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.

Rejected communications will not be returned.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed.

THE DAILY HERALD, *published every day in the year*. Four cents per copy. Annual subscription price $12.

THE WEEKLY HERALD, every Saturday, at FIVE CENTS per copy. Annual subscription price:—

One Copy	$2
Three Copies	5
Five Copies	8
Ten Copies	15

Volume XXXV ..... No. 9

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—THE BUBBYSODY.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—GRAND ROMANTIC DRAMA OF RUY BLAS.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND MENAGERIE, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—Matinee daily. Performance every evening.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—TOM AND JERRY—IRISH OUTLAW—ROBERT MAGAIRE.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—OURS.

THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—THE BURLESQUE OF BAD DICKEY.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and 23d st.—LINGARD'S BURLESQUE COMBINATION.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 23d st., between 5th and 6th ave.—HAMLET.

WAVERLEY THEATRE, No. 729 Broadway.—MUSIC, MIRTH AND MYSTERY.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—THE LOTTERY OF LIFE.

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

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO ACTS, &c.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th st.—BRYANT'S MINSTRELS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 585 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELSY, NEGRO ACTS, &c.—"HASH."

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—EQUESTRIAN AND GYMNASTIC PERFORMANCES, &c.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS—ILL RAGIO AFRICANO, &c.

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

LADIES' NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618½ Broadway.—FEMALES ONLY IN ATTENDANCE.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, January 9, 1870.

CONTENTS OF TO-DAY'S HERALD.

PAGE.

1—Advertisements.

2—Advertisements.

3—Washington: Government Heading Off the Wall Street Gamblers—The Haytien Minister's Opinion of Haytien Affairs—Fine Arts—Affinity vs. Matrimony—The New York Geneological and Biographical Society—The Telegraphers' Strike: No Probability of an Early Adjustment of the Difficulties—The Defaulting Bank Cashiers—Naval Intelligence—The Logan Murder—The Sickles Family—Curiosities of Club-Life—The Newark Political Imbroglio—The Alleged Bond Swindle.

4—Europe: Interesting Correspondence from London, Londonderry and Paris—Important Disclosures Relative to Dr. Paul Schoeppe, the Condemned Murderer—Religious Intelligence—Suicide of a Catholic Priest—The Late Storm in New Hampshire.

5—The Pirates of the Port: Startling Facts by a HERALD Detective—The Climate of Oregon—The Fashions in Rome and Fashion Gossip—A Home for Consumptives—The Income Law Dead as Regards Taxation.

6—Editorials: Leading Article on Church and State, the French Chambers and the Council—Amusement Announcements.

7—Editorials—Telegraphic News from All Parts of the World: French Cabinet Consolidation and Reform—Personal Intelligence—A Voice from the Cuban Junta—Business Notices.

8—Mormonism: The Peaceful Revolution of Ideas in Mormondom—Lectures Last Night on the Rabbinical Council and Animal Life—Marine Transfers—The Philadelphia Mint—Annual Message of Governor Claflin, of Massachusetts—A Seasonable Record of the Hudson River—The Total Vote of Virginia—Proceedings of the Courts—Brooklyn City News—The Trip of the Mutual Base Ball Club to New Orleans—The Police Aid Association.

9—Baring the Bore: The True Nature of the Broadway Excavation Disclosed—Business at the Custom House—Another Railroad War—The Turkish Government Buying Second Hand Muskets—Financial and Commercial Reports—What May Be Seen in a Tea Chest—Pennsylvania Government Pardons—Marriages and Deaths.

10—New York City News—Jefferson Market Strategy—Suburban Intelligence—Fisk and Gould as Conspirators—Rumored Express Robbery—The Naval Academy Ball—The Ball Season—Amusements—The Deutscher Lese Club—Attempted Assassination in Baxter Street—The Lingard-Dunning Infelicity—Local Items—Shipping News—Advertisements.

11—Slaughtering the Dogs—Common Sense on Phobia—Advertisements.

12—Advertisements.

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN—Over in Jersey, at Newark, upon the awful event of an independent democrat in the Common Council voting with the republicans on a list of city appointments and thus making a tie and a deadlock. Talk of earthquakes. Such a shock was never known in Jersey before, and great is the wrath of the faithful.

NEWS FROM MEXICO.—The news from Mexico, which will be found in another column, is most melancholy. The province of Cheapa has been visited by severe freshets and a loss of two hundred lives is reported. The injury to farms and the destruction of property is very large. Fear of a general revolution throughout the country prevails, and from the present insurrectionary display there is little doubt that the fear entertained will be realized.

DE RODAS' LATEST.—The latest proclamation of the Captain General of Cuba announces that he has sufficient troops to stamp out the revolution, and gives as his reason why so many more troops were coming from Spain was that the Spaniards at home desired to share the sacrifices of their fellow-countrymen abroad. Can the Spanish government afford to support such expensive magnanimity? Spanish troops, like all other soldiers, require to be supported.

Church and State—The French Chambers and the Council.

A cable despatch has just informed us that the Ecumenical Council and the relations of France with the Holy See are, by government consent, to form the subject of discussion in the legislative body on the 11th instant. This, it must be admitted, is a significant movement, but it cannot be called a surprise. Bavaria has already, in a manner more or less formal, gone into the same questions. So, too, has Spain; and both Bavaria and Spain have come to the conclusion that the decrees of the Council are to be rejected if in any way they interfere with the civil government. Action of a similar kind has, in fact, been taken by all the Catholic governments of Europe. Austria and Italy have spoken out with an emphasis quite as remarkable as that of Bavaria and Spain. It is notorious that every Catholic government in Europe is, on certain questions, in open antagonism to the Council.

As yet, however, the Parliaments have taken no formal action. We know how the governments feel, but the sentiment of the nations, as expressed by their chosen representatives, we wait to learn. The discussion on the Council and the relations of France to the Holy See which is to take place in the French Chambers on the 11th will be the most important event to which as yet the Council has given birth. Napoleon stands forth before the world as the protector of the Holy See. But for French bayonets the Holy Father would have found it impossible to live in Rome any time these last twenty odd years. If French bayonets were removed to-morrow from the Holy City there would be such a flutter among the old women of the Vatican as has not been witnessed in many centuries. Are French soldiers in Rome with the consent of the French people, or only because of the imperial mind and will? Does France approve, or does she not, of the arrangement which fastens upon her the charge of wild and wicked inconsistency? Is liberty valuable only in France and for Frenchmen? These are a few of the questions which the approaching discussion will raise, and which in some form it must settle. To our untutored minds it does seem an unreasonable and outrageous thing that Frenchmen, while they claim liberty for themselves, should deny liberty to the Italians, or, if you will, to the Roman people. It will not surprise us if the approaching discussion prove the death of the iniquitous September convention. We have no objection to Rome being proclaimed a free city. We have no objection to the Pope being left in possession of the Vatican and of the Church of St. Peter. But with every lover of liberty in all the world, we must and we do protest against the indefinite prolongation of the French occupation of the Holy City; and we shall think less of the French people than we ever have done if as one of the first results of the new *régime* a period is not fixed for the termination of the French occupation of Rome. This, however, will be but one of the many questions which the free Parliament of France will have to consider in connection with the Ecumenical Council and the Holy See generally. It will have to consider the question of Papal infallibility, the new dogmas and the propositions of the Syllabus. It will be something marvellous if the countrymen of Voltaire and Rousseau, of Massillon and of Hyacinthe, now that their mouths are opened, do not frighten the Vatican into something like respect for common sense. At any rate we expect such speaking as shall leave the authorities of the Catholic Church no longer in doubt that the time is no more when the Church, as in the days of Hildebrand, can dominate civil governments. The action of France will prove contagious. In Austria, in Bavaria, in Belgium, in Italy, in Spain, in Portugal the discussion will be carried on, and, unless we greatly mistake, Rome will be taught that whatever she may be to certain weak consciences and timid souls she is no longer in any sense the mistress of the world. If matters turn out as we expect the Ecumenical Council will be a blessing to the world, although in a sense exactly the opposite of that which was intended. It will complete the breach between Church and State, and work another and even grander reformation.

All this we say in spite of our belief in the continued usefulness of the Catholic Church. Nay, all this we say because of our conviction that a little more common sense is all that is required to make that Church one of the best agencies in the governing of mankind. A little less of the old wife in the Vatican, a little less of petticoat influence near the Holy Father, and all will be well. But if the Pope and his friends have no nobler work to perform than to proclaim humanity infallible, to multiply absurd dogmas and to denounce all that distinguishes this age from the dark ages of the past, they must make up their minds to lose whatever respect the world is yet willing to give them. We live in active times. We move on with the speed of the lightning. We are still willing, however, to cling to what is reasonable in religion. If the Church will advance with us we shall be glad of her company. If she will not, she must remain behind. In all fairness of spirit we say it, the present attitude of the Catholic authorities justifies the belief that the proudest Church the world has known will soon take its place with the beautiful but lifeless mythologies of the past. We await this forthcoming discussion in the French Chambers with much interest.

THE ANNEXATION OF DOMINICA.—Some of our cotemporaries have at last made the discovery which we announced to our readers two or three weeks ago, viz., that a treaty for the annexation of the republic of Dominica (about three-fourths of the island of Hayti), agreed upon between the high contracting parties, will very soon be laid before the Senate. As the cost to our government of the acceptance will, all told, be only some two or three millions, and as the harbors, forts, public buildings and public lands will be worth much more, we can entertain no doubt of the ratification of the treaty. The Haytien republic then will have no alternative but to come in, and so before next December we expect the whole of that magnificent island will belong to the United States. With this acquisition Cuba cannot remain long behind, however gloomy things may now look in that quarter.

The Cuban Protest.

We publish elsewhere to-day a document which was unintentionally omitted in yesterday's issue, and which purports to be an answer to some of the allegations made in one of our Washington telegrams published the day previous. It attempts to prove the incorrectness of the charge previously published by a denial. From Havana, however, we receive the news that the alleged proclamation of the Cuban Junta of this city is regarded as a hoax, gotten up by newspapers in the Spanish interest. We shall be pleased to learn that that this is true, as we have watched with interest the progress of events in Cuba, sympathized deeply in the cause of its people, and hoped for the day when the Cubans would succeed in securing their independence; but so many failures have befallen them, dissensions in their own ranks have so multiplied, and so many opportunities have been allowed to slip by, that the time has come when the United States should take the matter in hand, and by the purchase of Cuba settle the whole question and stop the further effusion of blood. The time is opportune. Spain wants money; Cuba can never again be to the mother country what it once was. In view of these facts the true American policy is to open negotiations for the purchase of the "Ever Faithful Isle."

The Annual Report of the Metropolitan Police Commissioners.

We have already referred editorially to this report as in the main satisfactory, and in particular to its evidence that the force is insufficient for the work, there being only one officer to every five hundred inhabitants in this city and to every thousand in Brooklyn. Without recapitulating the details of the report, we must now add that the statistics which it gives of the arrests in New York city throw a flood of lurid light on what may be called "our dangerous classes." The total number of arrests during the year was 72,984, of whom 51,446 were males and 21,538 females. The decade of age from twenty to thirty furnished the largest number of offenders; but the most numerous arrests of females were above thirty. Ireland takes the lead of the various nationalities which contributed to the grim list, but this fact may be sufficiently accounted for by the larger number of Irish immigrants and by their proverbial convivial and pugnacious propensities. Matrimony would seem to breed less crime than celibacy, from the fact that while only 29,249 persons arrested were married 43,735 were single. But the prevalent idea that education tends to decrease immorality and crime is apparently contradicted by the startling fact that nearly six-sevenths of all the arrests were of individuals that could read and write. Moreover, the widespread demoralization of the day is fearfully indicated by the statement that among those arrested were one hundred and twenty-three physicians, twenty-three United States officers, ninety-one city officers, fifty druggists, thirty policemen, nineteen editors, forty-three reporters (be it remarked, in parentheses, that it is not an infrequent practice of involuntary visitors at the station house to declare themselves in some way mysteriously connected with the press), twenty-three telegraph operators, two hundred and twenty-eight brokers (alas! for Wall street), and, in fine, representatives of almost all "the respectable classes" in society. The most astounding figures of the report are those which reveal that during the last ten years 270,461 natives of the United States, 465,185 natives of Ireland, 91,986 natives of Germany and 70,857 natives of other countries—making a grand total of 898,489 persons—have been arrested in this city.

MORE SPASMODIC FLUCTUATIONS IN GOLD.—The world outside of Wall street must be sorely puzzled about the spasmodic ups and downs of gold. They see, for example, that after remaining steady for some time at about 120 gold suddenly jumps to 123, and then again declines. The thermometer in our capricious climate is not as uncertain and variable. People naturally look for some cause for these extraordinary fluctuations, but they can find none in the state of trade, commercial affairs, political disturbances, war, or trouble of any kind. Well, there is nothing strange about it at all. It is all gambling, and nothing else. A certain set of Wall street speculators get control of the market, or there are a certain amount of contracts on paper for the delivery of gold, and as it is found easy or difficult to furnish the precious metal or to fulfil the contracts the price goes down or up. The fluctuations have nothing to do with the state of trade or condition of the country. This is the true explanation of the matter, and the public need not be puzzled or alarmed at the rise or fall of gold.

THE ETERNAL CITY AT CHRISTMAS.—Our special correspondence from Rome presents the Holy City engaged in active preparation for the observance of the Feast of Christmas, the reaffirmation of the great essential of Christianity, according to the canons and dogmas of the Catholic Church. It was quite different from the city of the period of St. Peter. The writer has to speak of dress costume, fashions, music, jewels, silks, the robes of cardinals and the vesture, pomp and appearance of an aged Pope in Council. There were bells ringing joyously in the tower of the Vatican, with many of the most beautiful belles in Europe in the galleries of the great church. The outdoor scenes were animating and the Corso revivified. "My vessels of gold and silver have I shown unto them." We know how the prophet answered—that it was "a foolish thing."

A BLOCKHEAD REGIME AT JEFFERSON MARKET.—The reporters of the city papers at the Jefferson Market Police Court were notified yesterday that they would hereafter be cut off from the privileges usually accorded them, and it was plainly intimated by the clerk, who took this responsibility upon himself, that they would not be allowed to see the records of the court. This is a bold move to run the court for the purpose of making money for the officials, and not to deal justice. Messrs. Shandley and Cox, Police Justices, were transferred to this court on Friday from Essex Market to succeed Justice Ledwith, and Michael Shandley was chosen clerk. This seems to be the first important move of the new *régime*, and it is a foolish as well as discreditable one. The sooner they back out of it the better.

The Cranston-Bateman Battle.

The curtain has at last fallen on the great Manhattan Club drama, which has for the last week not only maintained a tumult in the veins of our city life, but has stirred the Continent to its centre. From the night when General Boum Bateman entered the lordly halls of the Manhattan Club, like young Lochinvar, all alone and unarmed, amid committee men, cooks, waiters and wash boys, he felt, with the keen instinct of a great manager, that he had made a hit. True to the genius of that *opéra bouffe* of which in this country he was the creator and sustaining power, he seized the opportunity to make a triumphant trip to Washington. His progress, we are informed by no less an unprejudiced authority than himself, was a perfect ovation. Crowds gathered at every station to do him honor. Women came with children in their arms to show to Young America the representative of the wounded club honor of their country, and he strode through the bowels of the land like a magnificent enema. At the capital he was met by the matrons of his household, who, in the true spirit of their Spartan ancestresses, declared that they would have him come as he did, a conqueror, or else be borne to them on his shield. Indeed, General Bateman, we are informed, is descended from an old Spartan family about the time of Lycurgus, who subsequently settled in Maryland. He has the low forehead and fierce will of the Lacedemonian. On yesterday he returned to our city, and, learning that his expulsion was a determined fact, with characteristic magnanimity and self-sacrifice sent in the manly letter of resignation which will be found elswhere. True to the last to his own classic language on the memorable night of his avengement, he virtually exclaims, "I will be my own policeman." Indeed, Cæsar could not have drawn his robe around him more gracefully for a fall. To-day, we understand, he is on the warpath for New Orleans, to flaunt his victorious plume in fresh fields and pastures new. On his return he intends to take a benefit at the Academy of Music. Boxes have been already secured by the Hon. John Morrissey, Jem Mace and many leading admirers of the manly art. It is but an act of historic justice to say that for the discretion and moderation Mr. Bateman has displayed through this affray he is mainly indebted to the wise and temperate counsels of Mr. James Fisk, Jr. General Bateman has always been one of the few of Prince Erie's male attachments, and an occasion like this, which tests men's souls, will doubtless strengthen the mutual affection of these two accomplished men and admirable citizens. On the other hand, but little has been heard of General Bateman's antagonist, Captain Cranston. He is said to be entirely insensible to the magnitude of the event with which his name will hereafter be mingled, and with careless ease to divert his attention is playing with chestnuts in the New York Central.

In surveying the field as we do, with the eye of the historian, it is essential to a right understanding, as Macaulay says, to consider the individual character of the combatants. General Bateman, as is well known, is a man of modest stillness and humility. His soft, sleek hair, feebly parted in the centre, and sleeping like sunlight upon a bank, is a fit emblem of the gentleness of his nature; his voice is sweet and low as a woman's; his beak has nothing in it coarse or cadaverous. He has never been known to be in a difficulty. Peace smiles around him. In fact, if slightly smaller, he might sit for the infant John of Murillo. Captain Cranston, on the other hand, has all the action of the tiger. On the smallest provocation he springs on his hind paws; his angry mane stands on end; his roar fills the desert, and when he has nothing else to do he seems even eager to swallow up the ground. Can any one look upon these pictures and question as to whom the fault belongs?

Let us hope that out of this difficulty the Manhattan Club will pluck some wisdom and mend its ways. This is the second or third member expelled within the year, and such necessity implies something rotten in the system. The club has the misfortune of being governed by a number of gentlemen sufficiently distinguished in their way, but few of whom ever frequent it or take any interest in its action, and who are only brought together—and even then with difficulty—by such disturbing occasions as this Bateman and Cranston row. For any club to prosper under such conditions would be a miracle. Neither is it wise that any member should exercise the right of offering to unoffending guests the insult of refusing to serve them dinner and subjecting them to the humiliation of a removal in the presence of others from a public room. Few men, unless steeled as Mr. Cranston has been by many years of hard hotel life, could so far forget their gentleness of nature as to fulfil such a duty. Here club life is but in its infancy; but in England, where age has brought a more genial and philosophic mind, no such slight would for a moment be permitted, but the real offender, the inviting member, would next day receive a warning from the committee, and if the offence was repeated would find the penalty enforced. This mode of management is found far more becoming and effective. Were the Cranston fashion adopted committee men had better dine in coat of mail.

Thus ends the play. The lights are all extinguished. Within a week the actors will be forgotten. A somewhat putrid perfume alone remains.

POLITICS IN INDIANA.—The Indiana Democratic State Convention met in Indianapolis yesterday and nominated candidates for State offices. During the balloting the Convention cheered the New York Legislature for its renunciation of the fifteenth amendment.

GENERAL WASHBURN AND THE TELEGRAPH MONOPOLY.—There is a rod in pickle for the telegraph monopoly, and General C. C. Washburn is determined to lay it on with a will. It has been impossible heretofore for the Congressional committees investigating the telegraphing system to obtain the information they wanted from the monopoly, for reasons very obvious. General Washburn has hit upon a way to cut this Gordian knot. He intends to summon before his committee the telegraph operators themselves—men who know as well as the monopolists what the committee wish to learn, and are not directly interested in teaching the committee something very different.

The Dramatic Revival Season.

We are now in the full flush of a dramatic revival. Wallack inaugurated the season by the production of the "School for Scandal," and, although since then he has given us a few London novelties, still the most attractive and successful plays which have been produced at Wallack's theatre have been the old comedies. At the Fifth Avenue theatre the season thus far has been devoted to the production of dramas and comedies with which the public are acquainted. Indeed, we may say that the season at all our metropolitan theatres has been distinguished by a revival of performances that have previously proven acceptable to the public and remunerative to the managers. At the Olympic theatre, Wood's Museum, Niblo's Garden and the Bowery theatre stars and stocks, as in days of yore, have been the order of the day. Booth has just produced "Hamlet" in a style far surpassing his previous effort at the Winter Garden—it is the most brilliant success of the season—and the managers of the Grand Opera House, who are nothing if not sensational, will shortly produce a thrilling sensation in the spectacular line.

Perhaps a more opportune occasion could not be taken than the present to review the effects of the short-skirted, centipedal drama, the recollections of which are still fresh in the memory of all theatre-goers. There is little doubt but the success of the high-spiced drama was due as much to the elaborate manner in which it was placed on the stage as to the gymnastic antics of the sparsely clothed females who figured in it. We saw what the stage was capable of producing in the way of scenic effects. We learned for the first time how much the success of a play depended on the machinist, stage carpenter, scene painter and gas man. Previous to the "Black Crook," "White Fawn," *opéra bouffe* and British burlesque eras, only occasionally were we treated to grand scenic effects and fine stage appointments. When, under the management of Marshall at the Broadway theatre, situated opposite the old City Hospital, "The Count of Monte Cristo" was produced, it was thought a grand affair. Burton, when he brought out "The Tempest," was rapturously applauded by the press and public. Laura Keene won the most complimentary praise when she put upon the stage "A Midsummer Night's Dream;" and yet these productions at these three theatres—the leading ones of their day—fell far short, in point of scenic effects and stage mountings, of the manner in which the trashy sensations of which we speak were placed before the public. If we inherit nothing else of good from the spectacles which for so long a time held possession of the stage, the fact of having at the present time better scenery, more appropriate mountings and finer effects is something for which we ought to feel thankful. It is a consolation to know that so much real benefit has really accrued to the stage. True, neither actresses nor actors have been benefited. In fact, they had to take a back seat while the sensation and ballet fever lasted. Good acting was then at a discount. There was no demand for it, and hence we see, now that the legitimate drama has again gained possession of the boards, both actresses and actors, whose playing we had occasion to notice ere the sensational era set in, but little, if any, advanced in their profession. No improvement is observable, and this is the more noticeable when in other respects the stage has been improved.

The most unobservant theatre-goer cannot fail to have noticedin the late revivals of standard plays a vast improvement, as compared with former years, in the manner in which they have been placed before the public. Take, for instance, "Hamlet," at Booth's theatre; "Much Ado About Nothing," at Wallack's; "Play," at the Fifth Avenue theatre; "The Tempest," at the Grand Opera House; "London," at the French theatre, and we might go on and enumerate many others. Had our actors improved in the same ratio the American stage to-day would lead the world in dramatic ability. We doubt not but the same enterprise which has characterized other theatres will be evident during Mr. Fechter's engagement at Niblo's. Now that we have entered upon a good, healthy revival, in which there is a chance for players to develop dramatic ability, we hope they will take advantage of the occasion, and in improving themselves by close study they can help to advance and improve a profession in the labors of which the public is so deeply interested.

THE BROADWAY EXCAVATION.—We give in another column an interesting account of the process of tunnelling Broadway, which is now being carried on by the Pneumatic Tube Company.

EUROPE AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.—England, Ireland and France supply the material for the initial of our special retrospect of the condition of Europe at the close of the year 1869. Our exhibit from Great Britain to-day is not of a consoling character for the past or very encouraging in the present. It paints oppressed peoples, a struggling democracy and priestly attempts at reaction. The popular progress has not been of enduring realization. The social elements remain in a state of unhealthy fermentation. Classes are discontented with their lot in life, and a greed for money gain brought many strange revelations in London. The subject of infantile mortality in France supplies a text for the collation of curious vital statistics to one of our Paris correspondents.

PENNSYLVANIANS DISGUSTED.—The great Keystone State seems determined to get one of her numerous favorite sons into the Cabinet. She sighs for Boric again, or, at least, for a position equal to the one he formerly came near holding. Her chief consideration all along has been as to what favorite son of hers a place must be given. She has fixed, after due thought, upon Benjamin Harris Brewster as her preponderating favorite at present, and a full blown delegation called accordingly on the President yesterday and intimated that he ought to be Attorney General in place of Mr. Hoar. The President listened with the patience that overthrew Richmond, and then said there was no vacancy in his Cabinet. Thereupon the Pennsylvanians retired disgusted, that little difficulty not having presented itself to them before.

A Coming Scientific Cataclysm.

We live in an age that is realizing great successes in its conquest of the secrets of nature. In order to appreciate what our successes are one has but to compare the body of the physical science of our day with the collection of illusions and fanciful notions that occupied its place fifty years since. But our progress has been unequal. While it is real and tangible for the investigations that regard our planet it is altogether halting for the general inquiry of our relation to the planetary universe. Astronomy is behind all the sister sciences, but there is now some promise that she may not long remain in that position. We find this promise in the fact that there is soon to be given to the world a remarkable book on the planetary universe, by the accomplished astronomer Dr. Trastour de Varano. This work declares nothing less than that our entire accepted system of astronomy is erroneous. The work upon its appearance will undoubtedly encounter a desperate opposition from the old school, and a furious war will certainly be waged against it by most professional astronomers. How could it be otherwise, since the author proceeds to show that "the astronomy of our day has neither principle, method nor precepts?" Whether the mechanism of the planetary universe which Dr. Trastour advances be the true one or not, the high scientific positions which he has successfully occupied, and his established reputation as a man of practical observation and of mathematical correctness, will secure his hearing before the scientific world at large, while the serious charges which he brings against modern astronomy and the novel arguments which he opposes to the Copernican system, to Kepler's laws and to Newton's theory of gravitation, cannot fail to take many by surprise and to cause a thorough investigation into our present system of astronomy to take place. The work touches upon questions of vital interest, and is destined on that account to create a serious commotion among scientific men and to materially change many of our preconceived notions. It is the first gun shot of a new school against old existing institutions, and as it has already some partisans, and will no doubt enlist many more in its cause, we may look ahead for a lively time among scientific men. The author sets forth the following conclusions:—

Contrary to the teachings of the system of Copernicus, the only one that now gives law to astronomy, the sun is not placed in the centre of the planetary system, and the earth and the planets do not revolve annually around that luminary.

Contrary to the belief in the system of Ptolemy, the earth is not situated in the centre of the universe, and the sun and the planets do not accomplish their annual revolutions by revolving around it.

Contrary to the system of Tycho Brahe, the earth is not motionless in the centre of the planetary system, and the sun does not revolve annually around our globe, carrying with it, in its revolution, all the planets that circulate around it.

Contrary to the doctrine of the astronomers of our days, the orbit of the earth and the orbits of the planets are circles and not ellipses—Kepler having mistaken illusions for realities in ascribing to the ellipse a power in space which it does not and cannot possess.

Contrary to their doctrine, the moon does not revolve around the earth while the latter is said to revolve around the sun.

Contrary to their doctrine, the earth, the moon and the planets pursue their course continually in the plane of the ecliptic and never go out of it.

Contrary to their doctrine, the diminution of the obliquity of the ecliptic is a chimerical idea.

Contrary to their doctrine, the precession of the equinoxes, upon which the most important works of modern astronomy are based, is something that does not exist.

Contrary to their doctrine, the equinoctial points and the solstices always preserve their same positions.

Contrary to their doctrine, the terrestrial meridian varies annually, and the latitudes and the starting point of longitudes change from year to year.

Contrary to their doctrine, our civil year is not of constantly equal duration, as their almanacs represent it. There is never a year of duration equal to the one that preceded or follows it.

Contrary to their doctrine, the Gregorian rectification was founded upon no astronomical basis. Instead of preventing it has augmented confusion; at a future day Easter will come round again in the middle of spring, although the almanacs will call it winter, if they persist in keeping the 21st day of March as the date of the spring equinox.

Contrary to their doctrine, the climates of the earth are not nearly invariable, but are subject to extreme vicissitudes.

Contrary to their doctrine, the stars have a general movement that carries them from west to east.

Contrary to their doctrine, at a future day the sun, the planets, the moon and the stars will rise in the west and set in the east.

Contrary to their doctrine, the dimensions, distances and movements of the planetary bodies, as set forth in their computations and tables, possess no reality whatever; for they have been determined without taking into account one of the most indispensable conditions.

Contrary to their doctrine, no comet ever precipitates itself into any sun whatever in the realms of space, or can in any event come into collision with the earth.

Contrary to their doctrine, Kepler's laws are but pure illusions. It is only necessary to study them experimentally in order to recognize the fact that they have not the least connection with the fundamental law of celestial mechanism.

Contrary to their doctrine, Newton's theory of gravitation offers neither evidence nor probability. It is a fantastic commentary, built upon the chimerical ideas of Kepler, radically foreign to all mathematical truth and even transgressing the limits of common sense. Newton stepped beyond the sphere of the difficult only to enter into impossibilities.

The author further shows that "the errors of modern astronomy proceed from the fact that men have made an article of faith of what is simply and purely a question of science," and proceeds to disclose the fact that the predictions of eclipses, from which the Copernican system has undeservedly derived so much *éclat*, is nothing but the result of a long experimental labor, independent of all astronomical system, and limited to the observation of the course of the sun, of the moon and of the periods; that they can prove nothing in favor of any system whatever, as they have been and can be calculated in any and every system.

After speaking of the intimate and inseparable connections existing between astronomy and geology he says:—

The astronomy of the time we live in has to undergo the fate of all human aberrations. It clings tenaciously to what is not, yet does not see what is. One of the most remarkable arrangements that responds to one of the most important astronomical necessities of the planet we inhabit it overlooks entirely. I refer to the mathematical regulation that has collected all the land on one hemisphere of our globe and covered the other with an immense ocean—a mechanism transcendently simple, yet which, more than any other, perhaps, throws into relief the hand of the Creator by the geometrical regularity of its results.

But the work presents so large a multitude of facts in so small a compass that to enumerate them would be to reproduce the entire volume. We must, therefore, confine ourselves to the statement that the author not only substitutes an entirely new mechanism of our planetary system to Copernicus' solar system, but gives, moreover, a transcendental mechanism of the entire universe, and a "universal law" in lieu of Newton's theory of gravitation. These new ideas, especially the latter, it must be admitted, are characterized by great simplicity and semblance of truth. A main feature of Dr. Trastour's planetary system—and one which would give it a marked superiority over all other known astronomical systems, should it ever become the generally accepted one—is the peculiar advantage offered by its diagrams in enabling one to trace the past and future course of the earth for any number of centuries, and the remarkable concordance of the past course so traced with all the great pheno-