYANTS' OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th street.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, &c.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 720 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, BURLESQUE.—ORPHEE AUX ENFERS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING, &c.

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

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—THE GREAT ORIGINAL LINGARD AND VAUDEVILLE COMPANY.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Thirtieth street and Broadway.—Afternoon and evening Performance.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—REHEARSAL OF THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

APOLLO HALL, Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—JAMES TAYLOR AND ALF BURNETT.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—EQUESTRIAN AND GYMNASTIC ENTERTAINMENT.

GREAT EUROPEAN CIRCUS, corner Broadway and 34th st.—EQUESTRIAN AND GYMNASTIC PERFORMANCES.

UNION LEAGUE CLUB THEATRE, corner Madison avenue and 26th street.—READINGS FROM SHAKSPEARE.

IRVING HALL, Irving place.—MAC EVOY'S NEW HIBERNICON.

ALHAMBRA, 616 Broadway.—MUSICAL MOMENTS WITH MERRY MOMUS.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS—FEMENINE WIGWAM, &c.

HOOLEY'S (E. D.) OPERA HOUSE, Williamsburg.—HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS—BURLESQUES—ÆRONAUTS, &c.

ART GALLERY, 845 Broadway.—EXHIBITION OF OIL PAINTINGS—ESMERALDA.

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

New York, Friday, November 13, 1868.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable reports are dated November 12. The British Parliament elections commence to-day, and extraordinary precautions are being taken to prevent disturbances, especially in Blackburn.

The Bank of England returns show £119,000 less in vault than last week.

The Rev. William Thomson is appointed to the See of Canterbury.

The Austrian Reichsrath has passed new army regulations.

The International Military Commission of St. Petersburg has admitted the limited use of explosive projectiles in war.

Mexico.

Telegraphic advices via Havana state that Congress is about to try General Mejia, the Secretary of War, for misappropriation of public moneys. Several other prominent personages are also to be tried, and Minister Romero has been accused by a Congressman of illegal acts in various ways. General Cauto, the murderer of Patoni, had demanded a military trial.

Cuba.

Our Havana letter of November 7 confirms the news, published in our letters yesterday, that Puerto Principe had risen in revolt. Five war vessels had been ordered to depart immediately for the scene of the insurrection. A commission, in the person of Aguilesa, a prominent leader of the rebels, is believed to have gone from the insurgents to Secretary Seward to urge upon him the expediency of recognizing them as belligerents. The government authorities in Havana are quiet about the progress of the revolt, and it is believed that they are forced to confess themselves unable to subdue it. The insurgents are supplied with arms from St. Domingo.

Telegraphic advices of yesterday state that Captain General Lersundi has issued a proclamation closing all ports in the Eastern departments where no Custom Houses have been established.

The American war steamer Contoocook, which sailed from Fortress Monroe for Havana on Tuesday, carries out Rear Admiral Hoff, who has made her his flagship.

Miscellaneous.

District Attorney S. G. Courtney and Marshal Murray arrived in Washington yesterday to answer the charges made against them by Judge Fullerton. They visited the President and the charges against them were read by Judge Fullerton, who had a pile of affidavits on the subject. Both are charged with malfeasance in office, including bribery and corruption. They made informal defences, but it is said that Thurlow Weed and Mr. Van Valkenburgh, of New York, are retained to defend them.

A resolution was introduced in the Tennessee Legislature yesterday to unseat the Speaker of the House, as ineligible. The resolution was laid over until to-day.

A store at Huntington, L. I., was entered by burglars on Wednesday night, the safe blown open and $18,000 in United States bonds were carried off.

General Cole's second trial commenced at Albany yesterday. Out of a panel of 150 jurors called four only have so far been accepted.

The white men of Charleston, S. C., propose to contest the municipal election in that city on the ground of intimidation.

Michael Roche, for the manslaughter of Patrick Madden in Hoboken last July, was sentenced to three years in the State Prison.

The trial of James Rielly, who is charged with having murdered his wife in August last by throwing her from Hackensack bridge into the river, was commenced in Hudson City, N. J., yesterday.

The City.

Nine thousand dollars in bills were stolen from the Mechanics' Bank, in Court street, Brooklyn, on Tuesday, by an adroit thief, who, with two confederates, entered the office about one o'clock in the afternoon. The two clerks present were engaged by two of the thieves, while the third quietly emptied the drawers nearest him.

A bank messenger, with $100,000 in bonds and money in his possession, was assaulted in Cedar street yesterday by a man who attempted to steal the treasure. A policeman came to the rescue, however, and arrested the thief.

A young man named James Henderson presented a check for $95,000 at the Fourth National Bank for payment yesterday afternoon, but as the cashier became suspicious the young man became frightened and ran, but was easily captured. On examination it proved that the check was a genuine one altered from $916 to $95,000.

In the Board of Common Councilmen yesterday the veto message of the Mayor on the resolution for the appointment of an index clerk at a salary of $1,500 was received. The ordinance authorizing the issue of $75,000 worth of stock for the purchase of a pauper burying ground was received and laid over.

Admiral Farragut paid an official visit to the Brooklyn Navy Yard yesterday and was received by Admiral Godon with the customary honors.

Faustine Berthillot, formerly an attache of Bateman's *opera bouffe* company, sued "the General" yesterday in the Marine Court for the recovery of $500 damages for alleged illegal arrest and imprisonment. It appears she had been fined fifty cents for professional delinquency and in a row which ensued she called Mr. Bateman a thief. He caused her arrest and Judge Dodge fined her ten dollars. The case is not yet finished.

Griffin, who is charged with complicity in the Royal Insurance bond robbery in 1866, was yesterday committed to the Tombs in default of $10,000 bail. Dr. Cremmen, of Henry street, has been arrested on the charge of having some of the stolen bonds in his possession.

The steamship General Meade sailed last evening for New Orleans, a new plate of iron having been substituted for the one stove in last Saturday night when in contact with the steamship Marmion, near Sandy Hook.

The Inman line steamship City of Paris, Captain James Kennedy, will leave pier 45 North river at one P. M. to-morrow (Saturday) for Queenstown and Liverpool. The European mails will close at the Post Office at twelve M. on the 14th inst.

The steamship Erin, Captain Webster, of the National line, will sail from pier 47 North river at two P. M. on Saturday, 14th inst., for Liverpool, calling at Queenstown to land passengers, &c.

The Merchants' line steamship United States, Captain Norton, will leave pier 12 North river at three P. M. on Saturday, 14th inst., for New Orleans direct.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

Senator S. C. Pomeroy, of Kansas, is stopping at the Astor House.

General J. A. Potter, of the United States Army, and J. F. Joy, of Detroit, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

General George J. Fisher, of Buffalo; Dr. Charles Barnard, of California, and George E. Spencer, of Alabama, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Colonels Thos. Davidson and A. B. Garfield, of the United States Army, and Professor Reeder, of Philadelphia, are at the St. Charles Hotel.

Dr. W. Hays, of Covington, Ky., is at the Maltby House.

Judge Geo. G. Munger, of Rochester; Robert E. Chandler, of New Hampshire; O. A. Washburne, of Rhode Island, and Chas. E. Leedy, of Quebec, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

General T. G. Pitcher, of the United States Army, and Madison Sloat, of Indiana, are at the Hoffman House.

Captain Andrews, of the British Army, and Judge Henderson, of St. Louis, are at the St. Julien Hotel.

Our National Finances and Currency—The Duty of Congress.

The most urgent duty of Congress now is to place the finances and currency of the country on a sound and durable foundation. Through the ignorance and mismanagement of Mr. McCulloch and the want of correct financial views in our national legislators we have been drifting and floundering about in a perilous manner. Had it not been for the extraordinary resources and surprising elasticity of the country under difficulties we should have seen great trouble. Mr. McCulloch has brought himself into an embarrassing situation, so that he knows not which way to turn through his absurd resumption theories and wretched management of the Treasury. By his contraction of the circulating medium and stupid attempts to regulate the money market he disarranges business, encourages gambling in gold, stocks and currency and makes the people pay a ruinous rate of interest. Having reduced the legal tender circulation to about three hundred and fifty millions he now claims the power of increasing it to four hundred millions, the amount limited by law, and from the tenor of our Washington despatches it seems he contemplates exercising that power. Thus the vast business interests of the republic are placed at the mercy of one man, and that man utterly ignorant of the subject of national finance and currency. This ought not to be. It is monstrous that one man or any set of men should have such power over the trade and values of the country. The first thing Congress should do, therefore, is to pass laws determining the amount and character of the currency and regulating the finances on a sound basis.

A great commercial nation is subject to periodical revulsions. They have occurred in this country heretofore every ten years or so. They are the natural reaction from overtrading and speculation, and can hardly be avoided entirely, but with a sound monetary system they may be made comparatively harmless. With a sufficient and flexible currency business would soon recover from temporary shocks and flow again in the regular channel. But it cannot bear such violent and frequent interruptions as the country has suffered during Mr. McCulloch's administration of the Treasury Department. There is not probably more than one-fourth the currency in circulation to-day that there was four years ago. The amount at the close of the war was not less than a thousand millions, and probably nearer twelve hundred millions, inclusive of legal tenders, national bank notes, compound interest notes, the seven-thirties and fractional currency, to say nothing of the bonds which circulated to some extent while they were at par or the premium low. The actual circulation at present is not more than between four and five hundred millions. The seven-thirties and compound interest notes have been withdrawn, and there is not, perhaps, over a hundred millions of legal tenders in active circulation. A hundred and fifty millions, or about that, may be held as reserve by the national banks for their liabilities and another hundred millions locked up by other banks and moneyed institutions. So that, in fact, the actual circulation at present, including national bank notes, legal tenders and fractional currency, does not reach more than between four and five hundred millions. How easy, then, with this comparatively limited circulation, it is for the Secretary of the Treasury or a combination of bankers and speculators to disturb the money market and paralyze trade.

We want the currency regulated by law and a sufficient amount of it. Then it would not be subject to such influences. All attempts to contract it for the purpose of forcing specie payments have been futile and would be ruinous. With an established and well regulated currency the country would grow up to specie payments naturally as wealth and population increase and trade expands. At the same time that Congress should so regulate the currency it ought also to consolidate the national debt in one stock bearing a low and uniform rate of interest. There is necessarily great sympathy between the currency and such a vast debt, and the condition of one affects the other. If the interest of the whole debt were reduced to three or four per cent people would hold it strictly as a permanent investment, would cease to speculate in it as they do now and money would be used for other purposes. As the first step in these necessary reforms the President should remove Mr. McCulloch, who stands in the way. Then Congress, immediately on reassembling, should regulate the currency according to the wants of the country, reorganize the national debt on the basis we have suggested and give us a sound financial system in every respect.

The Whiskey Government of the United States.

At last there appears to be some prospect of action on the part of President Johnson in regard to the internal revenue frauds, and some likelihood that a definite point will be reached leading to a clearing out of the department and an investigation into its past transactions. An important budget of evidence, strengthened by affidavits, has been submitted to the President, and parties interested in the developments have been summoned to appear in Washington and answer for themselves. Rumors of suspensions on a grand scale are floating about on the air, and there is a suspicious fluttering among government officials and a sudden revival of the Congressional whitewashing committee which look very much like preparations for a storm. Above all, the old policy of blackening the character of parties engaged in the investigation of revenue frauds is being revived in the organs of the whiskey rings, and this may be accepted as the surest indication that the operators who have been for three or four years making a hundred million dollars a year out of the government expect at last to be brought to bay.

It is to be hoped that the parties into whose hands the investigation into these frauds has passed will prove equal to the task and persevere in their effort to keep President Johnson up to the mark, so as to insure the suspension of the government officials who obstruct inquiry and bring about a complete exposure of all the transactions of the whiskey rings so far as they can be ascertained. But the people have witnessed so many failures in this direction that they will hesitate to place much confidence in the present indications until some definite result has been reached. The fact is that the whiskey rings have virtually governed the United States for the past three or four years, and the country knows their power. They have had their voices in the Cabinet; they have carried majorities in both houses of Congress; they have governed the departments and bureaus at Washington; they have filled the offices of collectors, assessors, storekeepers and gaugers; they have placed their agents upon the bench, at the bar, in the jury box and on the witness stand. The subordinate positions in the several districts have been filled on the recommendation of the collectors and assessors with the right sort of men, and hence, when the principal officers have been the allies of the whiskey rings, the whole revenue force of the district has partaken of the same character. The laws have been made at the dictation of these rings. The Congressional committees charged with the construction of a system of taxation have called before them none but members of the whiskey rings and their co-operators, and the very men who have made fortunes by selling their products at less than the tax nominally imposed upon their manufacture have been deemed competent advisers in the amendment of faulty revenue laws. The Tenure of Office law was a necessity to the whiskey government of the United States and was enacted in its interest. It tied the hands of the Executive, rendering it impossible for him to remove any federal officeholder, from his Cabinet advisers down, without the consent of Congress; and hence while the whiskey rings held Congress they were secure from molestation, however glaring and enormous their frauds. The President had the power of suspension left, but this he could only exercise at his peril, and the constant session of Congress rendered it nugatory. Thus armed at every point the whiskey rings have for the past three or four years virtually governed the United States, and have been revelling in fraud and corruption, safe from removal, protected against criminal prosecutions and fearless of exposure.

President Johnson is well aware of these facts, and he knows that the groundwork of the whole evil is the Congressional interference with the constitutional functions of the Executive of the United States. If he possessed the power of removal the corruption that surrounds his administration would have been long since swept away. But he is now free from Congress until the first Monday in December, and he can in the meantime suspend the principal officers in the Internal Revenue Department, substitute unexceptionable men in their places, proceed vigorously with the investigation into the enormous frauds of the past three years, and then defy Congress to interfere with or nullify his acts. After the one determined step his way will be plain and his task easy; for upon the first real danger to the corrupt rings they will turn round upon each other, and each will endeavor to save himself by volunteering as State's evidence against his fellow criminal. Now is President Johnson's opportunity. Let him act promptly and fearlessly and he will clear his own character from the stains that disfigure his administration, and will place the responsibility upon those who have stripped him of executive power. But if he should falter and decide to leave the work of purification to his successor, the world will be slow to believe that his own hands are entirely clean.

Mr. McCulloch as a Stockjobber.

Although no more Treasury stockjobbing despatches have been received from Washington within the last three days the public indignation which they excited has by no means subsided. It is generally known that until within a very short time past Mr. McCulloch looked forward to retaining his present office under General Grant, but hopes of this no longer exist, and the Secretary, as a *dernier ressort*, is said to be intent on making a million of dollars, more or less, before he leaves the department. The semi-official press despatches of Friday, Saturday and Monday last were therefore, there is good reason to believe, part of the stockjobbing scheme in which the Treasury ring is engaged, with Mr. McCulloch at its head. This is not only a scandal to the department, but a disgrace to the government, and its repetition ought to be punished by the President by the suspension of his stockjobbing Secretary of the Treasury. It is not the business of the latter to attempt to regulate Wall street by either bulling or bearing stocks, gold and government securities, in league with speculators, or trying to influence the money market by resorting to expedients. The Secretary of the Treasury has no authority under the law to inflate the currency, and it was an abuse of authority for him to threaten to do so, and, moreover, it is in direct conflict with all that he has hitherto said on the subject. But what signifies consistency and official honor when the Treasury ring is at work? It remains for public opinion to enlighten Mr. McCulloch, if nothing else will, and the former is unanimously opposed to any interference whatever with the money market for the benefit of either the Treasury ring or any other stockjobbers.

Exit the Blair Family—Enter the Washburne Family.

Great families are great facts in all national history, and the family as an institution is so universally found and respected in nations having any civilization whatever that we must accept it as the natural unit of social organization. Roman history is especially noted as having grown around the names of a few great families; and if we would sum up the earlier glories of the republic we shall find that its wealth was less in its record of great achievements than in the roll of its illustrious *gens*. The true splendors of that history were the Furii, (from whom Camillus came), the Cornelii, the Emilii, the Fabii, the Julii, the Horatii—names that in the great story of the past rank even almost with the name of Rome itself. In such esteem did the Romans themselves hold their great *gens* that they have stamped indelibly upon the speech we inherit from them that it is a reproach to be a fellow of none of the families; to be *non generosus* is to be without much of the better grace of life, and the possession of a fair claim to gen-tility compensates the mass of men for even the want of more substantial possessions.

Our own history shows a growth not dissimilar to that of the early Roman republic, and we see in it also the prominent splendor of some great names. We all know what a power the Adams family was in the story of the Revolution, and we see its high tendency in the education of its sons to the science of government running through many generations. Another part of the country cannot write its history without the name of Lee on every page. Our own State has a richer roll of these names than any other, and its story could be amply written in the biographies of members of such illustrious *gens* as the Stuyvesants, Van Rensselaers, Schuylers, Hamiltons, Morrises and Livingstons. In the roll of these names of great American families there is also, not to say it captiously, the Blair family. (Ex-President Fillmore regards Old Blair as "the greatest man that God Almighty ever made." This illustrious family was once held in greater esteem than it is now; but decay of influence is a possible fate of all families, and is no dishonor to the family, but only to the age that fails to appreciate it. Men who know our history will not regard the Blairs the less that one of them got fewer votes for an insignificant office than somebody else; for they will know that this single family has carried on the government since the days of General Jackson. We never had any earthquakes in San Francisco in those days.

But it is also a peculiarity of this development of nations that every now and then new families come up. Often a great man establishes a *gens*, as Camillus, who was a Furius, was afterwards counted the first of the Camilli. In many cases foolish people call these men *parvenus*, upstarts and nobodies; but wiser people see the future in them. The Romans called them *nobiles*, because of their novelty or newness, and this is the queer etymology of nobility; so that for a family to be very noble it must be very new, which ought to be a great comfort to those happy people who cannot tell the names of their grandfathers. In our history one of the most illustrious of the new *gens* is the Washburne family, which will be known in the future better than even Ignatius Donnelly knows it now. We expect a great deal from this family, because it is so large. It went first from Down East, which is the best section of the country to migrate from, and settled out West in a soil that gives vigorous growth. There is at present an Elihu Washburne, an Elias Washburne, an Elijah Washburne, an Elisha Washburne, with Abijahs, Nehemiahs, Hezekiahs and Obadiahs too numerous to name. They are all in Congress just now, except a few that are in foreign missions; but Congress is, after all, not a place to thrive in, so that we expect to see five or six of them in the Cabinet in a short time and the rest in the next best places.

NOTES ABOUT TOWN.

None of the numerous sidewalks in the city have been repaired so often and none of them to-day are in such a wretched and abominable state of neglect and dilapidation as the one on the Broadway side of the City Hall Park. Can't our "City Fathers" have this disgrace remedied?

The nuisance of "ticket speculators" that infests the entrance to most of our metropolitan theatres is being gradually abolished. To Wood's Museum belongs the credit of this needed reform, and other places of public amusement, it is rumored, are about to follow the example of their uptown neighbor.

The young fops and peacocks of fashion, who have suddenly taken a fancy to wear peacock feathers in the bandit hats which are now the rage, would be less conspicuous would they but content themselves with the hat and "bend" without the feather. These ninnies plume themselves immensely upon their silly appearance.

The proposed filibustering expedition to Cuba is at present the all-absorbing topic of conversation in this city among adventurous young men of slender prospects, who have nothing particular to do. To such as may be inclined to visit the "Queen of the Antilles" the recollections of Nicaragua and the fate of General Walker should be a warning.

SALE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE BOSTON STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

The great steamships Erie and Ontario, which were built a little over a year since by the newly organized American Steamship Company of Boston, have recently been sold at private sale. Commodore Vanderbilt was the purchaser, and the price paid was far below their original cost and probably about the amount of the indebtedness existing against the steamship company. They were intended originally to run between Boston and Liverpool, but there was not sufficient business to sustain them. Commodore Vanderbilt, it is said, will run them between the Pacific coast and some foreign port.

THE COLE-HISCOCK TRIAL AT ALBANY.

ALBANY, Nov. 12, 1868.

The second trial of George W. Cole commenced here to-day in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, Judge Hogeboom presiding.

A motion to postpone till to-morrow on account of the absence of James T. Brady was denied.

The panel of jurors was then called. Out of 150 jurors summoned fifty-eight were drawn up to adjournment, of whom the following were accepted:—Samuel Trull, Cohoes; Joseph Deitz, Ezra Dickeman and Patrick Lamb, of Albany.

Senator Cole, of California, brother of the prisoner, is attending the trial.

LECTURES LAST NIGHT.

Arctic Discovery—Address by Dr. Hayes, the Arctic Explorer, Before the American Geographical Society.

The lecture room of the American Geographical Society was crowded last evening by an assemblage of ladies and gentlemen representing the intellect and culture of the metropolis to listen to an address on "Arctic Discoveries," by Dr. Isaac I. Hayes, the renowned Arctic explorer. Judge Daly, the president, occupied the chair. This was the first monthly meeting since May 14 of this year, and the reports of the treasurer and librarian were received and adopted, giving statements of the business of their respective departments during the interval.

The president then made some allusion to the gratifying reports received concerning the safety, researches and probable success of Dr. Livingstone, and a brief passing eulogium on the memory of the lately deceased De La Roquette, president of the French Geographical Society, and suggested that appropriate resolutions be transmitted to the society. After alluding to other minor subjects he introduced the lecturer of the evening, Dr. Hayes, who proceeded to deliver a most elaborate discourse upon the subject announced, which he illustrated by globes, charts, maps and outlines. After reviewing the progress of ancient geography from the times of Moses and Homer, who, he said, were the first geographers, and the labors of their successors down to the fall of the Roman Empire, he dwelt at length on the overshadowing importance of the discovery of the magnetic needle. From this era modern geography took its rise and the age of discovery began to develop itself. Columbus led the way to a new world and then began the struggles of the nations to reach India by a voyage to the West. The Spanish and Portuguese held possession of every route thought of except the northerly passage, and the English and Dutch early started expeditions to seek a course in that direction, a northern Magellan's Strait. Thus opened the age of Arctic discovery, in 1494, by the Venetian Cabot, under the British flag and which was never brought to an end, until McClure, under the same flag in 1853—359 years afterwards—proved that there was in truth a northern route to the Indies, but proved at the same time that it was unavailable for commercial purposes. The lecturer then traced the adventures of the Scandinavians and the Basque fishermen. The northern coasts of Asia and America enclosed what is known as the open Polar Sea, whose existence Dr. Hayes elaborately defined upon the theory of the oceanic currents. Of the flow of the waters within the limits of the Polar Sea we know little, but we can trace one. This sweeps along both coasts of Greenland; the branch on the eastern side, after touching Iceland, wheels around Cape Farewell into Baffin's Bay, where it joins the other branch through Smith's Sound, and out from the great Parry Archipelago through Jones Sound, Lancaster Sound and Hudson Strait. Thus uniting its great arms this Polar current courses along the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland, and wedging itself in between the Gulf Stream and the American coast is finally lost off the cape of Florida. The Gulf Stream and the Japanese current both flow into the Polar Sea, the former entering by the coast of Spitzbergen and the latter through Behring Strait. Noting the influences of these currents upon the climates of the adjacent countries we find on the Atlantic coast, Glasgow, in latitude 55 deg. 51 min., parallel with the coldest point of Labrador, which is chilled by the ice-encumbered current of Baffin's Bay. St. Petersburg is on the same parallel of latitude with the southern point of Greenland. On the Pacific coast Sitka was found in latitude 57 deg. 3 min., with much the same climate as the European cities before mentioned. Water, he proceeded to say, did not freeze except where sheltered by the land, as it was a restless object. Firmly frozen bodies of water of any considerable extent were not known. Baffin's Bay and Hudson Bay were never sealed, and in passing the winter of 1860-61 on the margin of the most northerly portion of Baffin's Bay, with the temperature at forty degrees below zero, he, with his party, was always within sound of the beating surf. Explaining the different proposed and projected routes to the Polar Sea, he said he would give the preference to the way of Smith's Sound. A vessel could certainly be forced up to Fort Polk, and thence would be afforded, first, land as a base of operations, the route lying over Grinnell's Land, and, second, the opportunity to colonize a party of hunters and natives as a permanent support. Birds, whale, walrus, seal and reindeer were here to be found in abundance. This was his plan seven years ago, as it was now.

In concluding, while stating that he did not appear as the advocate of a cause or to prove a theory, he expressed the utmost confidence in being able with a steamer to reach the open Polar Sea, and was willing again to attempt it in the interest of science and for the honor of the nation. Our government was not one upon which we usually rely in such emergencies; yet he had thought that the government might be persuaded to lend to such an expedition a good, stout ship of the many not now in use.

At the close of his address, which occupied over two hours in delivery, a vote of thanks was tendered the lecturer, and a request made for a copy of his paper to be preserved in the archives of the society.

Japan and the Japanese.

Last evening Mr. George S. Fisher, late United States Consul to Japan, delivered a lecture on Japan and the Japanese at the Forty-second street Presbyterian church to a numerous and select audience. He said that the name and memory of Commodore Perry were well and affectionately remembered in Japan, and too much credit cannot be awarded him for his triumphant success in opening the trade of that country to American enterprise. The islands of Japan are several hundred in number and generally fertile and healthy. The seaboard is stormy and inhospitable, but there are very many fine harbors to be found and excellent anchorage ground within. Terrific storms and typhoons are common to the waters of Japan. The interior country is abundantly watered, and rich alluvial valleys, magnificent wood and tablelands meet the eye on all sides. The camelia japonica is often seen growing to an altitude of sixty feet; the acacia, the camphor wood trees, the palm tree, the tall cedars, the variety of chrysanthums rhododendrons, the orange, the fig and pomegranate are on every hand and add intense beauty and interest to the landscape. The summer nights are always refreshing on the coast. In the interior the weather in some places is exceedingly sultry. The population of the country might be about 38,000,000 of souls. The population of Jeddo has decreased, owing principally to the reversal of the ancient decree by the Tycoon requiring the great daimios to retain a large representation of their followers at the national capital; and then there have been some fearful fires, burning down whole acres of houses and destroying an immense number of lives.

The ceilings, partitions, doors and windows of Japanese houses are made of paper. The true Japanese house is opened front and rear, at the rear more particularly, and parterres of the most exquisite flowers are trained around the humblest dwellings.

The Tycoon is the great temporal ruler of Japan; he is Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy; he governs the Treasury; coins all the current money of the realm; regulates the supreme, civil and judicial business, and attends to innumerable other matters. The accounts we hear now from Japan about the Mikado being deprived of his share in the dual government—the spiritual element—are difficult to rely upon, because Japanese affairs are mystery thrice mystified, and impossible to be fully and clearly understood and appreciated by foreigners. There is a good deal of dissension among the daimios on the subject of trading with the outside world. Some of them favor throwing open all the ports, while there are others who would forever adhere to the old and obstinate policy of sealing up the entire seaboard. This very feeling on this subject was the source of the troubles which sprung up in Japan in 1863. A strong party insisted upon the immediate closing up of all the ports. The buildings of the British Legation at Jeddo, which had just been completed, were burned down; large numbers of angry and excited men swarmed around those ports where foreigners were congregated, threatening to trample in the dust men, women and children of the barbarian race, but the wise and temperate action of the Tycoon allayed the excitement and restored order.

The distinctions in Japan between people and officials are very great. Caste is not the same as that which is known in India; but the barrier is almost wholly impassable between the common people and the nobility. All persons and officials of rank wear two swords; old men, wealthy and retired merchants wear one sword. The short sword is the peculiar sword for defending personal honor. Ladies of rank also carry a small sword or dagger for self-defence or self-immolation, like their lords, who perform the hari-kari (the happy despatch) when certain forms of disgrace overtake them.

The people are more dignified, intelligent, self-reliant, generous and hospitable than any other Eastern or Indian people. The fashions of the Japanese never change, fastidiousness in dress is not prevalent and nudity is not uncommon.

The transportation of burdens through the interior is done by coolies, who traverse the empire from one end to the other. The temples of religion are in some instances of great magnificence, and are situated amid scenes of the most exquisite beauty.

The ingenuity of the Japanese gives them claim to be called the yellow Yankees of the East. For models of coolness and patience they excel, and in politeness they are ahead of the French. The masses of the women are low in stature and more like slaves of burden than helpmates of their lords. Some of them in the higher ranks are very finely formed, and with teeth of pearly whiteness. The moment, however, that they marry their teeth are put in mourning, dyed blacker than the blackest ebony. It is very likely a custom intended to draw a palpable distinction between the married and unmarried, and thus running away with another man's wife becomes a very difficult and dangerous operation for a known bachelor. Tobacco is smoked by all classes, even by women. The common people are neither very rich nor very poor. As a nation the Japanese have made more progress in eight years than the Chinese in fifty. The Chinese do not understand the steam engine; the Japanese are quite at home at it. The Chinese will never, if they can avoid it, adopt a foreign custom; the Japanese are ever disposed to adopt any practice they deem useful. Some of their public processions present to the eye of the foreigner a unique, magnificent and unparalleled appearance. Among the amusements is the tournament practised by the daimios. Boar hunting has its votaries, travelling shows of all kinds are to be met with, but no circus has yet made its appearance. The first newspaper was started at Yokohama during our rebellion. Japanese Tommy, so well known in this country, was managing editor. The largest gold coin is the obang, as large as the palm of the hand and worth eighty-two dollars.

There is great respect shown to the dead in Japan. The cemetery at Jeddo embraces over 600 acres, and is filled with monuments and mausoleums of great beauty and richness. There is every reason to hope that Japan will be drawn into yet closer and more confidential relations with this country, and if only the same dignified, wise, conciliatory and humane policy be persisted in which has already marked American transactions with Japan no other nation will secure so much of the confidence and respect of this highly intelligent and interesting people.

Dr. Lemercier's Second Lecture—Scientific Exhibition.

Dr. F. G. Lemercier, lately from France, delivered the second of the course of lectures, for which the learned gentleman was announced by the "Association for the Advancement of Science and Art." The large hall of Cooper Institute was filled to about one-fifth of its capacity, and this is to be regretted, for the learned lecturer demonstrated physical truths which it would benefit many thousands to know. His English is not of the purest, but by means of objective illustrations he succeeded very well in making himself understood, and although occasionally one or the other of the audience suggested to him this or that word, he always managed to keep himself on the course which he laid out for himself, and never deviated.

The learned gentleman began by recapitulating the first lecture, already reported in the HERALD, and again exhibited those hideous counterfeits of man and beast which every student of medicine is, or ought to be at least, fully familiar with. He showed the heart, the viscera, the blood circulation, the lung and how it worked while breathing, the diaphragm, and closed the introduction by taking apart a snail, by while he explained the process of digestion, giving the audience to understand that it is well to smoke after dinner, but that it was otherwise if a cigar be taken before it. A very illustrative representation was of the effect that corsets have upon the human body; they interfere with eating, with breathing, disturb secretion and make work unpalatable. If the learned Doctor had simply said that tight lacing produces dispepsia and all the attendant diseases he would have been sooner understood.

Dr. Lemercier then gave a lucid explanation, assisted by an enlarged plastic, or, as he calls it, "elastic," illustration, how a serpent produces poison, how its glands secrete it and how it is pressed into the hollow of the incisor, and how, when the serpent is biting, the poisonous juice is forced out through its teeth. The mechanism of the snake's head was illustrated, that of the bee and of the silkworm, and the physical structure of this worm was admirably given. The Doctor told his audience how the silk was generated within the body of the worm, through what tubes it has to pass, how the cocoon was formed and that three thousand feet of silk were made by a single worm inside of three days. The lecturer then passed over to the nervous system; that there are two distinct systems in man—one the nutritive, which promotes life and breathing; the other the sensitive, which has its centre in the cerebellum and which receives the sensation from all parts of the body, and which also imparts the sense of volition to all the members of the human frame. After demonstrating this proposition by a number of apt illustrations the learned gentleman turned to "taste," and very happily illustrated it by the divergent tastes of master and cook, the latter of whom often knows better, from the very instinct of his trade, what is good to dispel the effects of an ill regulated life. On the other hand he referred to the saying of the celebrated German physician, Dr. Hoeflein, that the call of cooks is to destroy health, that of physicians to repair it, but that the cooks are more certain to succeed than doctors.

Giving a full and vivid elucidation of the organs for smelling, illustrated by models from dogs and foxes, the lecturer proceeded to the sense of sight, and with the enlarged representation of the human eye, which he produced, he gave a graphic and pictural description of that beautiful mechanism. Adverting to the syncopic, or short-sighted eye, the Doctor remarked that short-sighted men are generally more intelligent than others; which declaration those who are gifted with short-sightedness may consider as advantageous to them. The ear and its mechanical construction were the last referred to, the tympanum was shown, and the whole method of hearing illustrated. The next lecture will be to-night, and for its subject the Doctor has selected the "brain" and its influence upon the body.

FARRAGUT.

Official Reception at the Brooklyn Navy Yard—Honors to the Hero of the Mississippi and Mobile Bay.

Admiral Farragut yesterday afternoon paid a visit to the Commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and as the visit was merely a sort of return compliment for Admiral Godon's visit to the Franklin the other day, and which naval etiquette exacted from even the "hero of New Orleans," no very extensive preparations were made for his reception. There was no manning of yards or flaunting of flags from the war ships in the river, as was expected would be the case, for the fact is that but very few persons outside the regular attachés of the Yard were aware that Farragut was about to honor the post by his presence.

About noon the Admiral, accompanied by several members of his staff in full dress, drove down town from his residence in private carriages, and embarked in a small tug that had been sent over the river from the Navy Yard for his accommodation. As the little vessel steamed its way across the stream the brilliant uniforms of the officers attracted the attention of the crowds on many of the passing ferryboats, who on descrying the familiar figure of Farragut in their midst, cheered him quite lustily.

On the arrival of the tug at the Navy Yard wharf the Admiral was met at the gangway by Rear Admiral Godon and his staff and a large number of naval officers from the various war ships now lying in the river. The two Admirals greeted each other quite warmly and arm in arm, followed by their staffs, marched up the roadway towards the Lyceum, the band playing "Hail to the Chief," and the battalion of marines, in full uniform, under Colonel Brown, which was drawn up in line along the route, presenting arms as they passed.

It is customary when a rear admiral goes on board his flag ship to assume command or to be received at any naval station for the drums to give two ruffles and a salute of thirteen guns to be fired; but on account of Farragut's occupying a higher rank in the navy than any one mentioned in the latest edition of the "Regulations," according to St. Gideon, four ruffles of the drum were given and a salute of seventeen guns was fired from the shore battery as he entered the commandant's headquarters.

The Admiral had no sooner got himself safely into the Lyceum than he was at once surrounded by all the officers, naval and marine, each of whom seemed to vie with the other in expressions of welcome. Admiral Godon introduced the officers singly, and for over a half hour Farragut was forced to undergo a hand-shaking ordeal that no other man besides General Grant could outlive for an hour. After having chatted on some one topic or another with nearly all the blue coats and been reminded a great many more times than was actually necessary that he was in close proximity to a quantity of cannon he had captured at Mobile and elsewhere during the war, he was escorted to the Commandant's house, where an interesting impromptu levee was held in the parlors, the ladies doing all the honors with becoming grace. Several ladies of prominent families in Brooklyn called on the Admiral during the levee and paid their respects.

Within an hour after his arrival at the Yard he took his departure, escorted to the wharf by the marines. A great many flags were displayed from housetops in Brooklyn during the Admiral's visit.

THE EAST RIVER IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the East River Improvement Association, held last evening at room No. 21 Cooper Institute, was attended by a large number of prominent citizens and east side property holders, and the proceedings were of a most encouraging and satisfactory nature. The President, Mr. James R. Taylor, said that, although the society was only organized last spring, it had already accomplished a great deal towards improving the commercial and industrial interests of the East river and the real estate bordering thereon. The society solicits the co-operation of all those interested in developing the natural resources and enhancing the value of property on the east side of New York city and harbor. Every exertion is now being made to convince Congress of the necessity of removing the obstructions at Hell Gate and other points on the East river and of making the Sound entrance as practicable as Sandy Hook, and also to urge upon the State and municipal authorities the advant