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.

Volume XXXV.....No. 15

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

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

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

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 23d st., between 5th and 6th avs.—Matinee at 1—HAMLET. Evening—MRS MERRILES.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE WRITING ON THE WALL. Matinee at 2.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—SURF; OR, SUMMER SCENES AT LONG BRANCH. Matinee.

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.—JOAN OF ARC—TOM AND JERRY—VILLAGE BARBER, &C.

THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—THE BURLESQUE OF BAD DICKEY. Matinee at 2.

WAVERLEY THEATRE, No. 720 Broadway.—MUSIC, MIRTH AND MYSTERY. Matinee at 2.

NEW YORK STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery—OPERA BUFFO—THE GRAND DUCHESS.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION HALL, 23d street and 4th avenue—GEORGE VANDENHOFF'S READINGS.

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

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELSY, &C. Matinee at 2½.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO ACTS, &C. Matinee at 2½.

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. Matinee at 2½.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS—ILL RAGIO AFRICANO, &C. Matinee at ½.

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

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Saturday, January 15, 1870.

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THE LEGISLATURE.—The Senate only was in session yesterday. Mr. Genet introduced a bill to repeal the act of last winter authorizing the division of directors of the Erie, Central and Hudson River Railroads into classes, and also a bill to repeal the act authorizing a railroad in Twenty-third street.

THE VIRGINIA ADMISSION BILL.—In the United States Senate yesterday the debate was continued on the Virginia bill until a late hour, and it was finally agreed to take a vote on Monday. In the House Mr. Bingham's substitute for the bill reported by the Reconstruction Committee was carried amid the applause of the Democratic side.

THE TRIAL OF EDWIN PERRY for the murder of Hayes was concluded in Brooklyn yesterday, the jury failing to agree. The Judge charged the jury, among other things, that there was no motive for the murder shown on the part of Perry, but that there was no necessity for the prosecution to prove a motive.

THE TAX ON BROKERS' SALES.—The liability of brokers to pay a tax on all sales transacted by them, whether on their own behalf or in the interest of others, has been affirmed by District Attorney Pierrepont and sustained by Commissioner Delano. The brokers who have heretofore contested suits against them for the collection of this tax consequently find themselves worsted and gave up the fight yesterday, all of them compromising the suits and settling up or paying the penalty of the law. This decision will add nearly ten millions of dollars a year to our revenues if the law is properly enforced.

Opposition to Further Annexations—Mr. Willard's Absurd Resolution.

Mr. Willard, of Vermont, in the national House of Representatives the other day submitted a series of resolutions on retrenchment, economy, reduction of taxes, &c., which were referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. These resolutions are all very good, except the last, which declares "that any acquisition of foreign territory by treaty, cession or annexation by the United States, for which a consideration in money or its equivalent in the assumption of any debt or obligation of the people of such territory is to be paid, increases at once the expenditures of the United States and entails a prospective annual increase of the same, and is at war with every measure of economy now pressed upon the attention of Congress; is a direct assault upon the public credit, and is not called for by any exigency of national affairs;" which we pronounce a very absurd resolution in each and all of its conclusions.

The resolution is a shot aimed directly at the treaty for the annexation of the republic of Dominica, and indirectly at any negotiations initiated or likely to be initiated for the annexation of Hayti, which, with Dominica, will give us the whole of the splendid island of Hayti or St. Domingo, and at any proceedings looking to the purchase of the island of Cuba. Mr. Willard protests against any expenditure of money if necessary for any one of these contemplated acquisitions, because such outlay, he thinks, will be a drain upon the Treasury and "an assault upon the public credit." We say it will be no such thing. Similar objections were made to the purchase of Louisiana from France and the first Napoleon in 1803, at the awful price of fifteen millions of dollars, for an empire embracing New Orleans and Louisiana, the west side of the Mississippi Valley from Missouri down to Texas and the Gulf, and the outlets of the river—a region worth more than a thousand millions to us to-day.

Again, the same objections were made in 1820 to the purchase of Florida from Spain; but although, in addition to the purchase money of a few millions, the forty millions expended in Van Buren's Seminole war must be added to the costs of Florida, it has repaid the government in its live oak timber and other naval materials, and is invaluable as a military position in a foreign war. The same objections were raised against the annexation of Texas, in view of the costs and hazards of a war with Mexico; and against the acquisitions involved in the treaty of peace with Mexico and against the ten millions of purchase money embraced in the Gadsden treaty, ceding to us the southern portion of Arizona. But what were all the costs of Texas, the Mexican war, the Mexican peace and the Gadsden treaty compared with the wealth developed in these new acquisitions, and which has been pouring in upon us and has been yearly increasing in its returns from California, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada and Arizona, to say nothing of Utah? In these acquisitions we have drawn from our investments of money and costs of all kinds the most splendid dividends ever dreamed of, and the value of the property involved, with its people and improvements, is simply incalculable.

Now, suppose each and all of these acquisitions rejected, and all territorial extensions avoided from 1803 down to this day, what would now be the position of this country? It would be in the position of a third rate Power among the nations, of about twenty millions of people, limited to the east side of the Mississippi river, excluded from its outlet, surrounded on three sides by foreign States, and still under the stifling grasp of a Southern slaveholding oligarchy. On the other hand, with all these territorial acquisitions and expansions since 1803 the area of the United States (excluding Alaska, itself a great empire in extent,) has been more than doubled, and we have a population of forty millions, and universal liberty and equality under the law are fixed in "the supreme law of the land." Putting all the costs in money, to the North and South, in one bill, of the terrible struggle which extinguished American slavery at ten thousand millions of dollars, we are still richer to-day, South and North, than we were on the momentous opening of the rebel fire on Fort Sumter. But what would have been the end of a war with slavery had our national boundaries remained as in 1803? It would have been the end of the United States.

Perhaps, however, the "gentleman from Vermont" has been cured of the annexation policy by Mr. Seward's purchase of the icebergs of Alaska for $7,200,000, and his treaty for the earthquake island of St. Thomas, calling for $7,500,000 more. St. Thomas, we grant, if purchased, would be a sell. Alaska, on the other hand, will probably within ten years yield us at least ten millions of money in furs, seal oil, codfish and salmon. And what of the direct question of the annexation of Dominica, on the basis of the assumption of the debt of the republic of a million and a half, and then the absorption of the Haytien end of the island, with its debt, say of three millions, or four or five millions, as the case may be? It will be but a bagatelle compared with the cash value and the immediate cash profits of that magnificent island. And so with Cuba, even if necessary, upon an outlay of a hundred millions. In a commercial and military view no sum of money, however large, can represent the value of those islands in the possession of the United States, especially with an eye upon Mexico, Central America and the Darien ship canal.

Mr. Willard's objections, then, to any expenditure of money for the annexations indicated, as objections even on the score of economy, are simply absurd; nor can we believe that he has anything more than a corporal's guard of followers in his penny-wise and pound-foolish notions in either house of Congress.

THE STANTON FUND has reached one hundred thousand dollars, and will probably soon reach twenty-five thousand more. The old idea that republics are ungrateful is an exploded notion. The donations to Rawlins' family, to Generals Grant and Sherman before they were clothed with political patronage, and this last gift to Stanton's family place our republic out of the category if the old idea is true. And they teach another thing—that it is well even in political life to be honest.

The Western Union Monopoly—The Danger to Its Stockholders.

Sooner or later the telegraph business of the country will be conducted under arrangements made by the government. In every essential particular the present postal system will become simply a telegraph system upon an enlarged scale. All messages of a business, domestic or government nature will, in time not remote, be transmitted in magnetic flashes from one end of the country to the other. We have seen that momentous questions affecting even the peace of nations have been discussed thousands of miles across oceans through submarine cables, and not an error, even to the dotting of an "i" or the crossing of a "t" has occurred. In our own immediate localities messages from the suburban towns and villages to the counting rooms of merchants, the offices of professionals, the workshops of artisans in the city, are transmitted, although sparsely at present in consequence of the high charges. In the city itself the local telegraph system scarcely meets the wants of our citizens, owing to excessive rates. Everywhere, in fact, we see the telegraph system moving and acting as a handmaid to promote the interests of communities, except—and mark the exception—where an overshadowing monopoly crushes private enterprise and boldly defies government interference or competition.

Addressing the stockholders in the Western Union Company from a standpoint personal to themselves, we ask them to consider the present position of their investments. The company has fifty millions in the enterprise. It is asserted that it is now losing one thousand dollars per day. The government proposes to build lines that will cover more territory than that occupied by the Western Union for twelve millions, or, according to Mr. Washburn's bill, buy up the existing lines at a fair appraisement, and making it unlawful (to quote a provision in the bill), after the 24th day of July, 1871, "for any person to transmit by electric telegraph, or by any device equivalent thereto, any message, information or intelligence of whatever description for hire, or to receive any moneys or reward of any kind for such transmission, except as under the regulation of the Post Office Department." Upon a capital of fifty millions the stockholders of the Western Union have realized comparatively slight, if any, dividends. If the government takes the field and builds its own lines, the same as it would its own post roads, and regulates the transmission of business over them as it now regulates its own postal business, by the utter prohibition of competition, what becomes of the investments of the stockholders in the Western Union? They would be worth less than the paper upon which the stock is written.

Again, we find arrayed against this oppressive Western Union monopoly an army of the most expert telegraph operators in the world. They have struck, not for higher, but against an unreasonable reduction in the present rate of wages for their services. As business approaches a specie basis it is not unfit to anticipate an amelioration in the standard of prices for everything. But the tyrannical application of concentrated capital against the rights of intelligent labor can never be justly recognized in any civilized community. In such an event it is eminently to be expected that the strength of the organized labor system of the country would be brought to the aid of the defenceless, and, unfortunately, dependent artisan classes. And here the stockholders in the Western Union may be astonished to learn that already the sum of two hundred thousand dollars has been subscribed by different trade unions throughout the country to lend aid and comfort to the progressive movement of the telegraph operators; and these unions number six hundred thousand men, with means to carry out their purposes.

Furthermore, we do not look over an exchange not absolutely in the interests of the Western Union that does not cry aloud against the operations of the monopoly, and appeal to Congress for a telegraph postal system, under the direction of the government, which will disenthral the press and the people from the tyranny and extortions of an unconscionable corporation.

In view of these things are we not right in suggesting to those stockholders in the Western Union who are possessed of intelligence and sagacity, and are mindful of their pecuniary interests and the action of Congress, to consider the situation, and, by encouraging the sale of the Western Union lines to the government, save themselves from loss and the company from ultimate repudiation and bankruptcy?

The Candy Question.

Our suggestion last week, that a commission be appointed to test the quality of confectionery retailed in the city, meets the approbation of candy firms, not only on Broadway but on Wooster street. These practical experts also offer additional suggestions which the commission would find of value. A simple mode of discovering those who habitually adulterate candy is made known. It seems the marble slabs on which the ingredients for candies are mixed have holes eaten into them by the poisonous adulterations, and a manufacturer suggests that an inquiry at the marble establishments will give a clue as to what candy establishments have their slabs replaned the oftenest, the inference being, of course, that such most frequently make use of adulterations. The suggestion is one that may be of service to the commission, and the fact that we ought to have a commission of the sort is without denial. We have a Board of Health established to guard the city against contagion coming from without or generated within the corporation limits. We have recently had the questions of adulterations in liquor and food and fluid oils inquired into by our sanitary boards, and the investigation of the swill milk abuses is still going on. The evil of adulterated liquor, food or milk for grown people is really no more crying an evil than the adulteration of candy for children. "The child is father to the man," and, therefore, requires our first care. If children are well taken care of as children they will be able to take care of themselves when grown. Let us legislate, then, for the little ones.

Pure candy, it seems, can be made cheap. A part of the adulteration lies in the fancy coloring that is often given it to attract the child's eye. In some cases the adulterations consist of the flavoring, strengthening and probably the sweetening or acidifying; but the purest flavors are the most delicious and the least unhealthy, such as the vanilla bean and the juices of the strawberry and pineapple. These, of course, are expensive and increase the prices, and the result is that cheap and vile poisons are too often used to lessen the expense, and for these the remedy is required. The commission, with the power to sample and analyze the confections of all our candy stores, is what is wanted.

Coming Yachting Events—The America's Cup.

The season of 1870 promises to be one of unusual interest to yachtmen and to the lovers generally of aquatic sport, in view of engagements already made and of others of which there is promise through the recent challenge to all England of Mr. Douglass, of this city, owner of the Sappho. Mr. Douglass' letter to the London *Times* has its value on points of yachting history. He corrects, first, the statement of Mr. Ashbury, made some time ago, to the effect that the Cambria during last summer had "engagements" with the Sappho. He declares positively that there were no engagements, and that it was not his fault, since he had vainly endeavored to secure for his yacht, against the Cambria, anything that might be considered a fair race. This opens an issue as to accuracy of statement on the part of Mr. Ashbury.

Mr. Douglass' challenge to the Cambria for June may not have the practical result he would desire; but we do not see how his challenge to any schooner in England can fail of a response. Even if the Cambria should be refused because of preparations for her race in July, there are the Guinevere, Egeria, Alarm and Aline, all splendid yachts, and to beat any one of which would be an honor well worth the winning. It seems scarcely possible that a challenge so fitted to stir the spirit of British gentlemen should fail of response from one of these or similar vessels. Should the defiance thus result in adding another match race across the Atlantic to the one now on the record for July, it may give great variety of sport. In addition to the excitement of two ocean races for which the vessels may start within a few days of each other we shall then, perhaps, have races in smooth water as well—races in the bay, races up the Sound, races everywhere and in every style—and the respective merits of English and American boats will be tested in the most complete and satisfactory manner, and we shall know which is best in the land-locked bay and which on the broad Atlantic. With such varied occasions to try her powers we shall probably find that the Sappho will redeem all that she lost in other hands. Such a season of brilliant trials will also especially intensify the regret for the loss of the Meteor and the splendid possibilities that seemed to be in her.

But shall we in this promising season have also a race for the cup won by the America? This point is still in doubt. Only Mr. Ashbury has yet expressed any purpose to contest our possession of this trophy, and his unfortunate proclivity for loading his challenges with conditions has brought his correspondence with the New York club to a somewhat abrupt termination. We give his latest letter and the reply of a committee of the club in another column. Mr. Ashbury, we suspect, must relinquish all thought of a contest for the America's cup. His notion that such a race should be sailed under any restrictions of his proposing, and more especially restrictions drawn from the rules of an English club, is merely ridiculous. No boat can enter for that cup here except as the America entered for it in British waters. It was then the America against the world. The America sailed against seventeen yachts and beat them all. Shall her trophy be staked on a race requiring less clear evidence of superiority? Mr. Ashbury has awakened the memories of the brilliant achievement of the America mainly to give *éclat* to his declared purpose to win again what British yachtmen lost in her triumph. He has constituted himself the champion, and what does his championship amount to? Simply this—he will win the America's cup—with an "if." If we will rule out of the race all boats that are exceptional to him then he will win the cup. Make the thing easy and he will do it. Hotspur said he would "pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon." So will Mr. Ashbury, if anybody will furnish him with a ladder.

The first condition of competition for such a trophy as this cup is to enter for it on any conditions on which it is held; and Mr. Ashbury must enter against keel or centreboard boats or not enter at all. Indeed, the very mention on his part of any restriction or condition is a withdrawal of his challenge. Therefore we venture the thought that the race as it must be sailed will not meet his views; but if he seeks a trial of speed in our waters with keeled boats alone, to the exclusion of centreboard boats, he can only have such trial by private matches; and it will not be difficult for him to arrange such a match—with the Fleetwing, for instance.

Yet we are not without hope that when the owner of the Cambria understands the positive nature of the conditions on which the America's cup is held he will see the propriety of yielding his point. He has shown in the recent making of a match for an Atlantic race that he knows how to yield gracefully, since after much discussion he has finally accepted a race on the terms that were open to him from the beginning. He may likely act with similar spirit in his desire to contest the possession of our national trophy.

MORMONISM.—We print another of our series of letters from Mormondom this morning. In a late "testimony" meeting of the schismatics Mr. Kelsey stated that a higher appreciation of woman was one of the objects of the mission. No nation could prosper, he claimed, where woman was held simply as a convenience. A number of converts to the new faith stated their experience, among them a Mr. Chislett, who had at one time been eminent as a Mormon missionary. All of them testified to the inspiration of Godbe and Harrison.

SMALLPOX.—Dr. Harris made a report to the Board of Health yesterday to the affect that this loathsome disease has been kept within close boundaries by the vaccination of the school children, and the fact that it has not been altogether extinguished is owing to the difficulty of vaccinating all the adults.

The Red River Country.

We publish this morning a very full and interesting description of the Red River country and of its inhabitants, together with an account of the progress of the revolution in the territory against the Canadian government. The map accompanying the article will enable the reader to perceive at a glance the geographical situation of the country and its importance to the United States, should it be, as now seems more than probable, annexed to this republic. Our correspondent reports that the agents of the Hudson Bay Company are busily engaged misrepresenting the insurgents and attributing their present belligerent attitude to difficulties arising from church matters. The falsity of these reports must be apparent to all who are familiar with the causes which have brought about the insurrection in the Red River territory. It is not improbable that Governor McDougall's policy was a conciliatory one; and if the statement be correct that he is an advocate of the annexation of British America to the United States it is evident that he is a man of sound judgment in some respects. But neither conciliation nor advocacy of political union between our government and the Canadian Dominion can do away with the merits of the revolutionists' cause. Their interests imperatively demanded that some steps be taken to avert the ruin that the rule of Canada would entail upon them. With a vast amount of pluck they resorted to force rather than submit to the Canadians. Their ardent desire to become citizens of this republic, and the efforts they are making to this end, fully attest their sincerity and earnestness.

That the end of this popular revolutionary movement on our northwestern frontier must be the absorption of the territory by us any person conversant with our history will not deny. It therefore becomes a matter of more than ordinary interest to the American people to know that the climate and agricultural and mining resources of Rupert's Land, which includes the Red River or Winnipeg country, are admirably adapted to the wants of man. It may be true that a great portion of the territory "is occupied by lakes, forests and impassable tracts of snow and ice;" but there are three hundred and fifty thousand square miles of "prairie or natural meadow land" of the richest character, and capable of yielding larger crops than the land of many of our States does. The difficulties attendant upon transportation are the present great drawback to the comfort and prosperity of settlers. There are no railroads there, and even the ordinary highways are of the most rugged description. These disadvantages are inherent to all countries sparsely populated. Many persons are living now who remember when Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and most of our other Western States were vast tracts of territory uninhabited save by nomadic Indians and adventuresome hunters. The present population of the Red River territory is small in numbers and somewhat motley in nationality. It comprises mainly Americans, English, Scotch and French, the "half-breeds," or the offspring of the Caucasian and Indian, predominating. Of these people our correspondent writes at length, and his account of them will be found specially entertaining. The trade of the territory is also referred to, enabling us to form some idea of the business transactions of that tremendous monopoly, the Hudson Bay Company. Before many months can pass away we hope to see the ardent desire of the people gratified and to welcome another star in the galaxy of States. Meantime a careful perusal of the article referred to and study of the map will amply repay the reader for all the time expended thereon.

Cuba—More Proclamations.

Our Cuban correspondence, which will be found on another page, contains another of those bombastic proclamations for which Spanish generals are famous. The present one is issued by the Captain General, and indulges in the usual laudations of Spanish successes and rejoicings over the reverses of the Cuban revolutionists. According to De Rodas the Spaniards are all that is valiant, chivalrous and humane, while the Cubans are mean, cowardly and brutal. In fact, the present proclamation differs very little from previous ones. The Captain General's example is followed by his subordinates, as may be seen by the decree issued by the commanding general of Santi Espiritu. If the example set is followed out we may shortly ascertain that the reason of the present inactivity of the Spanish army in Cuba is for the purpose of enabling leading officers to post themselves sufficiently well in rhetoric to be able to issue good, telling proclamations for effect at home as well as abroad. Now, as there are eighty thousand troops in Cuba and a naval fleet of over fifty war vessels surrounding the island, we think it is time that these Spaniards should get to work and put down the rebellion, if they can, instead of wasting their time over *pronunciamientos*. Let there be something decisive done one way or the other. Proclamations are good enough in their way, but really those Spanish decrees amount to very little.

Our Special European Correspondence.

The correspondence by mail from Europe which we publish to-day embraces letters from our special writers in Paris, London, Letterkenny (Ireland) and Constantinople. It comes in varied and lucid detail of the narrative of events transpiring in the Old World to the 30th of December, illustrating the many causes which impelled to the consequences which were already patent, as well as towards the results which were expected in the train of logical inference. The exhibit as a whole speaks of crime in its most revolting form, of religious fervor in the shape of an excited and blinding intolerance, of social disorganization flowing from a long continued class oppression, and of dynastic intrigue and political complications tending towards a general diplomatic imbroglio, likely to eventuate in another "Eastern question" difficulty—it may be a war in the East.

Traupmann, the murderer of the Kinck family, was on trial in Paris. It was made a celebrated occasion, and the chief actor in the scene found that he was already celebrated. Twenty thousand persons made application for seats in the court—a room in which there is accommodation for two hundred. The murderer, who is only twenty years old, and "violent, ambitious and sombre in character, with an insatiate craving for money," felt, as will be seen, that he is a "man of mark," but in his system of demoralized physiology he does not seem to care whether it is the mark of public attention or that of the guillotine. England maintains her war with Rome, a London special newspaper man reviving a dead cardinal as if to spiritualize the combat. The description which is given of the management of the extensive estates of a noble earl in the north of Ireland will tend to remove any surprise which may have been hitherto felt at the extent of the Gladstone and Bright plans of land tenure reform for the island.

Our advices from Constantinople will command particular attention *per se*, as they show forth the points of the different combinations which are tending to complicate the interests of the great Powers in the East, as well as the influence which the Suez Canal project exercises over the diplomacy and its bearings.

Paris Tranquil—Amnesty.

Our cable telegrams from Europe report that Paris remained tranquil yesterday evening. The agitation which ensued after the death and funeral of Victor Noir had subsided. The government authorities were, apparently, satisfied with the situation, for the troops which had been mustered in the city from the neighboring garrisons were ordered back to their quarters. Prince Pierre Bonaparte appears to have maintained his honor, the Emperor to have vindicated the law. Napoleon III. is a man who seems to like to present strange contrasts to his people, for we read in the same despatches that M. Grego, with other conspirators against the life of his Majesty, who were convicted and transported from France in 1864, have been included in the imperial amnesty. So that if a Bonaparte has been compelled, in self-defence, to snatch a life from France, the head of the Bonapartes restores to France the would-be regicides who compassed his own—a pretty equitable squaring of citizen economics. One of the London journals declares that the crisis in France is of the most extreme importance. It may be, however, that the political atmosphere of England is not favorable to a candid judgment of the case.

The Western Union Telegraph Monopoly and the New Invention.

The public have but a very imperfect idea of the various steps taken by the Western Union Telegraph Company to bind or bend the organs of public opinion to their insane ambition to become the great monopoly of the country. Their first attempt to control the press was made some years ago, when, on the plea of extending to the whole press of the country increased news facilities at largely reduced rates, they undertook to organize a news company, of which the executive officers of the telegraph company were to hold a majority of the stock and so control its policy. The well-known object of this conspiracy on the part of the telegraph managers was to put in their own hands the power of life or death to individual newspaper interests in the control of the news of the world. Foiled in their attempted *coup d'état* against the press by the premature exposure of their designs, the managers of the company resorted to and accomplished by diplomacy that control of the press of the country, with the single exception of the NEW YORK HERALD, which they had so signally failed to accomplish in a more dishonorable way.

In the absence of effective action on the part of Congress, the press and the public will soon find relief in the various movements now going on for the introduction of improvements in the rapidity and cost of sending telegraphic messages, one of which is the automatic telegraph invention of Mr. Little, which we are informed is capable of transmitting two hundred to four hundred words per minute over a single wire, which is ten to twenty times faster than can be transmitted by the system used by the Western Union Company. The new system of telegraphy, we understand, will be put in operation between this city and Washington within a few weeks. Another is the inauguration of a new company, called the Metropolitan Telegraph Company, which proposes to send messages for one cent per word, and, if required, to put a private wire in the office of every business house in the city. This company will have subterranean cables, consisting of copper conductors, perfectly insulated and carried in galleries or tubes beneath the surface of the streets, which will insure reliable communication at all times and under all atmospheric conditions. When these proposed improvements are brought into practical operation the public will be able to judge of their merits and to reap benefit by the adoption of those which prove the most expeditious and least expensive in their workings.

Legislation at Albany—Steam Up!

In ordinary cases the first few days of the sittings of our Legislature may be compared to the organization of a new volunteer military company. The first thing the members do is to get up a target excursion, go to some out of the way place and blaze away—all aiming to hit the bull's eye. Of course where one hits many shoot wide of the mark, if they hit the target at all. So in the incipient stages of legislative proceedings it is common for young members to jump up upon every opportunity and blaze away at some proposition which they vainly imagine will be the bull's eye of the session. Some of these representative goslings propose the appointment of committees of investigation into alleged fraudulent practices of gas companies, insurance and trust companies, horse railroad companies, and abuses of all sorts and violations of charters in all manner of corporations. Then see how it all works. The managers of a corporation observe in the papers a "notice of a bill" affecting their concern, introduced by a member from some rural district. It is immediately settled that the fellow must be "seen," and an agent of the menaced company is despatched forthwith to Albany to clap a greenback plaster over the mouth of the virtuous and indignant member, who—although he may have missed the bull's eye of a sensation and the chance of becoming the hero of the session—finds in lieu thereof a comfortable wad of Uncle Sam's promises in his breeches pocket. Thus is one legislative sproutling smothered. Afterward come others, among them, perhaps, a few "strikers," who, if they discover they have no chance of hitting