

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET. JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- PIERCE'S OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth Avenue and 35th Street.—L'ES BAYARDS.—BARRÉ BLUZE. FRENCH THEATRE, Fourteenth Street and Sixth Avenue.—GÉNÉRAL DE BRABANT. OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—ROMPEY DUMPEY. BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—THE EMERALD KING. WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 12th Street.—THE LANSKUISE LARK. NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—AFTER DARK; OR, LONDON BY NIGHT. BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—AFTER DARK.—VOLAUVENT. NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway.—THE COMEDY OF AS YOU LIKE IT. MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Broadway.—NICK OF THE WOODS. BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—LINDA AND VAUDEVILLE COMPANY. RYAN'S OPERA HOUSE, Broadway Building, 14th Street.—EUROPEAN MINSTRELS, 40.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, December 9, 1868.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated December 8. The telegraphic arrangements throughout Europe, in accordance with the agreement made at the international Telegraph Convention recently held in Vienna, will go into effect on the 1st of January next. Important changes have been made, and the tolls will be reduced about one-half.

A heavy gale prevailed throughout England during Sunday night and Monday morning. Much injury was caused.

Mr. Disraeli resigned the seals of office to the Queen yesterday.

The funeral of the late M. Berryer took place yesterday.

Count Bismarck, says the *Moniteur*, has assured the Ambassadors of France, England and Russia of his confidence in the continuance of good feeling between the European Powers.

Columbia.

Our Panama letter is dated November 20. The Chagres and Obispo rivers swelled rapidly on the 25th and submerged the railroad track, making it impassable for several days. The national Supreme Court had ordered the release of Governor Gutierrez, of Cundinamarca, who was imprisoned for organizing a rebellion in his State against the national Government. The court decided that he was guilty of no violation of the constitution in so doing, but the judges, it is said, had to hide themselves to escape being mobbed. The States are, however, still organizing their revolutionary forces.

Peru.

Our Lima letter is dated November 14. Rumors of a revolt in the South were prevalent, but President Buzza had appointed Colonel Corejo, whom he deputed to the province, to be Prefect for the province, and his popularity and good words were considered guarantees of peace and order. The district is the same that suffered most by the earthquakes of August last. Revolutionary agents were also busy at the North. Buzza himself having lost his popularity in that district. Financial affairs were in an unsatisfactory state. The country was quite exultant over the release of the Peruvian iron-clads at New Orleans, and it is said the secret history of the negotiation contains some singular episodes.

Chile.

Arrangements have been made, it is said, by which Chilean ports are again open to Spanish vessels.

Bolivia.

The people in some quarters are in revolt at the frontiers of Brazil. A trouble with Peru has arisen on account of the dismissal of a Bolivian Consul who had opened some mail bags in his care. The President of Bolivia, Melgarejo, asserts his determination to force Peru to restore to him his ex-ambassador. The Bolivian Minister had withdrawn in wrath at the demonstrations in opposition to the treaty. The director of a foreign company who opened a bank at La Paz had been compelled to loan Melgarejo \$100,000 through threats.

Cuba.

Our despatches from Havana contain additional accounts of the spirited fighting of last week. Balmaseda admits having suffered heavy loss. He was on his way from Puerto Principe to Nuevitas when the battles ensued. Colonel Loño had abandoned Las Tunas and arrived at Manati. These movements indicate a withdrawal from the interior by the part of the Spanish troops. The revolutionary force has met with several successes. General Villanar is marching on Sancti Spiritus and Guantanamo had been reduced. It is supposed by the insurgents is composed of the three colors red, white and blue. A blue band at the bottom runs the whole length of the flag from the hoist and is half the flag's width. The upper half is divided between red and white, the former next the staff. In the centre of the red is a five angled white star. The loyalists ridicule the idea of having the star of Cuba rise in a red instead of a blue firmament.

Havai.

Advises by mail to the 25th ult. report no change in the situation. Blockades were maintained at St. Iago, Miraguanoe, Aux Cayes and Jernicie. The ship *Aerolis*, with more troops, had sailed for Fifth Cove with his corvette and gunboat.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday a bill was introduced to abolish the franking privilege. A resolution, calling for information as to the difficulty with Paraguay, was adopted. A resolution to amend the rules, so that Indian treaties should hereafter be considered in open session, was discussed slightly and laid over. A resolution to extend the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims to Louisiana and Arkansas was laid on the table and ordered to be printed. The Senate after a thirty-five minutes session adjourned. In the House the unfinished business of July last was taken up, being the bill regulating the duties on imported copper. The bill was passed by a vote of 195 to 81. Resolutions of Oregon Legislature reflecting on Senators Corbett and Williams, and demanding their resignations were adopted and ordered to be returned to the Oregon Legislature as inadvisable, impertinent and interfering. A bill to transfer the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the

War Department was argued at some length and then passed by a vote of 116 to 33. Mr. Robinson again moved the question of Fenian prisoners in Ireland, declaring that war ought to be declared against England before dinner time, but no action was taken on it and the House adjourned. We publish elsewhere this morning the reports of the heads of departments, as follows:— 1. Treasury, by Secretary Hugh McCulloch. 2. War, by Secretary J. M. Schofield.

Miscellaneous.

The loss of the steamship *Hibernia*, Captain Munroe, was reported in yesterday's *Herald*. She sailed from this port November 14, and was out eleven days when she was lost. She carried on the trip twenty-one cabin and intermediate and sixty-three steerage passengers, a list of whom is given in another column this morning.

The American ship *Hesperus* was lost at Pigeon Point, above San Francisco, on the 19th of November. We published a telegraphic account of the disaster at the time. Eleven lives were lost, the captain and first officer being among the number. We publish to-day a full account of the shipwreck and a list of the lost and saved.

The Washington correspondent of a Massachusetts paper intimates that at least \$300,000 were paid to newspaper men and lobbyists for services in having the appropriation bill for the purchase of Alaska passed, and names among the papers thus rewarded at least four New York establishments. The Russians, it appears, footed these bills. The testimony in the trial of Deason Andrews was concluded on Monday night, and yesterday the prisoner was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to twenty years imprisonment.

The City.

General Grant was closeted with General McClellan at the St. Nicholas Hotel for more than an hour yesterday. In the evening he was entertained with a grand dinner and reception by the Union League Club. Mr. Fitz-John Stuyvesant, General Grant being seated on his right, and Admiral Farragut on his left. In response to the toasts, the General and the Admiral made speeches of their customary brevity. Commodore Meade was brought before Judge Sutherland yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus directed to the keeper of the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum. The Commodore recognized several old friends, the Judge among others, and conducted himself very rationally during the examination that ensued. He occupied a seat next to the Judge and part of the examination consisted of a conversation between the two, carried on in a low tone, during which Judge Sutherland narrowly watched the movements and expressions of the alleged insane Commodore. At the conclusion Judge Sutherland discharged him as perfectly sane and responsible.

In the United States District Court, Judge Blatchford presiding, the trial of the case of the United States vs. a quantity of distilled spirits seized at the rectifying establishment of Watson & Cray, Christopher street, was resumed yesterday. A number of witnesses for the government were examined and the prosecution rested. Counsel for the defence addressed the jury, and at the close of his remarks the court adjourned till this morning at eleven A. M. In the Kentucky Bourbon Company case Mr. Courtney, United States District Attorney, yesterday at the opening of the court applied for an order that the clerk call the names of the defendants. On their names being called accordingly only one of the defendants appeared, whereupon the District Attorney applied for and was granted a bench warrant to compel the attendance of the parties in question.

The coroner's jury in the case of Norman L. Johnson rendered a verdict yesterday that he came to his death by a stab wound at the hands of his wife. She was committed.

The *Omard* steamship *China*, Captain Hockley, will sail to-day for Queenstown and Liverpool. The mails will close at the Post Office at twelve M.

The Merchants' line steamship General Meade, Captain Sampson, will leave pier 12 North river at five P. M. to-day for New Orleans direct.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

Governor Burnside, of Rhode Island; Congressman F. E. Woodbridge, of Vermont, and B. Mitre y Vedice, Argentine Minister, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. G. W. Whitmore, of the United States Army; Senator Cole, of California, and his brother, General Cole, of Syracuse; Henry Besant, of Italy; George McLane, of Glasgow, Scotland; D. A. Danziger, of Cleveland, Ohio; General Kilpatrick of New Jersey, and Charles B. Barlow, of the United States Navy, are at the Metropolitan Hotel. J. Boll, of Cologne on the Main, and Charles W. Trumbull, of Boston, are at the Brevoort House. Theodore F. Randolph, Governor elect of New Jersey, is at the Clarendon Hotel. Colonel Black and Colonel James H. Carlton, of the United States Army, are at the Hoffman House. Dr. G. W. Lawrence, of Arkansas, is at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Captains Edward Sautsbury and George M. Guthrie, of the United States Army, and Professor Thorpe, of Baltimore, are at the St. Charles Hotel. Judge Miller, of Pennsylvania, and Captain R. Gibson, of Yazoo, Miss., are at the St. Julien Hotel.

The Prospect in Congress—Naturalization, Reconstruction and Negro Suffrage.

From the opening proceedings of the present session of Congress it is apparent that it will be largely devoted to Southern reconstruction, the naturalization laws and negro suffrage. These three questions are of the highest importance to the party in power, and therefore challenge the first attention of the two houses.

On the naturalization question we select from the various amendments proposed to the existing laws the instructions given to the committee of revision of the House, on motion of Mr. Schenck. They are:—First, whether this naturalization business should not be restricted to courts of the United States and the higher courts of record; second, to provide for uniformity in such proceedings; third, to require the judge's signature to every declaration and certificate; fourth, to require records to be kept; fifth (and this, with the record of the court, is the main point), to authorize letters of naturalization to be issued after four years' residence, but not to take effect till one year after date. On the motion of Mr. Wood, of New York, to lay these instructions on the table the House was divided, yeas 33, nays 125—a strict party vote, the republicans in the negative. From this we may safely predict that some general bill of the character indicated will be passed at this session. The main points are the removal of this naturalization business to the United States courts and the stopping of the electioneering naturalization mills on the eve of our political elections by requiring the certificate of citizenship a year in advance and a record thereof. Some such bill, we understand, has been resolved upon by the republicans in Congress, in consequence of certain alleged wholesale democratic naturalization frauds in the late Philadelphia October elections, and in our New York city November elections.

Southern reconstruction is in a very slipshod condition and will require much patching. Georgia is out of gear, Florida is in a muddle, Louisiana has been turned topsy turvy, with the negroes at the bottom, which will never do; Arkansas is given over to ruffianism, and even Tennessee is a shocking example of law and order. These belong to the reconstructed States, and two or three of them at least are to be reconstructed over again. Of course the unreconstructed States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas will be put through the ordeal of the new constitutional amendment without much ceremony; but in this amendment itself there lies to the radicals a serious difficulty in

the matter of negro suffrage, and the removal of this difficulty is now the main question.

General Grant, as we are informed from good authority, is in favor of a new constitutional amendment establishing universal manhood suffrage as the supreme law of the land. The difficulty under amendment fourteen is that each State may regulate suffrage to suit itself on the universal plan, or by a color qualification, a property qualification or an educational qualification, or all of these, subject only to a reduction in counting the people for representation in proportion to the restriction of the suffrage. Thus, if the blacks are excluded from the suffrage they are not to be counted for representation; and under this plan South Carolina, for example, would be cut out of more than half her delegation in the lower house of Congress and half her Presidential vote. But still it is feared that the whites of the Southern States, if left to themselves, under amendment fourteen, will soon contrive to take the suffrage from the negroes, and hence the desire of the radicals to make universal suffrage—negroes and all—mandatory upon all the States. General Grant proposes to settle the matter beyond dispute through an amendment of the constitution, but Mr. Senator Sumner proposes the shorter method of universal negro suffrage by act of Congress, holding that Congress, under "the constitution as it is," has ample power over the subject.

Whether the plan advocated by General Grant or the proposition of Senator Sumner shall prevail is the question for the two houses to settle. It is possible that the 4th of March may come round before a settlement is reached. Meantime, while these questions of naturalization, reconstruction and universal negro suffrage are before the two houses, we cannot expect any material measures of relief to the country in the matter of the national debt, the national currency, the national taxation bills and the enormous budget of frauds upon the revenue, from Kentucky whiskey to French brandy and from Havana cigars to the home made article. The Fortieth Congress is not up to the mark of retrenchment and reform. Its record is a budget of blunders, extravagances, profligacies and corruptions; but the Forty-first Congress, which meets on the 4th of March, may perhaps be fruitful of better things, from the hints and recommendations of President Grant. We are compelled at last to turn to him as the hope of the country. There are no signs of relief from the present short session of the demoralized and expiring Fortieth Congress.

Am I Not a Man and a Brother?

It was in the shape of such an interrogation that Menard, the negro Congressman from Louisiana, presented himself last Monday in the House of Representatives at Washington. He had not yet received his credentials from the Governor of Louisiana. He was expecting, however, to receive them soon, when he will offer them to the House and test the sincerity of the radical majority which has clamored so loudly about the rights of the negro. Meanwhile this majority has betrayed the most chilling indifference to his individual claims. At first for a long, uncomfortable time, he was left severely alone upon one of the sofas in the rear of the hall. No member accosted him except Blackburn, of Louisiana. The poor fellow, annoyed at the social ostracism to which his radical colleagues from the Northern States most illogically condemned him, arose and sought in vain for an opportunity to secure a desk. Everywhere the radicals turned up their noses as he approached, and at length he felt compelled to leave the floor of the House in disgust and to seek refuge in the gallery behind the great clock, where a hundred or more of his own race were congregated and kept him in countenance. Here he was manifestly more at home than before. But so soon as he shall have received his credentials as a claimant for a seat in Congress he will give his radical colleagues a chance to extend to him the hand of fellowship or to contradict their own lying professions of regard for his claims as man, brother and citizen.

The Loss of the *Hibernia*—Cause of the Disaster.

We publish this morning further particulars of the loss of the iron steamship *Hibernia*, bound from this port to Glasgow. It seems that the disaster occurred in consequence of the breaking of her shaft and stern pipe and springing a desperate leak during a heavy gale. This will put at rest the conjectures as to the cause of the accident, but at the same time may not be satisfactory to those whose business it is to make the Atlantic passage in tempestuous seasons, nor to those who are compelled to suffer the loss of valuable freights and other property. The breaking of the shaft may possibly be attributable to causes beyond human skill to detect; it may constitute one of those inexplicable mysteries of machinery which so perplex investigating commissions and steam machinery inspectors; but at any rate the matter should be rigorously investigated by competent authorities, in order that the lives of the thousands who monthly cross between our own and European shores may not in future be jeopardized through similar casualties.

Report of the Secretary of War.

We publish to-day the important portions of General Schofield's annual report. It appears that the army has been reduced in numbers since September from 48,081 men to 43,000. All volunteer officers except one have been mustered out of service. The Secretary recommends that four regiments of the Veteran Reserve Corps shall also be mustered out. He recommends further that the term of enlistment in the regular army shall be five years. With regard to the expenditures it is shown that the total for the fiscal year amounts to \$68,743,694, of which is to be added nearly ten millions of old war debts paid during the year. The sum estimated for the expenses of the fiscal year ending June, 1870, is \$65,682,388. A considerable decrease in the subsistence expenses of the Freedmen's Bureau and Indian Bureau is reported, that of the former being reduced to \$3,900,000 for the year. The progress of the Military Academy at West Point is referred to with some pride by the Secretary of War, particularly the improvement in signaling by telegraph, in which the cadets are diligently practiced. There are now on the rolls of the

academy 225 cadets, whose proficiency is testified to by the Board of Visitors and the Inspector. The details of the report from the War Department will be read with great interest.

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress, which we publish in another part of the paper, is a very diffuse and wordy document, and is only remarkable for the persistency with which Mr. McCulloch adheres to his often repeated financial theories. The Secretary is one of those men who never learn or forget anything. Even when yielding to the pressure of public opinion and the action of Congress against his cherished resumption and financial notions he cannot help protesting. Yes, even when he finds his policy impracticable and is compelled to abandon it he sticks to and reiterates his dogmas. Thus we see he opens his report with a long disquisition on the bugbear which haunts him continually—an inconvertible and depreciated currency, as he calls the legal tenders. He says these "United States notes, although declared by law to be lawful money, are nevertheless a dishonored and disreputable currency." He declares that "the fact that they are legal tender, possessing such attributes of money as the statute can give to them, adds nothing to their real value, but makes them all the more dishonorable to the government." He argues that this currency is the source of all the evils of the country—revenue frauds, burdensome taxation and everything else—of evils, in fact, which only exist in the imagination of this profound finance Minister. In short, he calls it a fraudulent currency.

Mr. McCulloch adheres to his idea that there should be a reduction of the currency to force specie payments; but as Congress and the country have protested against contraction he wants to reach the object another way. The first step he recommends is to legalize all contracts made for payment in coin. This is well enough. There can be no reasonable objection to making such contracts legal. In fact, people can make contracts now to be paid in so much gold, if they choose, and they are binding. But the Secretary does not stop here; he proposes that after the 1st day of January, 1870—one year and a few days from this time—"United States notes shall cease to be a legal tender in payment of all private debts subsequently contracted, and that after the 1st day of January, 1871, they shall cease to be a legal tender on any account or for any purpose whatever, except government dues, for which they are now receivable." So it is seen Mr. McCulloch has become a repudiator after all his declamation against the greenback advocates as repudiators; for if a declaration of the government that its own notes are not lawful money is not flat repudiation we do not know what is. Then this Secretary endeavors to shake the confidence of the people in the lawful money of the government and country by intimating that it is unconstitutional and has not yet been sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. McCulloch never thought to ask himself what makes anything money but the law and stamp of the government, whether the material be metal or paper. If the United States notes be a fraudulent currency, as he asserts, what are the national bank notes, which are not even a legal tender and which are based upon the credit of the government? The truth is, Mr. McCulloch has but one contracted idea about the currency and sees nothing beyond. Great questions of national finance and currency are beyond his grasp. He is a small banker and sees only the interests of that monstrous monopoly, the national banking associations. The country is prosperous and being rapidly developed in all its great industries and material interests, yet this sapient Secretary says all the business is speculative and unsubstantial, and attributes that to our legal tender currency.

The report shows a great reduction in internal revenue, and Mr. McCulloch says it must be increased. He acknowledges that this falling off is to be attributed in part to inefficient collection; but he is very flat, tame and evasive on this important topic. He has nothing to say about the inefficiency of himself, Commissioner Wells and the other chiefs of the departments who have let the government be swindled hundreds of millions of dollars by the internal revenue thieves. Indeed, he praises Mr. Wells very highly, and no doubt that Commissioner will praise the Secretary just as warmly. They are in the same boat and are both responsible. All the talk about being unable to collect the tax on whiskey and other articles is bosh. The British government collects two dollars and a half tax on spirits, and other governments collect similar high taxes, and so could our government if the right men were in authority. There is no necessity for additional taxes to increase the internal revenue. There are far too many articles taxed now. A few articles of luxury, such as whiskey and tobacco, could be made to yield a large revenue, and that revenue could be collected by honest and capable men at the head of the department.

The recommendation to fund the debt at a lower rate of interest is a good one, but Mr. McCulloch lays down no plan, and seems to think that everybody, both foreign and home bondholders, will rush to the Treasury to exchange their six per cent bonds for five per cent ones, without any cost or loss to the government. His notions on this are about as crude as on everything else. He has the candor to tell us that the expenditures of the different departments are increasing, while the revenue is falling off. With very few grains of salt such as this in the report the rest is a jumble of weak arguments in defence of Mr. McCulloch's views, policy and administration of the Treasury Department. However, it is but just to say that the enormous burden of taxation, weight of debt and wretched condition of the finances are to be attributed in part to Congress—to a Congress the most corrupt, extravagant and incapable that ever cursed this or any other country. Let us hope that with the new administration of General Grant we may get a more capable Secretary of the Treasury and a better Congress.

ORIGOS SUTHER.—The House yesterday snubbed the democratic Legislature of Oregon by returning to the officers of that body the resolutions denouncing the Senators from that State for having voted for the radical measures of last session.

The Newspaper Press and the Telegraph.

The newspaper press some time since made a contract with the Western Union Telegraph Company for the transmission of news reports over the wires at certain rates less than the exorbitant price extorted from private individuals, but still greatly higher than telegraphic charges ought to be under a properly conducted system. This reduction was more directly a benefit to the public than to the proprietors of the newspapers themselves, since it enabled the latter to give their readers the advantage of more ample and extended news reports. If full tolls had been demanded of the press the daily journals would have economized in the quantity of their telegraphic reports and the people would have been the losers. At the contract rates the newspapers have been the most profitable customers the telegraph has had; yet the Western Union Company has thought fit to abruptly terminate its agreement with the press, and has given the following notice of its intention to the proprietors of the New York journals:—

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, NEW YORK, AUGUST 18, 1868. TO MESSRS. JAMES W. WELLS AND CHARLES B. BROWN, PROPRIETORS OF THE NEW YORK *Express*; PRIME, STONK, HALL & HALLOR, PROPRIETORS OF THE NEW YORK *Journal of Commerce*; JAMES G. BENTLEY, PROPRIETOR OF THE NEW YORK *Herald*; MANTON MARBLE, PROPRIETOR OF THE *World*; MOSES S. BEACH, PROPRIETOR OF THE NEW YORK *Sun*; HENRY J. RAYMOND & CO., PROPRIETORS OF THE NEW YORK *Times*; AND THE TRIBUNE ASSOCIATION, PROPRIETORS OF THE NEW YORK *Tribune*, constituting together the association known as the New York Associated Press.—GENTLEMEN—You will please take notice that, in pursuance of the sixth section of the agreement made and entered into between you and the American Telegraph Company, bearing date December 25, 1865, the American Telegraph Company, party of the first part to said agreement, and the Western Union Telegraph Company, successor and assignee of the said party of the first part, do hereby terminate said contract at the expiration of the present current year of the continuance of said contract—to wit, on the 25th day of December, 1868. By order, E. S. SANFORD, President. The Western Union Telegraph Company, by ALBERT O. H. PALMER, Secretary.

The incentive of this action of the monopolizing corporation that at present holds the electric telegraph in its grasp is the determination, if possible, to control the press of the United States. It is to accomplish this object that the threat is made to terminate the existing contract and to increase the rates now charged for news reports to the enormous tolls demanded for private messages. The corporation, accustomed to carry its points with a high hand, and successful heretofore in its efforts to crush out opposition, believes in its power thus to coerce and fetter the American press.

A few months since there appeared to be some foundation for this presumption. The *HERALD* had then taken a firm stand against the attempted encroachments of an arrogant monopoly upon the duties and business of the newspaper press. We had no quarrel with the managers of the Western Union Company and designed to make no reflections upon their personal character or business integrity. But when we found a powerful monopoly seeking to control the collection of news as well as its transmission, and to bind up the proprietors of public journals in a manner that deprived them of that free management of their business which is the right of every individual citizen, we assailed the system that was responsible for these encroachments and warned the press of their dangerous tendency. At that time some journals hesitated to proclaim their own independence, apparently in dread of the supposed power of the monopoly, while others seemed ready to approve the arrogance of the telegraph company and anxious to place themselves under its supreme control and supervision.

We have now, however, a very different state of affairs. The press is beginning to understand its own interests and to see that the attempt of a private corporation, holding a monopoly of so powerful an engine as the electric telegraph, to coerce and control the newspapers of the country is full of mischief and danger. The journals all over the Union are coming out in denunciation of the present telegraphic system and demanding some such reform as has already been perfected in several European governments. The *New York Times* leads the van with a protest against the exorbitant rates extorted by the Western Union monopoly, the inequality of the tariffs, the large profits realized out of the privileged few who can afford to use the wires, and other notorious evils arising from the lack of competition or the want of a system regulated by the necessities and interests of the people. The *Cincinnati Commercial*, a leading and enterprising Western journal, joins in the denunciation of the present system and in the demand for reform. The *Philadelphia Press* declares the question of telegraphic reconstruction one of the most important in the country, and other influential newspapers place on record their protests against the extortionate rates, the undue profits, the arrogance and encroachments inseparable from a monster monopoly. Only one faint voice is heard in defence of the present telegraphic system, and that comes from a weak party organ at Harrisburg, which thinks that the telegraphic monopoly is a public blessing and devoutly wishes that the government Post Office system could be abolished and the transmission of letters be left in like manner to private enterprise. We have no doubt that this organ would be glad to see the whole government abolished and its business consigned to the hands of such patriotic rings as we now meet with in the whiskey trade, the Revenue Department and the Erie Railroad. But the leading newspapers of the country are evidently aroused to the public necessity of a thorough reform in the telegraph system, and will make themselves heard despite the threats and coercion by which the Western Union Company has sought to stifle their voices. We may, therefore, hope that Congress will now take hold of the matter in earnest and that we shall speedily secure such a thorough reconstruction of the telegraph system as will insure to the press fair and liberal treatment and to the people low rates and increased facilities in the use of this now indispensable agent of business, commerce and social life.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND THE TELEGRAPH.

The Postmaster General in his former annual reports has briefly recommended the absorption of the telegraph business of the country in the government Post Office Department. This year he states that he regards the question of such growing importance as to claim a separate and extended report, which he will shortly place before the President and Congress.

The Revolution in Cuba.

Our advices from Cuba indicate that the insurrectionary movements there have assumed a serious character, and that the Spanish authorities have become alarmed at the result that may attend the conflict on which they have entered. The exact character of the insurrection has not yet been made known to the world, from the absence of independent communication with the insurgents; but the facts that have been exclusively published by the colonial government, when taken in their aggregate, manifestly contradict their continued assertion of success attending every movement of the Spanish troops. The course of events has been as follows:—On the 11th of October last a few persons made an unimportant resistance to the authorities at Yara, a small village on the south side of the island, about six miles from the commercial port of Manzanillo. The insurgents, we are informed by official accounts, were promptly dispersed. Notwithstanding this assertion we were told a few days later that they had taken possession of the important inland town of Bayamo, where they established a government, with Señor Céspedes, a wealthy lawyer and planter, at its head. Soon after this the official accounts represent them as marching both westward and eastward, and the Spanish columns as taking the field against them. A victory was officially announced as having been won by Colonel Quiros over the insurgents at Contramaestre, a mountain pass between Bayamo and St. Jago de Cuba; but soon after this officer turns up back in St. Jago, from whence he started, and later advices inform us that he has been removed from his post and his second in command arrested on a charge of cowardice. The result thus far of this series of victories is that the Spanish forces are shut up in St. Jago by the insurgents, who have cut off all supplies on the land side.

Similar results, according to the Spanish official accounts, seem to have attended the Spanish troops operating against the bands that marched westward from Bayamo. Colonel Loño left Las Tunas, at the head of several hundred men to meet the advancing insurgents, and after defeating them repeatedly he became invested in Las Tunas, and for several weeks the government in Havana had no communication from him. We now learn that he has abandoned the town and marched to Manati, a port on the north coast. Colonel Ampudia, in command at Manzanillo, is powerless to operate against the neighboring city of Bayamo, the centre of the revolution, and according to recent accounts was on the defensive against insurgents in the immediate vicinity of the town. Other bands, penetrating the island westward, had cut off the communications of Puerto Principe with the coast, and according to the latest advices have appeared in the vicinity of Sancti Spiritus.

The progress of these events had forced General Lersundi, the Captain General, to send Count Balmaseda, his second in command, with all the disposable troops, to the centre of the island, and recent advices informed us that he had reached Puerto Principe with nine hundred men, relieving the garrison there. The important intelligence which we publish in a special telegram in another column shows that he has been obliged to abandon that important city and seek a refuge under the guns of the ships in the bay of Nuevitas. Colonel Loño, with the garrison of Las Tunas, has reached Manati, a port in the immediate vicinity of Nuevitas, and the two bodies of troops will no doubt form a junction.

These events leave the Spanish authorities in possession of no point in the interior of the eastern half of Cuba, and give to the insurgents, who have now earned the name of patriots, ample territory for organization and the means for more extensive operations. No doubt can be entertained that the war of independence has been inaugurated, and in view of the proximity of Cuba to our coast, the importance of the commerce we hold with her, the large number of American citizens who have interests there and the complications which may at any moment ensue, it behooves our government to keep a watchful eye upon the course of events and not to be caught unawares. The frequent presence of a man-of-war in the several important ports of the island, to give aid and comfort to our Consuls, will be the ounce of prevention that is worth more than the pound of cure in case either of the parties to the conflict should forget the rights of neutrals. Let us hear soon that some United States ships have touched at St. Jago, Manzanillo, Trinidad and other ports which are surrounded by the insurrection.

The Case of General Cole—Society, Law and Murder.

The case of General Cole, before the court in Albany, charged with the murder of Mr. Hiscock, has resulted—as we people probably supposed it would—in the acquittal of the accused. But the public generally were not prepared for the unusual character of the verdict. If a man can be excused from guilt in the commission of a crime on the plea of insanity at one moment, while he is declared to be perfectly sane a moment before and a moment after the act, what becomes of all the theories and learned arguments about moral insanity which have so often fretted away the time of courts and juries and exhausted the legal and logical acumen of our most distinguished criminal advocates?

The real fact in this case is that there is a class of society which the law rarely reaches—a class over which theegis of protection is thrown because its members belong to some social, political or fashionable "ring." For these people the law has no harsh word to say, no grievous penalty to inflict; but if some poor person—say an unfriended Irishman or German—should steal a trifling article or pick a pocket he is pounced upon, and the clutches of the law are not relinquished until the direst penalty known to the law is imposed.

As General Cole was acquitted of the murder of Hiscock in Albany, so, undoubtedly, will young Grant be acquitted of the murder of Pollard in Richmond. The same rule holds good both North and South. A member of what is called good society—in other words, one who belongs to a social or political influential clique—may do as he pleases without any fear of the law. He may get into a quarrel