

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

All business or news letter and telegraphic despatches must be addressed NEW YORK HERALD.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed. Rejected communications will not be returned.

Volume XXXIV.....No. 67

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE BURLESQUE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE FORTY THIEVES.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

BROOKLYN THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—PROMETHEUS—MUCH ADO ABOUT A MERCHANT OF VENICE.

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

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN OPERA.—LA TRAVIATA.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE SEVEN DWARFS; OR, HARK! HEAR! AND THE WORLD OF WONDERS.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—SHADOW OF A GREAT KING—RICHIEUX AT SIXTY.

GERMAN STAGE THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—DIE ROYALSTADT.—DIE GELADTE WAG DER BESTE.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third st., between 5th and 7th sts.—ROMEO AND JULIET.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Third street and Broadway.—AFTERNOON AND EVENING PERFORMANCES.

THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—THE HOBBY HORSE, &c.

WATERLEY THEATRE, 7th Broadway.—ELIZI HOLT'S BURLESQUE COMEDY.

MRS. F. R. COMPTON'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—MABEL.—MR. AND MRS. WHITE.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 30 Broadway.—COMIC SKETCHES AND LIVING STATUES.—PAPA.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 55 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS.—SIGN OF THE BLOUNDER.

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

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 231 Bowery.—COMIC OPERA.—THE BROTHERS KENT.

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

ROOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ROOLEY'S MINSTRELS.—GRANT'S CABINET, &c.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 613 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Monday, March 8, 1869.

Notice to Herald Carriers and News Dealers.

HERALD carriers and news dealers are informed that they can now procure the requisite number of copies direct from this office without delay.

All complaints of "short counts" and spoiled sheets must be made to the Superintendent in the counting-room of the HERALD establishment.

Newsmen who have received spoiled papers from the HERALD office, are requested to return the same, with proof that they were obtained from here direct, and have their money refunded. Spoiled sheets must not be sold to readers of the HERALD.

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 March 7. The Prussian Diet adjourned sine die on Saturday last.

Japan.

The ports of Jeddo and Negata have been thrown open to foreigners. Jeddo is announced to be henceforth the permanent capital of the Japanese empire.

South America.

Our Panama letter is dated February 27. The Colombian Congress had met and the liberal or dominant party is divided into two factions. One of which favors Mosquera and has combined with the opposition to secure the overthrow of Gutierrez. The Isthmus Canal treaty is denounced in Bogota and it is probable that Congress will refuse to ratify it.

Central America.

General Vicente Carra has been elected President of Guatemala. Dr. Francisco Duenas has been re-elected President of Salvador.

Haiti.

Salnavé bombarded Aux Cayes and also made a land attack, but without success, and was compelled to withdraw. The rebels have secured the American ship Mount Vernon and intend to make a demonstration against Salnavé's fleet.

St. Domingo.

The rebellion in the South has not yet been suppressed. General Luperon, it is reported, has sailed from St. Thomas with a formidable expedition against Dess.

The Cabinet.

The difficulty regarding Secretary Stewart's eligibility to the Secretaryship of the Treasury remains about as it was. Some Senators express a reluctance

to embarrass the President, although they are opposed to the repeal of the law of 1789. It is said that if a hitch should grow out of the message Secretary Stewart will resign. The President stands firm to his purpose of having him in the Cabinet.

Miscellaneous.

At the Metropolitan Methodist church in Washington, yesterday, President Grant attended by his wife and children entered, and the church being excessively crowded moved immediately to the pew usually reserved for the President. It was, however, occupied, and the party after looking in vain for seats, the occupants of the President's pew being apparently too bewildered to rise, turned and left the church. They then repaired to Dr. Sunderland's Presbyterian church, which was near at hand, and here they occupied a pew which the President had rented some time before his election.

Ex-Vice President Wade, who is about retiring to his Ohio home, was the recipient of numerous visits from his old friends in Congress yesterday, who came to say good-by.

Secretary Stewart was present at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Washington yesterday, and was the subject of very general remark among the audience. On leaving he was accosted by the artist of an illustrated paper, who persisted in requesting his photograph for publication; but the Secretary merely told him to make any picture, so it was a good looking man, and put his name under it.

Richard Busted suggests that a fund be established in the Treasury Department in which the people, rich and poor, might be free to give what they pleased to pay off the public debt. He recommends that the volunteer services of the press, pulpit and proscenium could be brought to bear in aid of the project, and offers his own services for the purpose.

The democratic members of the Indiana Legislature bolted on Thursday and left the radical remainder of that body without a quorum for the transaction of business. Both houses, however, convened regularly and adjourned in order to save bills already passed, and the Governor has issued writs of election for the 23d inst. to fill vacancies occasioned by the withdrawal of the democrats.

A fire at Akron, Ohio, yesterday destroyed property to the amount of \$100,000. Dr. Merrill, a prominent physician of Omaha, having been implicated in a seduction case, has been expelled from the Presbyterian church in that city.

The City.

Dr. Chapin preached in the Fifth Avenue Universalist church yesterday on the denial of Christ by Peter. In opening the sermon he prayed eloquently for the President and Vice President, that they might put away all sectionalism. Rev. Day E. Lee preached at the Bowdler street Universalist church on ploughing and pruning the nation. Dr. Thompson preached at the Broadway Tabernacle. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, preached on the loving of Christ as the consummation of all Christian duty. The Rev. Dewitt Talmage, the new pastor of the Central Presbyterian church in Brooklyn, preached in that edifice yesterday.

Another deposition of Martha Ellsworth has been taken relative to the connection of James Logan No. 2 with the murder of Mr. Rogers, which is said to contain very important disclosures not yet made public.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

Congressman W. H. Barnum, of Connecticut; Jas. Mason, of Cleveland, O.; General L. E. West, of Wisconsin; Luther Wright, of Oswego; Jesse Wilson, of Indiana, and Robert Oen, of Putsburg, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

L. S. L'Hommedieu, of Cincinnati; T. W. Pierce, of Boston, and Marshall Jewell, of Hartford, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

W. R. Livermore, of the United States Navy; Richard W. Roche, of Albany, and H. B. Titus, of Washington, are at the Hoffman House.

Postmaster L. Burr, of Boston; Colonel G. W. Schofield, of the United States Army; Z. H. Benton, of Jefferson county, N. Y., and W. M. Graham, of Meville, are at the Astor House.

General Byron Latin, of North Carolina; General John T. Averill, of St. Paul; Lieutenant W. Mead and E. Walker, of the United States Navy; Dr. J. T. Barnett, of San Francisco, and General Pitcher, of West Point, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Colonel J. P. Merritt, of Michigan; Major Frank Taylor, of the United States Army, and Captain A. D. Fitch, of the United States Navy, are at the St. Charles Hotel.

Dr. John M. Green and M. G. Smith, of Long Island, and J. H. Kibby, of Boston, are at the St. Julien Hotel.

General John A. Rawlins, of Washington, and J. R. Ranney, of St. John, N. B., are at the Brevoort House.

Mexico—Her Condition and Our Policy. Mexico stands in our way—stands in the way of the civilized world. Were she at the southern extremity of our Continent the tide of progress would sweep by her and give her an opportunity, by centuries of slow upward movement, to reach a comparative civilization.

As it is, the world cannot wait for this long process of national regeneration, and consequently the Mexican problem to us becomes of great political interest. No one can deny that she has made great strides onward since the days of the Spanish viceroys; but it has been an advance from the most abject to comparative misery. She has had one long and desperate struggle of nearly half a century to rid herself of the civil, religious and military furies which clung to her after her independence. She has tried three constitutions, her theoretical liberal efforts culminating in that of 1857, which is in many respects superior to our own as a fundamental code. She has been placed by the desperate retrograde effort of the imperialists back where she was in 1861, when she finished her grand final battle with the clergy for the support of liberal as opposed to ecclesiastical principles.

We find her to-day with no two elements of equal strength which can meet each other for a great internal struggle. The liberal theories are triumphant; the church party dead after a tremendous conflict; the constitution of 1857 restored, and an attempt being made to gather well in hand her moral and religious wreck, her political and social degradation and her financial dishonesty and ruin. But there are still many elements left in Mexico pregnant with local trouble. In the north she has a vast and desolate territory in great part overrun by savage Apache and Comanche Indians, who have swept off the herds from every estate far into Central Durango and Northern Zacatecas. The mining machinery has been destroyed by the raiders and the mining towns are in ruins. A half-starved, miserable and ignorant population is shivering under adobe walls. Tamauilipas is a stronghold of bandits, and is alternately in the hands of Canales or Cortina. Sonora and Sinaloa are given over to rival feudal families. Coahuila belongs almost entirely to the two brothers Sanchez. San Luis Potosi contains single estates of the size of Delaware, where one-half of the inhabitants are in rags, the other half naked, and the whole of them living more like beasts than like human beings. Southwestern Mexico is held by Lozada, an Indian chief, who does more or less as suits his ideas of government. He controls some ten thousand brave warriors, and forms an integral part of the republic. Guerrero is the seat of power of the Alvarez family, who obey and disobey the central authority and collect taxes as best suits their financial condition and ideas. Yucatan, a vast Indian country, is a constant source of trouble, and

ever a fruitful point of local pronunciamentos. In Mexico we find certain points held, like those of the middle ages in Europe, by some robber chieftain, who laughs at the general government. As an instance, we cite the Laguneros, under Gonzales Herrera, who have often desolated Southeast Chihuahua, South-west Coahuila, and even threatened, in 1867, the populous city of Saltillo. Throughout the country we find that bad government has absolutely driven a naturally honest people to wholesale plunder and desolation. The one-sixteenth part Spanish blood of Mexico is a mixture productive of the most undesirable results, and has in reality been a barrier to the civilization of the naturally talented Mexican Indian.

We have spoken of the constitution of 1857 as an admirable document. Practice, however, proves that it is not adapted to the condition of the Mexican people as we find them. It does not fit them, and as a mass they cannot understand what it means. Even the acknowledged rulers directly disobey its provisions, as witness the Vera Cruz and Mexico Railway concession lately given, the unqualified peon system that practically exists on all great estates, and the intense State rights rule which marks every provincial government. The constitution abolishes internal custom houses, and yet that system is still continued to the entire ignoring of its effects on trade and the tendency to crush out every effort at internal improvement. Mexico should export the products of her magnificent soil, and yet her exports are scarcely an ounce. She depends entirely upon her silver mines. These are suffering terribly under the weight of a taxation that almost prohibits their working. In the time of the viceroys the mines paid a royal fifth; to-day, before the silver reaches a market, it has paid in numerous classified taxes from twenty-three to twenty-five per cent on the gross product of a mine. The result is plain. If capitalists invest one hundred thousand dollars in a mine and take out one hundred and twenty thousand, they pay thirty thousand dollars taxes, and therefore lose ten thousand in the investment. In any other country the same mine would pay well. This is an example of the way Mexico crushes the only industry she chooses to rely upon. Still another misfortune for that land whose geographical position is the finest on the globe—she is as yet intensely feudal. This is the element that most prominently stands in the way of her progress and civilization. The lands of Mexico are in the hands of a few great holders who have their baronial residences, and to all intents and purposes, their feudal retainers. They pay no direct taxes upon their estates, and therefore can constantly add to their own landed wealth, while at the same time they increase the poverty and misery of the poor people who are forced to live on these estates. These feudal lords generally have little stomach for the education and improvement of the masses. When some clear-headed and philanthropic individual makes an attempt to better the condition of these serfs a raid of a few hundred desperadoes breaks up the establishment and the effort disappears, while he who makes it is assigned to poverty, as instance the fate of General Miguel Blanco, in 1866.

The exterior finances of Mexico are scarcely better than the interior. Without mentioning her ninety-five millions of European indebtedness, she has never made a reasonable effort to reimburse those citizens of the United States who, from pure sympathy for her cause, furnished her munitions of war during the struggle against the empire and took her bonds in full payment. These bonds are now scarcely worth ten cents on the dollar, and the coupons due are not yet paid. This is one among the many cases of what may be termed Mexican gratitude.

Thus we have pictured in part the condition of Mexico. 'Tis a sad one, but it is an infinite improvement over the days when Spain ruled there. Improved however much it may be, it is undoubted that it will take many, very many, years for the country to move in that unison with us which the times imperatively demand. Does she populate her frontier? Does she move under the same impulse that we do? Does she, as contiguous territory, help the development of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona? One-third part of United States territory may be said to depend for its progress upon the development of Mexico; therefore we repeat that Mexico stands in our way. We cannot give her time to join after her own fashion in the great march; for the law of progress is inexorable, and the weaker and lesser civilization must go down before the greater. We sympathize with her, for her upward struggle has been noble and she has accomplished very much, and more in the same time than most of the European nations; but she cannot advance with sufficient rapidity now to meet the demands of her geographical position, and must give way to the people that are better able to prepare her for her future. The world and modern progress demand that we should take control of her, and we must do it. With her we must commence a military colonial system, gradually eradicating the existing evils, and finally, when properly prepared, admit her to the benefits of the Union.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—The act of Congress which the Hon. Mr. Sumner thinks forbids A. T. Stewart from filling the post of Secretary of the Treasury is suddenly treated with remarkable respect. If Jay Cooke were placed on the witness stand and asked on oath what interest the Hon. Hugh McCulloch had while Secretary of the Treasury in government securities in his house what would be the answer of Jay Cooke?

A CRYPTIC REVIVAL.—Ben Butler's discovery of the crypt beneath the Capitol and his mouldy custodian has evidently awakened the interest of archeologists abroad; for we learn by our foreign files that investigation has revealed the existence of a beautiful crypt of the twelfth century at Gran, Hungary, under the grand cathedral. Eight granite columns support the massive roof, each with a different capital. This is the influence of republican example.

ANOTHER SITE FOR THE NEW POST OFFICE.—It appears now that the new Post Office is to front on Broadway, opposite the block between Park place and Murray street. Why not go a little further up and leave the space between the HERALD building and the City Hall clear?

The Cabinet Trouble and the Feudal Law of 1789.

The war between the rings, the Treasury leeches and extremists on the one side and the new administration on the other has opened at once and in earnest. Immediately upon President Grant's accession to office an old and obsolete law is raked up. The harpies are fearful that a strong hand will wrest from them their ill-gotten gains, and that, in the rigor of good discipline and economical management, there will be no further opportunity for rogues to bleed the country while the honest men pay its debts. Wall street and the dishonest manipulators and various rings which control the revenue and Treasury are all well known to Mr. Stewart. These are, therefore, determined to make a bold fight for the retention of their positions and their plunder. It is for this alone that the obsolete law alluded to is rolled into notice. This law, however, is manifestly unconstitutional; for it is a prohibition against any American citizen holding office who is at the moment engaged in promoting the prosperity of his country by using his brains, treasure and energies in business pursuits. It is equivalent to stating that any man engaged in trade is dishonest and cannot be trusted. The law is in direct opposition to the spirit of our institutions and our form of government, and we have no doubt if it were submitted to the Supreme Court it would at once be condemned.

With such a law we may as well advertise at once for a man who does not own any interest in a ship or any commercial enterprise; who has never had brains enough to acquire a house lot worth a hundred dollars; whose energies have never been sufficient to acquire a few dollars that he might invest in United States or State securities; whose knowledge has never been sufficient to gain a decent living. Wanted, in fact, some old representative of the feudal times, who lives upon something that his ancestors left to him, and who is entitled to high consideration for his feudal and ancestral dignities. Wanted, some "pensioner on the dead," who has on hand a large stock of dead brains, dead genius, dead capital, dead knowledge, and a thorough appreciation only of "deadheads."

We do not advocate the repeal of this law in favor of any particular individual, but in justice to the American people, who forgot it long ago, because it belonged to the middle ages—belonged to Europe, not to this side of the water. The people of the United States want no such feudal relic as this staring them in the face. It is not wise for any faction in Congress to make a stand against the administration on this point. If they do the President will do well to make a bold fight upon it, and he will win; for the people—the sensible people of all parties—will be with him. He will win because common sense and republicanism are to rule for the next four years.

Probable Rejection of the Caleb Cushing Treaty at Bogota.

Our advices from Bogota announce that great dissatisfaction exists there with the stipulations of the treaty recently negotiated by Mr. Cushing for the construction of the Darien Canal. The grounds of this dissatisfaction are that the treaty is negotiated in the interests of the Panama Railroad Company, and instead of promoting the early construction of a canal across the American isthmus, it is so contrived as to prevent one from being built. We have already shown that this is the true effect of the treaty, and have urged that it be so amended by the Senate as to convert it into what is wanted by the American people. A canal through the Isthmus of Darien can be cut and must be cut, and private interests should not be permitted to stand in the way of so great a work. Neither should any petty government, that can do nothing to help it, be authorized to tax the commerce that must pass through this canal to the enormous extent which Mr. Cushing consented to in his recent negotiation. The Darien Canal is the unconstructed link in our coastwise transit, and is, therefore, a peculiarly American enterprise. It is the needed complement to our great ocean domestic trade, and will do as much as all the Pacific railroads, present and future, for its development. We commend the subject to the early consideration of President Grant.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.—A great fuss is being made over the fact that a Pacific Railroad train has been blocked up for seven or eight days in a snow-bank. The same thing happens every winter on some of the Northern and Northwestern roads. The difficulty on the Pacific road appears to have been that the employes were too lazy to shovel their way out.

WHO SHALL DECIDE?—The gas companies say patent burners waste gas, and the State Inspector says they are a saving to consumers. Light is certainly wanted on this question.

THE CASE OF VICE CONSUL EDER.—We learn by our letters from Peru that Captain Spicer, senior officer of the United States naval forces on that station, has sent the Tuscarora to the New Granadian port of Buenaventura to inquire into the recent outrage against the American Vice Consul at the neighboring town of Palmira. This is as it should be. A prompt inquiry by an officer with equalties on and a few guns at his back is worth all the diplomatic correspondence that ever passed between our Secretary of State and the representatives of the little ephemeral authorities in Spanish America. Well done, Captain Spicer.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL.—As fast as that honest Indian of the Tammany Wigwam, Peter B. Sweeney, pays over the accrued interest of the city moneys in his hands the Board of Aldermen devise some new swindle to get hold of it; so that, after all, the people are not much benefited, save in Peter's virtuous example.

STOCK JOBBERS AND DRY GOODS JOBBERS DISAGREE.—The commercial men insist that the appointment of A. T. Stewart as Secretary of the Treasury will ruin the tradesmen of New York, while the moneyed men of Wall street contend that he is just the man for the place.

SMALL POTATOES.—The opposition on the part of the extreme radicals in the Senate to adopt the joint resolution recommended by President Grant to suspend the operation of that musty and dusty old law which deprives A. T. Stewart from holding a place in the Cabinet.

The Remored Death of the Pope.

The Associated Press gives us a second rumor of the death of the Pope which is probably but a repetition of the first rumor received in a special cable despatch to the NEW YORK HERALD. Such an event is not improbable, in view of the advanced age of Pio Nono, who was born in 1792, and whose pontificate, beginning in 1842, has already lasted longer, we believe, than that of any of his predecessors. Nor is it impossible, in view of the complicated intrigues which the question of his successorship would at once occasion in every European court, that his death might purposely be concealed for a few days. A letter, however, which we published yesterday from one of our correspondents at Rome, says that the Pope "has no reason to complain of his present state of health." The same letter alluded to a rumor which is circulating, especially in France, that Pope Pius IX., foreseeing that his reign is drawing towards a conclusion, and desiring that his apostolic chair should be filled after his demise by a worthy successor, intends to propose to the ensuing General Council to ordain that in future the Sovereign Pontiffs shall, during their lifetime, nominate as their successors two or three in number, among whom the conclave shall decide, without delay, on the pontifical throne becoming vacant. In case this proposition shall be accepted it is added that he will nominate as the trio of Cardinals from whom the next Pope is to be selected their Eminences Patrizi, Barnebo and Panobianco. Pio Nono would certainly prefer that either one of these Cardinals should be his successor rather than the late refractory Cardinal d'Andrea. We trust that the rumor of the death of the Pope is unfounded, and that he will live to see the Grand Ecumenical Council—the first which will have convened since the Council of Trent, in 1545—crown the series of very remarkable events which have signalized his prolonged pontificate. Both within and beyond the limits of the Papal States steam and electricity and other potent agencies of modern progress have silently wrought vast changes during that period.

A POPULAR BRAND JUST NOW—Mum's Cabinet. Much superior to the dry (h)line of the disappointed politicians.

THE INDIAN WAR ENDED.—"The Indian war has ended," says a telegram of March 6 from Fort Hays, in Kansas. But this announcement is too good and too comprehensive to be true, however applicable it may be to the recent brilliant and successful Indian campaign of General Sheridan. We rejoice to learn that "there is not a hostile Indian within the limits of the Missouri Department," that "the refractory tribes have been entirely subdued," and "the few that have not yet come in, but have made promises, have been driven far out of the department." Nevertheless we have too much reason to fear that Indian hostilities have not been permanently suspended, and that a long time must elapse before the obstructions which the Indians oppose to the westward march of civilization, with its auxiliary forces of steam and electricity, shall be finally removed. In this view we are almost tempted to regret that General Sheridan has been transferred from a field of action to which he is most admirably adapted. Under his mastery conduct we should not despair of being satisfied at no very distant period that all Indian wars were ended.

A VEXED QUESTION.—The copperhead organs say Grant's Cabinet is a dead failure, and the radical papers say it is a great success. Which is right?

THE POLLARD MURDER TRIAL AT RICHMOND.—The trial of James Grant for the alleged murder of H. Rives Pollard, the Richmond editor, who had published a scurrilous article, written by J. Marshall Hanna, and full of false and slanderous accusations against a young sister of the accused, resulted last Saturday in a verdict of "not guilty." This verdict must clearly be regarded by no means as an approval of a dangerous and too frequent practice in this country—that of seeking to redress grievances by taking the law into one's own hands—but rather as an indication of the feeling with which an entire community indignantly protests against anything like "blackmailing," and worse than murderous attacks, under shelter of laws never intended to protect the guilty, upon the privacy and peace of families.

THE SPECIAL RAILROAD COMMITTEE.—Probably of all the special committees appointed by the Legislature there is none whose duties are more important than those of the body of gentlemen directed to investigate the management of the railroads of the State. What are they doing in the matter? They meet at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, but they keep their proceedings to themselves, and no one knows anything about them. If the purposes of the committee be fair there is no need of secrecy. The gas committee transacts its business openly, and has so far elicited much important information. What is the railroad committee afraid of? Can not its proceedings bear the light?

CAN'T WE DO IT?—Every freeman in Chicago has his life insured for two thousand dollars, at the expense of the merchants of that city, so that the four poor fellows who were killed a few days ago left some provision for their families. This is a very wise and humane idea. Why can not we adopt the same plan here, where there are ten fires to one which occurs in Chicago?

The Chinese on Our Pacific Coast.

Recently some four hundred Chinese women arrived in California from China. There was a great rivalry among the Chinese residents of San Francisco to seize the new arrivals and appropriate them, probably "for better or for worse." The poor fellows are sadly in want of wives, and this small batch of women must be a perfect God-send to them. It is a good sign for the United States, and shows that these hard-working and productive cheap laborers are disposed to settle upon our Pacific slope and make a permanent home there. Hitherto they have had but one long dream in life—a return home to the "Flowery Land" to enjoy in old age the results of their labor in the New World. The influx of Chinese women will produce a better observance of moral laws, make the men more contented, and will induce them to take a greater interest in the

soil, which they will now adopt as their permanent home.

It is somewhat curious that old China awakens to new life under modern impulses and presents herself as a competitor with Europe and our Atlantic States in the race for the colonization of our Pacific coast. The result will be a very strange one politically. Already the California courts refuse to recognize that a Chinaman has the same right that a negro has under the laws. There will soon be a vast wave of Chinese population pouring into Lower California, and once Mexico is annexed to the United States the cheap labor required for the working of mines will come from the same Asiatic source. This Asiatic element is destined to be a very important one in the solution of the approaching Mexican problem. Let the Chinese come to this Continent with their wives; they give us cheap labor and they are quiet, orderly citizens.

New York Piers and Wharves—The Evil and the Remedy.

A bill is before the Legislature at Albany involving a complete revolution in the system of construction of the wharves and piers of our city, and providing for an additional commission to our scheme of city government. We have not seen the bill, but a subject of such great importance to every interest in the city merits earnest consideration and attention. Commerce is the life of New York, and every movement which affects it is either beneficial or prejudicial to the immediate interests of thousands. It has been for many years a subject of deep regret to every honest man that the system which New York city has pursued in the administration of the piers and wharves has been most prejudicial to trade, and reflects the deepest disgrace upon a commercial city which ranks as the third in the world.

In seeking a remedy we must first recognize the cause of an evil. In the matter of the piers and wharves this will be found in the fact that legislation, while pretending to aim at the laying of the smallest burden upon trade, has been so contrived as to lay the heaviest possible tax upon it, and at the same time to divert the greater portion of the proceeds to the benefit of political favorites, allowing the small part only to go to the reimbursement of capital invested for the accommodation of shipping. As at present organized there are three beneficiary interests in our system of wharves and piers. These are, first, the wharf rats and thieves who derive profits to the extent of from three to five millions of dollars annually from their facilities of access to goods while being landed or shipped. Second, the harbor masters, who for an imaginary benefit, but real evil, which they bring to the shipping interest, are invested with an arbitrary power in the granting of berths to vessels which enables them to tax shipowners and wharfowners alike to the highest point which the needs of these will permit. The third and least considered of the beneficiaries is the proprietary interest; and this, whether it be the city or a private owner, receives, under our present system of administration, such a miserably incompetent return for the investment that wharf property has lost all attraction for new capital to invest in the improvement of our facilities for trade.

In contemplating any new legislation on this subject the first thing which must be borne in mind is the rapid increase of our city and its trade. Within the life of the present generation of men New York will contain not less than four millions of population, and its trade will be increased in a far greater ratio. In laying down, therefore, the principles which should guide new constructions to facilitate our trade, we must hold constantly in view its prospective wants. The next provision should undoubtedly be one which shall do away with our present iniquitous harbor master system and provide guarantees for the protection of commerce from the horse leeches of political favoritism. When this is done and the removal accomplished of the present foolish restriction which the law imposes on the construction of permanent works, capital will find inducement for investment in piers and wharves, and New York will soon show that she has both skill and enterprise to provide facilities and protection to commerce.

How this will best be done can safely be left to the needs of trade and the instincts of capital. The Legislature should beware of adopting and sanctioning any single scheme; for, however broad may be the views of its originators, it is impossible that they can comprehend the constantly varying conditions of trade and provide for all its wants. The simplest plan will be the best. This involves merely a repeal of the present restriction upon permanent constructions and a diminution of the power of the harbor masters to plunder. It has ever been found to the advantage of trade to concentrate its operations, and with liberty of action and investment the merchants engaged in cotton, sugar, grain and other major branches of commerce will each be most competent to arrange their own plan of operations and provide for their own present and prospective wants. The merchants of New York owe it to themselves and to the vast commerce which passes through their hands to see that no great job is put privately through the Legislature at Albany and a wrong fastened upon our city which will injure its trade and divert commerce from it through all coming time.

Specie to China.

The steamship which has just left San Francisco for China took out eight hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars in specie, and, indeed, almost every steamship leaving the Pacific coast for Asia takes out a large amount of specie. This is a fact worthy of special notice and the consideration of our statesmen and commercial men. China is the gulf into which the specie of the world runs and has been running for ages. Though the largest portion of this last shipment was for Japan the great stream is and has been to China. Specie goes there from all parts of the world, but never returns. It was so with silver before the gold fields of California and Australia were developed, and since that time gold to a great extent has taken the same course. Thousands of millions of both the precious metals have been swallowed up in that maelstrom. The mining industry of the rest of the world and its commercial intercourse with China are made tributary