

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

All business or news letter and telegraphic despatches to be addressed New York Herald.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed.

Rejected communications will not be returned.

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Volume XXXIV.....No. 8

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—THE EMERALD KING.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway.—THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 10th street.—MONIE.

MILLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—ATRE DARE; OR, LONDON BY NIGHT.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM.—ROBERT MACAULAY.

PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and 8th street.—LA PERICHOLE.

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

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

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

THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—LES FOLLIES.—FAUC'S REVUE.—WOODS, &c.

MRS. F. R. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—FAY OF DAY.

KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 7th Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, BUCKLEBEE.—GIN-NEVIEVE DE GRAY.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 55 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS, SINGING, DANCING, &c.

RYAN'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th street.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, &c.

TONY PATON'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOICINGS, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c.

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

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—PADERA-ROSA CONCERT.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS.—THE DRUMMA'S FOLLY, &c.

HOOLEY'S (L. D.) OPERA HOUSE, Williamsburg.—HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS.—PROGRESS OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, January 8, 1869.

MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The DAILY HERALD will be sent to subscribers for one dollar a month.

The postage being only thirty-five cents a quarter, country subscribers by this arrangement can receive the HERALD at the same price it is furnished in the city.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated January 7.

The European political news yesterday was unimportant.

The Sultan has asked for a postponement for eight days of the conference on the Eastern question.

The reported discovery of a Communist conspiracy in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, is announced.

Agrarian violence is reported in many parts of Ireland, and the feeling of the tenantry toward the landlords is bitter.

Mexico.

Our news from Mexico is to the effect that the republic is on the eve of a revolution. General Alatorre is spoken of as the leader, the purpose being to place Porfirio Diaz at the head of affairs. The people were disgusted with the Juarez administration. There was no security for Americans, one of whom was murdered at Vera Cruz just before the steamer left and although the assassin was known he was permitted to escape to Havana. The Mexicans were much incensed with the United States, some of them being clamorous for another war with us.

Cuba.

By order of the government of Cuba the statues of Queen Isabella and other symbols of the Bourbon dynasty have been removed from the squares and public buildings. Captain General Dulce has issued his proclamation promising to the people all needed reforms, including liberty of the press. Count Yalmaseda was marching towards Bayamo. The rebels closely besieged Gibara in large numbers. At the funeral of a murdered Cuban sedulous cries were raised.

We publish this morning letters from Havana dated January 2, which contain in detail the news we have received up to that date in abstract by the telegraph. The revolutionary Junta, in their letter to the HERALD, report that a cargo of arms and ammunition had been successfully landed for the patriots, who were also casting cannon at the copper mines near Villa del Cobre. An imposing demonstration was made in Havana at the funeral of Cepeda, an insurgent who died in Tacon prison.

Havaii.

General Soget has a force around Fort Au Prince and has commenced a vigorous siege. Salvane narrowly escaped being captured while in a church at Miragoane. His personal attendants were cut to pieces. The revolutionists appear to be working very energetically, and are reported having purchased a steamer in New York.

St. Domingo.

The position of Baz was again becoming critical. General Adon has crossed the frontier and joined General Ogando's rebel forces.

St. Thomas.

A fearful storm is reported to have occurred recently, and four vessels were compelled to put into St. Thomas in distress.

Venezuela.

The whole country remains tranquil.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Nye introduced a bill to facilitate communication between the Eastern and Western Continents by laying a cable between the Pacific coast and China. The bill reported to the Judiciary Committee to prevent the holding of civil offices by military officers or of two offices at once by the same person was taken up. After some debate on the last clause the bill went over on the expiration of the morning hour. After some further unimportant business the Senate adjourned.

In the House the bill to increase the efficiency of the medical department of the Navy was laid on the table. A bill appropriating \$1,000 for the removal of the remains of Mr. Coggeshall, late Minister to Ecuador, to his home in Ohio and a similar appropriation for the relief of his widow was passed. A resolution stopping payments to Wells, Fargo & Co. for carrying the mails overland to the Pacific coast was ordered by Mr. Washburne, but in a lengthy debate upon its objection was made. In committee of the Whole Mr. Coburn made a speech on the resumption of specie payments, and Mr. Shanks on his proposed recognition of Crete. The House soon after adjourned.

The Legislature.

Not little business was done in the State Senate yesterday. Mr. Cressier gave notice of a bill to fa-

facilitate the conveyance of passengers and baggage in New York and Brooklyn, and to amend the registry law by the appointment of additional canvassers of elections in this city. A petition was presented and two bills of little importance introduced. A resolution was adopted calling upon the Commissioners of Charities and Correction to report what additional legislation is needed for the relief of the poor of New York city. The Senate adopted the concurrent resolution of the Assembly and adjourned until Wednesday, the 13th inst.

The Governor transmitted several reports to the Assembly, which were submitted. A number of bills were introduced and resolutions offered, all of local importance. A resolution requesting the New York representatives in Congress to use their influence in obtaining from the government an appropriation sufficient to remove the obstructions in Hell Gate was tabled under the rules. The Committee on Rules was announced, after which the Assembly adjourned until Wednesday next.

The annual report of Comptroller W. F. Allen on the finances of the State will be found elsewhere in our columns this morning.

Miscellaneous.

General Porter, aide on General Grant's staff, has officially reported to his chief the result of his investigations into the Arkansas difficulties. It appears that for months previous to the Presidential election the ex-rebels of the State had sworn to overthrow the radical State government, and for that purpose had commenced such a sweeping system of murder that Governor Clayton and Senator Rice were compelled to sleep in the State Capitol, guarded, to save their lives. After the election Governor Clayton, who is a man of nerve, organized his militia and declared martial law, being opposed in the measure by General Smith, commanding United States troops in the State, who has since expressed himself as highly satisfied with the result of the movement. The Governor instructed his militia to live off the country, giving vouchers only to loyal people, and to try by military commission all offenders, three of whom have been executed—one of them being a negro member of the militia.

In our ship news column this morning will be found our usual report of marine disasters, happily much shorter than that of yesterday. The brig Milo Townsend, heretofore reported lost, was run ashore on the 14th ult. at Wingtip Point beach. She was bound for Boston from Sidney. The ships Columbia and Great Western arrived at this port yesterday from Liverpool, having experienced westerly gales during the entire passage. William Jackson, seaman of the Great Western, was lost overboard. The brig Minnie Abbe, which arrived here from Buenos Ayres, had her fore and mainmast masts carried away on the 14th ult., and the captain thinks it was done by an earthquake, as the sea immediately commenced with a very high swell. She was in latitude 37 degrees north, longitude thirty-seven degrees forty minutes at the time, with the wind northeast.

A small military force was sent to Princess Anne county, Va., by General Sherman yesterday to assist the Sheriff in serving warrants of ejectment on certain negroes. A fight occurred, in which a sergeant was mortally wounded and three negroes were killed. Application has been made for reinforcements by the commanding officer of the detachment, who reports the negroes arming and threatening another attack.

General Rousseau, commanding in Louisiana, is seriously ill. Senator Stewart, of Nevada, has been renominated by a republican caucus in his State Legislature. This insures his election, as there are only nine democratic members.

General Heintzelman will probably be nominated for General Hooker's vacant brigadier generalship. William N. Woolley, convicted of the murder of Harshorne Fleming on the 10th of August last, was hanged at Freehold, N. J., yesterday. The culprit made no confession or denial of the murder.

In the New Hampshire Republican Convention yesterday Osnow Stearns was nominated for Governor. At the District Convention the present Congressmen, Eli Stevens and Benton, were renominated.

Among the Indian curiosities discovered at Rock Island, Ill., is the statue of an Indian maiden. Its pedestal is of copper and is seven feet high, the obelisk being of solid brass.

An affray occurred in a ballroom at Central City, New Mexico, a few days ago, in which three colored soldiers and two white ones were killed. It is said the negroes afterwards burned down the building.

The City.

The Board of Supervisors organized for the ensuing year yesterday by the election of Supervisor Roche to be President.

The county budget for 1869 was forwarded by Comptroller Conolly to the Board. The aggregate amount required for the year is \$10,386,713, to be used for the expenses of the legislative, executive and judicial departments, the county charitable institutions, and for the payment of the county's quota of the State taxes. The estimated revenue of the general fund is \$8,000,000.

Governor Hoffman has suspended the order directing the First and Third regiments of cavalry and the First regiment of artillery, of the First division, National Guard, to parade on foot.

Johnny Newberger, a boy of fifteen, was committed to answer yesterday by Justice Shandley for throwing snowballs at passers-by in the streets.

In the Express companies case yesterday Judge Ingraham, of the Supreme Court, granted an injunction against the consolidation of the Merchants' Union Express Company with any other, restraining the officers and agents of the company from enforcing the payment of the last assessment and requiring them to answer on the 18th inst.

In the United States Circuit Court, before Judge Bowen, yesterday, the case of the United States vs. Jacob and Moses Dupuy was commenced. The hearing of the case occupied the whole of the day and was adjourned over till Saturday. The bail of the defendants was in the meantime increased from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

The Stevenson cotton case was resumed in the United States District Court, before Judge Blatchford. Counsel for the government opened the case, the hearing of which will be resumed this morning.

In the Superior Court yesterday, Judge Friedman, the new appointee to the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Robertson, took the oath of office and his seat.

The National line steamship England, Captain Thompson, will leave pier 47 North river, at one P. M. to-morrow for Liverpool, calling at Queenstown to land passengers, &c.

The steamship Europe, Captain Lemarie, will sail at noon to-morrow, from pier 50 North river, for Brest and Havre. The mails for France will close at the Post Office at half-past eleven, 9th inst.

The Merchants' line steamship General Meade, Captain Sampson, will leave pier No. 12 North river at three P. M. on Saturday, 9th inst., for New Orleans direct.

The Black Star line steamship Huntsville, Captain Crowell, will sail at three P. M. to-morrow, 9th inst., from pier 13 North river, for Savannah, Ga.

The steamship Isaac Bell, Captain Bourne, will leave pier 37 North river, at three P. M. to-morrow, for Norfolk, City Point and Richmond.

The stock market yesterday continued strong, and prices, for most of the list, were active. Gold touched 135 1/2.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

William H. Seward, Jr., of Auburn, N. Y.; J. Edgar Thompson, of Philadelphia, and J. C. Lord, of Cincinnati, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

J. B. Alley, of Massachusetts, is at the Astor House.

General Blair, of Missouri; Paymaster Beaman, of the United States Navy, and Galsusa A. Grow, of Pennsylvania, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Lieutenant Commander E. B. Goring, of the United States Navy, and Sam Hale, of Maine, are at the Hoffman House.

Judge Frank Dotts, of Providence, R. I.; General J. E. Jones, of Albany; Dr. Woodhull, of the United States Army; Erastus Clark, of Utica, and S. W. Grosbeck, of the United States Army, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Colonel William Stewart and Captain E. Hendricks, of the United States Army; Dr. Fessenden, of Dover, Me., and Captain R. Lawson, of the Canadian Rifles, are at the St. Charles Hotel.

Colonel J. May, of Philadelphia, is at the Malby House.

Surgeon Reed, of the United States Army; Captain R. Green, of Macon, Ga., and Colonel M. Mackens, of Stamford, are at the 84, Fulton Hotel.

The Postmaster General on the Telegraph—A Halfway Remedy.

Our readers of all classes interested in the subject—and it is a subject which deeply affects the interests of all classes—have doubtless been very much edified and encouraged with the report to Congress from Postmaster General Randall, which we published yesterday, on the proposition of bringing the telegraphic system of the Union under the management of the government, in connection with the Post Office Department. The general argument of this report, with the strong array of facts presented, is conclusive and unanswerable in favor of the government. We think, however, that the remedy proposed is only a halfway remedy for the evils so plainly indicated.

We see, for instance, that in the Continental countries of Europe, where the telegraph is under the direct and exclusive control and management of the government, it works admirably and profitably for the government, and is particularly acceptable to the people, because of the cheapness of their messages. In Switzerland short despatches for distances inside of two hundred miles are sent for three cents the despatch. In France they send a short despatch six hundred miles for about thirteen cents in our currency. On the other hand the telegraph, so far, in England has been in the hands of private companies, with but little competition. Their profits have been large, increasing with each reduction of rates; but still the superiority of the continental system had created such dissatisfaction in England that the government was constrained to take the business in hand.

The British Postmaster General first called the attention of Parliament directly to the subject in a report embracing these conclusions as to the deficiencies of the private company system:—First, that, although low compared with ours, the charges of these companies were too high, and operated to check the growth of telegraphic correspondence; second, there are unnecessary delays in the transmission of despatches; third, that the facilities for the public are insufficient; fourth, that the offices are often inconveniently located and open for too short a time; fifth, that little or no improvement can be expected under this private monopoly system; sixth, that under the continental system the growth of telegraphic correspondence has been greatly stimulated. These are strong points in favor of the government system and against the private company system, and they will all apply with tenfold force in the United States as compared with Great Britain. The reasons presented in favor of the government, however, were at length so convincing to Parliament as to result in the act of 1868, turning over the telegraphic lines of the kingdom to the Postmaster General. Thirty-one years ago Professor Morse, before the construction of his first line of telegraph, proposed substantially the same thing to our government; and since that day, from time to time, the subject has been broached, but always postponed again to a more convenient season. So, although first in the field with the telegraph, we are left the very last of the civilized nations to adopt that great reform.

Our Postmaster General makes a conclusive case for the action of Congress, but in the halfway scheme of reform he proposes we hone the two houses will not concur. He proposes to clip the wings of any "monopoly which now endeavors to control the daily press by compelling newspaper proprietors to agree to employ one company exclusively;" but says Mr. Randall, "the transmission of the mails has always been performed by contract, and there is no reason why the same plan should not be adopted by the Post Office Department for the transmission of correspondence by telegraph." He therefore proposes the contract system, and introduces some Boston gentlemen, and a special report from one of them, in support of this proposition.

Upon this plan of operations we cannot agree with the Postmaster General. Contracts for the transportation of the mails have been and still are necessary, because the government could not conveniently undertake to buy all the horses, and stables, and coaches, and steamboats, and railroads employed in this business. But the telegraph presents none of these difficulties. The government takes possession of the wires, puts its batteries in the post offices, and puts from one to fifty persons in charge, as the case may require, and the system is complete. It works so beautifully on the Continent of Europe that it has at length superseded the private company system in England, and the contrast between the cheapness of telegraphic messages all over Europe and the exorbitant charges of our private companies is so broadly presented in Mr. Randall's report that we cannot understand his halting at the contract halfway house of reform.

To use a slang phrase of the House of Representatives, we fear that in connection with this contract proposition there is "a little nigger in the fence," or "a cat in the meal tub." A contract to run the telegraph within the limits of any State would be an immense job, with a margin, more or less, for pickings, perquisites and extras. Under the contract system for the government printing at Washington millions of money were wasted. The spoils and plunder thus drawn from the Treasury became at length so enormous that there was no escape but in a national printing office. To the frauds and swindles of the contractors for the government supplies needed to carry on the war against the rebellion we may charge one half our present national debt. There was, however, no other way to obtain those supplies but from the lowest bidder. But where the lowest bidder can so cheat the Treasury, as it was cheated, from ships and steamboats to provisions and shoddy, during the war, the government ought to have as little to do with contracts and contractors as possible.

The Continental system of merging the telegraph and its operations in the Post Office system, and under the direct and absolute management of the government, is the true system for the United States. Middle men, bucksters and contractors, in all business affairs, carry off the bulk of the profits. This rule is illustrated even in our national banks, with their perquisites of thirty millions, which might just as well be saved to the Treasury. We hope, therefore, that the proposed contract system, with the transfer of the telegraph to the government, will not be adopted.

Europe—War Prospects and Peace Assurances.

In our columns yesterday we published quite a mass of matter regarding the condition of Europe. The Turkish ultimatum, the address of the Greek government to France, Great Britain and Russia, the address of the Foreign Minister to the Greek deputies, the circular of M. de la Valette to the Ambassadors of France at foreign courts, and our cable despatches all show how peculiar and unsettled is the state of affairs in Europe. M. de la Valette, "from the elevated point of view whence the imperial government considers the destinies of Europe," sees "the horizon free from menacing eventualities." "A peace which reposes on such bases will be a durable one." So far as France personally is concerned, "in whatever direction she casts her eye she sees nothing which can hinder her progress or disturb her prosperity." With this in the one hand, and the ultimatum of the Sultan and the appeal of the Greek government in the other, it is difficult for the less favored observer of passing events to know what to think. Not enjoying the benefit of the imperial elevation or the rose-colored medium through which M. de la Valette looks, we must be allowed to cling to our opinion that Europe, after all, is not in a comfortable or satisfactory condition. With Spain in revolution, with Turkey and Greece at irreconcilable enmity, with the Poles waiting for their opportunity, and with the prospect of seeing the various Powers arranged in two hostile divisions, not to speak of other troubles more or less serious, the horizon, so far as we can see it, is not clear. Time will reveal whether M. de la Valette, looking down from his imperial elevation and through his rose-colored spectacles, has correctly read the present and divined the future.

State Finances—The Comptroller's Report.

The State Comptroller in his report, published to-day, pronounces the financial condition of the State "satisfactory." The first satisfactory point is the further reduction of the State debt. The debt that was \$48,300,000 in September, 1867, was only \$44,900,000 in September, 1868. In reality the figures should be still less, for there are unapplied balances from sinking funds of six millions, which reduce the real indebtedness to \$38,900,000.

The state of affairs in regard to taxation is hardly so pleasant to look upon. "Property," says the report, "is taxed, if not to its utmost capacity, at least more heavily than a wise and liberal government ought unnecessarily to burden it, and labor has nothing more to spare at the call of the taxgatherer." In 1845 the tax was two-thirds of a cent on every dollar. Now it is two cents and a half on every dollar, and the amount gathered is eleven times what it was in 1845, although the whole property is only trebled in value. As to State expenditures the Comptroller tells us (what was known before, though not on official authority, perhaps), that there is "a fearful want of economy in almost every department." Here are a few of the figures:—In 1859 the contingent expenses of the Legislature were \$32,000; in 1868 they were \$128,000. In 1859 the quarantine expenses were \$96,000; in 1868 they were \$239,000. The Comptroller mildly believes that the greater part of such increase is without justification or excuse, and we believe that it is direct robbery. In all aspects the report will be found a very interesting document.

Mr. Washburne on Retrenchment and Reform.

The speech of Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, in the House of Representatives on Wednesday upon the important matters of retrenchment and reform was well put. His exhibit of the retrenchments necessary in the expenditures of the government, in order to make both ends meet, was so clear in its array of facts and figures that it must carry conviction to every intelligent and dispassionate mind. As chairman of the Committee on Appropriations he speaks by the book, and as the right hand man of General Grant he "speaks as one having authority." No doubt this speech may be considered as fairly reflecting the views of General Grant and as an appeal in his behalf against the surrender of Congress to the swarming cormorants and landsharks of the lobby. We are inclined to think, too, that in presenting his case in behalf of economy at this stage of the session Mr. Washburne has gained a strong position against any wasteful appropriations or big lobby jobs by this expiring Congress. But, to make things secure, it will be necessary at every opening to keep up the fire; for the ultimatum before us is simply retrenchment or repudiation.

Cuba—Proclamation of Captain General Dulce.

As will be seen by our telegram from Cuba the expected proclamation of Captain General Dulce has appeared. He promises the most liberal measures, the admission of Cuba as a province of Spain and representation in the Spanish Cortes. He makes an earnest appeal to the Cubans to stick to their old mother, who, he says, will be very kind and generous to them, and begs them to behave themselves. This is the substance of the telegraphic account of the proclamation. At the same time the Cuban revolutionists were making considerable headway. This probably will be the sort of response General Dulce will continue to get to his fine promises, for the Cubans have no confidence in the Spanish government, and that government itself is in the agony of revolution and has a very uncertain future.

An Important Telegraph Bill in Congress.

Senator Nye, of Nevada, introduced yesterday a bill in the Senate to establish telegraphic communication between the Pacific coast of the United States and China and to afford aid and facilities for that purpose. This proposition comes at the right time, just as our international and commercial relations with the vast and rich Chinese empire and with Asia generally are expanding and promising a brilliant future and just as the Pacific Railroad is about to draw the trade of the East across this Continent. Telegraphic communication with Asia will give a wonderful impulse to our commerce there. It will place this country in the most favorable position for controlling that trade. The magnetic wire will then make the circuit of the globe. The project is perfectly practicable and one of the grandest of the age. Congress should take action upon it at once.

The City Government.

Governor Hoffman in his message frames a sounding indictment against the commission system in this city because it has "failed to produce good local government." It is, unfortunately, very much a matter of party opinion as to what a good local government is. The democratic magnates fancy that good government for the city means that system which was developed to its own ruin in the notorious era of Fernando Wood—a system in which the Mayor was possessed of very considerable power, and in which we were absolutely certain to have for Mayor that man of all in the city who was least fit to be entrusted with power; a system which nominally gave the choice of their rulers to the people, but under which the people had in fact no more voice in the choice of their rulers than they have in the choice of the Japanese Mikado; a system in which the right of governing this city was in the most absolute manner taken away from the people and vested in the General Committee of Tammany Hall. That system assumed as a fact that the worse elements are, in a community such as ours, the more active, if not the more numerous, and that to be sure of success it, must pander to these; that it must take its views of law, order, economy and the liberty of the citizen from the standpoint of those who might wish for various reasons to go unwhipped of justice, and must regard popular right, not from the position of the honest masses, whose desire is to be secure in person and property against all ruffianly assault, but from the position of the ruffian, whose demand is that he shall have the privilege to cut a throat to-day and be discharged on a hundred dollars bail to-morrow, and whose advocates in the State House and elsewhere find that "popular rights" are a delusion where these privileges are denied.

The other party has a different idea from this as to good government, and so far as the working shows it seems to be a rather better one. It accepts, however, the first idea of the democrats—the idea, namely, that the people of this city are not fit to govern themselves. Tammany Hall holds that the people are not to be trusted with the choice of rulers, and its reason for holding this is the fear that the people might not always choose Tweed, and Sweeny, and Hoffman and similar arcadians for all the offices; but it supposes a superior intelligence in these men, in virtue of which they always choose one another. The party of opposition assents to so much of the democratic view as takes the choice away from the people of the city, but it differs in regard to the persons to whom the power to choose our rulers shall then be given; and while the democracy gives it to the dozen men who form conventions in the coal holes of Tammany Hall the other party gives it to the Legislature of the State. As to the government of this city by the State authorities, the Governor admits that "the highest court of the State" has pronounced it in accordance with the constitution; but he evidently is not satisfied with the judgment of the highest court of the State. Indeed, he seems to regard the highest court of the State as a tribunal of somewhat inferior authority—the prime fountain of legal knowledge with the Governor being party prejudice. "It is generally admitted," he says, "that the legislation in question is all wrong; therefore it makes no difference what the high courts say. No doubt the public admires as it ought this declaration of a former judge that "general admission" is a better authority on points of law than our courts are, and admires also the peculiar grace with which a man from Tammany can denounce laws that he does not like as "parlous contrivances to secure power."

As to which of the two parties hold the better view in regard to good government for this city the people have the daily opportunity to see in the working of our two systems side by side. The democratic view prevails in that part of our government that is held by what is left of the old departments—in the mayoralty and in the Common Council; the other view prevails in the commissions—in the Police Board, the Health Board, the Fire Commission, the Central Park Commission, the Croton Water Commission, &c.; in other words, all that part of our municipal machinery that is corrupt, rotten and scarcely less than atrocious in its disregard of all right, we owe to the Tammany system, while to the commission system we owe all that part of city government that is efficient, trustworthy and that accomplishes the objects expected of it. These are facts too plain and too well known to be gainsaid anywhere but in a Governor's message; and while the facts are thus we fancy that the people will hardly agree with the Governor's demand for the repeal of the commission laws. If these laws have not given us "good local government" they have given us government so much better than what we had under the old system that it would be scarcely less than political insanity to deliver ourselves over again to the robbers of Tammany Hall. The Legislature is bad enough, but it is not so bad as the political ante-room of State prisons.

No More Slaughtering in the City.

The police are notified that the injunctions restraining the enforcement of the ordinances of the Board of Health in regard to cattle in the city are vacated, and that those ordinances have therefore all the force of law. This must lead to the immediate abatement of the quinces of slaughtering in our thickly peopled neighborhoods and of driving cattle through our streets. Only a mistaken and shortsighted view of the butchers as to their own interests prevented the much earlier adoption of this improvement. One of its first results will be a great improvement in the value of city property in all those quarters hitherto occupied by slaughter houses.

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.—There is a proposition to amend the charter of the Bridge Company in some necessary points. They are that commissioners to represent the two cities shall be added to the machinery of the company, and that an extension shall be given, as the bridge cannot be built in the time the charter gives (two years). There should be no difficulty as to these amendments.

NOW AND THEN.—Hon. John Covode pitches into the Catholics for defeating him at the last election in his district. When recruits for the war were wanted in the same district John Covode did not stop to inquire whether the volunteer was a Catholic or a Protestant. Food for powder was enough.

The Age of Libel Suits.

Libel suits for all sorts of real or fancied wrongs are the rage just now, and for the most part they are against the unlucky editors and proprietors of newspapers. The other day a country editor was arrested and put in prison in this city on a libel suit for strictures upon one of our Wall street speculators. The Chicago Tribune has just been mulcted in seven thousand five hundred dollars damages for publishing an alleged scandal about parties in Chicago. We see, too, that another libel suit has been commenced against the same paper for ten thousand dollars damages for stating in a police court item that a person kept a disorderly house. We might refer to many other similar cases in Chicago, New York and other parts of the country in which newspaper proprietors are the victims; but these will answer for the application of the moral.

Undoubtedly the malicious libeller should be punished, and the injured parties should receive damages where the case of malice or intentional wrong is proved; but under libel laws generally, and the way in which libel suits are instituted and conducted, the malice is frequently on the part of the plaintiffs, and the object to make money more than to satisfy wounded honor or damaged character. Generally the prosecutors in such suits are needy speculators, to whom the chance of wringing money out of some victim is a godsend. Such persons for the most part would be delighted to have their characters called in question by a wealthy journal or a rich individual every day. It gives them a prospect of filling their pockets through the mistakes or imprudences of others without labor, and brings, besides, a notoriety which many of them like. Unfortunately for the victims, juries are often more remarkable for tenderness of conscience than for common sense or rendering impartial justice. No class of the people are so useful to the community as publishers of newspapers, and none are placed in such a delicate position with regard to alleged libels. In giving the news—that which is already public through the action of the courts or current conversation—they are made subject to prosecution and damages, though no wrong to individuals is intended and though in case of mistake reparation be offered. Juries are apt to forget this and to treat newspaper publishers with more severity than they would other persons. In case of a mistake, oversight or the error of employés in a damaging publication, where no malice or wrong is intended, an apology, recantation and the opening of the columns of a paper to explanation ought to be sufficient. This among honorable men in private life is deemed sufficient. But the truth is the lawyers generally do all the mischief. Libel cases are a *bonne bouche* to the legal fraternity, and whenever they see the least chance of getting employment they stimulate parties to enter the courts. Then, again, the lawyers for the defence generally defeat their clients by assaults upon the plaintiffs, by labored efforts to damage the character of the plaintiffs, and, therefore, by exciting the sympathy of juries for the prosecutors. This is seen in the Chicago case to which we have referred. It would be better in almost all cases for the defendants to dispense with these wordy and frothy lawyers and to leave the matter to juries with a simple statement of the facts and an unprejudiced explanation. Our libel laws need revision, and the lawyers should always be avoided when it is possible to do without them.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.—It will be seen by a telegram from Norfolk that a serious conflict occurred in Princess Anne county, Va., between an armed band of negroes and a detachment of federal troops, and that further trouble was apprehended. A sergeant had been mortally wounded and three negroes killed. The difficulty arose from resistance by the negroes to the Sheriff of the county in the execution of a writ. At the same time reports from New Mexico represent trouble between the white and colored troops out there, in which several were killed. In fact, we have almost daily similar accounts from one part of the country or the other of conflicts between the races. It is no longer an irrepressible conflict between slavery and freedom, but between the white and black man, and has been brought about by political demagogues endeavoring to subvert the laws of nature. If this state of things is to continue the black man must in the end go to the wall, and then he will have reason to curse the demagogues who, under the pretence of being his friends, prove to be his worst enemies