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.

Volume XXXV.....No. 24

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

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

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—BUCK, BUCK, HOW MANY HORNS; OR, GOLD UP TO 165, &c.

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

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

FRENCH THEATRE, 14th st. and 6th av.—LA GRANDE DUCHESSE DE GEROLSTEIN.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and 23d st.—JOCHISSE, THE JUGGLER—COOL AS A CUCUMBER.

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

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—PAUL PRY—ROBERT MACAIRE.

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

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

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—LITTLE EM'LY.

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—THAT RASCAL THOMAS, &C.

SOMERVILLE ART GALLERY, 82 Fifth avenue.—Day and Evening—EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS.

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

New York, Monday, January 24, 1870.

CONTENTS OF TO-DAY'S HERALD.

PAGE.

1—Advertisements.
2—Advertisements.
3—Advertisements.
4—Editorial: Leading Article on Europe, Austria and the Nationalities, Beust and His Policy—Obituary Notices—Interesting from Nova Scotia—Burglars in Westchester county—Amusement Announcements.
5—Telegraphic News from all Parts of the World—The Free Trade Question and Press Laws in France—Council Debates in Rome—Washington; The President's Views of Mr. Dawes' Speech; Serious Charge against Supervising Architect Mullett—Prince Arthur: His First Day in Washington—Comus' Comic Congress—George Francis Train at Tammany Hall—Business Notices.
6—Religious: Interesting Discourses by Revs. Henry Ward Beecher, Chauncey Giles, Drs. Hepworth, Ewer and Everett—Jewish Reform—Mexico: Progress of the Revolution—Financial and Commercial Reports.
7—The Fejee Islands: Progress of the Annexation Idea at the Antipodes—Internal Revenue Returns of City Railroads, Ferries, Gas Companies, Stages and Theatres—Real Estate Matters—Marriages and Deaths—Advertisements.
8—New York City News—Court Calendars for To-day—The Excise Law in Brooklyn—The Right Woman's Rights—Suburban Intelligence—Sad Case of Suicide in Newark—The State Capital Cuba—Yachting: The Douglas Challenge, &c.—Quarterly Statement of Post Office Business—Musical and Theatrical Notes—Shipping Intelligence—Advertisements.

NOTICE TO HERALD SUBSCRIBERS.

We will esteem it a favor if our readers will inform us, by letter addressed to this office, of any dereliction on the part of the carriers of the HERALD, either in furnishing the paper late, substituting other city papers, or leaving spoiled sheets.

COAL.—The unseasonable temperature of the weather may be fun for consumers, but it is death to coal dealers.

MISDEMEANORS IN PITTSBURG.—An alderman in the city of soot and smoke has actually been sentenced to ten months' imprisonment for misdemeanors in office. This is certainly unconstitutional, for it is an unusual, if not a cruel, punishment.

THE BURLINGAME TREATY.—J. McLeary Brown, Secretary of the Burlingame Mission, has arrived at San Francisco from Hong Kong. He is probably on his way to rejoin his embassy, and, no doubt, as our Hong Kong correspondent stated some time ago, is charged with placing the imperial ratification of our treaty with China in the hands of the government at Washington.

FARMERS AS PRODUCERS AND SELLERS.—Commissioner Delano holds that a farmer's occupation is to raise produce and selling is only an incident of the production. Therefore the decision that farmers who sell their produce are to be taxed as produce brokers should be liberally construed. If it is true that Farmer Greeley's watermelons cost him two dollars apiece in the raising and sell for only seventy-five cents in the market, it is well for him that selling is only an incident, and it is extremely hard on him that he should be taxed at all as a seller.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GEORGIA—GENERAL TERRY TO BE SUSTAINED.—It appears that the President has resolved that General Terry, military commander in Georgia, shall be sustained in counting out those members of the Georgia Legislature elected in disregard of the disabilities of the fourteenth amendment, on the ground that such elections, being unconstitutional, are void; and that, therefore, the opponents of such members, though receiving only a minority of the popular vote, are legally elected. Under this rule, accordingly, we may expect that very soon the Georgia Legislature will be regulated and that the fifteenth amendment will next be ratified. The constitution as it is, we are thus beginning to see, is considerably tighter than "the constitution as it was."

Europe—Austria and Her Nationalities—Beust and His Policy.

We live in an age of experiment. All old things are passing away. All things are becoming new. But the period is transitional. We know what the world has been. We know how men have been governed, what governments have done and how much we owe them. It is easy to croak and despise the past. It would not be much more difficult to find in the past much to admire. We neither blame nor praise. The simple fact which commands our attention is this—we live under new conditions. Steam power, the railroad, telegraphs and the newspaper have created if not a new heavens at least a new earth; and the whole thing is so new that we know not what to do with it. Experiment is everywhere. We feel the testing process here. But in Europe, where the old still holds its place, this struggle is not felt. Europe, in fact, is the field of experiment. All the nations of that Continent are more or less in the crucible.

True as this is of all the nations, larger and smaller, it is specially true of Austria. Europe in all her borders has felt the force of modern agencies. In one form or other every nation has yielded to it. Look at Great Britain, at Prussia, at Italy, at Spain, at Russia, at Turkey, even. Austria, however, is the grandest example. Since Sadowa what changes have taken place in that empire! That awful day convinced the world and, what was more to the point, it convinced Francis Joseph that the old Austrian policy had no longer any chance. Prussia, so long so much her inferior, had become her mistress. By a northern and by a southern neighbor Austria had been pressed. No longer the mistress of Italy, no longer an integral part in the German Diet, which was formerly subject to her will, Austria made up her mind to bow to fate and to make the most of her chances. In the old direction chances there were none. It was all up. The Kaiser was a name, but it was not much more. Bismarck, to Austria, had proved a more destructive foe than either Napoleon the First or Napoleon the Second. The first Napoleon destroyed the Holy Roman empire. The second Napoleon drove Austria out of Italy. But Bismarck drove Austria out of Germany. After Sadowa the question was whether Austria had a chance for her life. Panting, bleeding and dying she lay, when a friend took her by the hand, bade her be of good cheer and try once more.

Who was this friend? He was not an Austrian. He had not been a friend of Francis Joseph. He was a Saxon, a hater of Bismarck and a man whom Bismarck had most terribly humbled. His name was Beust. Baron Beust no longer finding a sphere for his activity in Saxony had looked around, and, seeing such a field only in Austria, like a true and brave man he volunteered his services to the humbled and sorrowing descendant of Rudolph of Hapsburg. He saw a chance for Austria. Francis Joseph heard and listened. Bismarck and his master were both angry; but they could not help it. What was Beust's policy? Austria was a congeries of States and nationalities. Every State, every nationality was strong. The central government was weak. A little more of the old system and Austria was lost to herself. Each of the nationalities would be independent, and Austria proper, including the elegant Vienna, would be a part of the Prussian or German empire. There was but one way of escape. Hungary was clamorous for autonomy. Bohemia and the numerous other provinces were scarcely more contented. Hungary must be pacified, and so, too, must the other provinces. "Preserve the central authority," said Beust, "but yield to the nationalities." Since that moment Francis Joseph has yielded, and just in proportion as he has yielded Austria has recuperated. Hungary is now an independent kingdom, enjoying her own language and her own lands and Francis Joseph is her king. Concessions have been made to the Italians, to the Poles and to the Slaves. Seven universities in the empire were German when Sadowa was fought. The universities remain, more prosperous, perhaps, than ever, but in two only is German the language of the professors. A more heterogeneous and babel-like empire never existed. A more retrograde policy was never practised. But in spite of the nationalities, in spite of the Babylonish tongues, in spite of the seemingly retrograde policy Austria goes on and prospers. All over the empire it is felt that justice prevails, and contentment is universal.

Beust has saved Austria. The hazardous experiment has so far brought forth good fruit. But the problem which Beust took in hand is not yet solved. At the present moment Beust is one of the greatest statesmen in the world. He has deserved success. But trouble brews around him. A Protestant, he has brought a great Catholic State out of the death chamber. For his final triumph we hope and pray. But the experiment is so novel and unprecedented that we must wait for further results before we can decide. Meanwhile, facts justify the policy of the great Austro-Hungarian chancellor. Had it not been for the religious difficulties, it is our opinion that his success would have been complete.

CHINA AND JAPAN.—We have despatches, by way of San Francisco, from Hong Kong and Yokohama. They report no extraordinary changes in the political aspects of either China or Japan. The revised treaty between Great Britain and China is severely condemned by the British merchants in China, as they claim it increases the duties on opium and substantially guarantees no additional safety or privileges to foreigners. The term of Mr. Burlingame's mission has been extended two years.

CONGRESS.—We expect that after the morning hour the special question in the House of Representatives to-day will be the bill for the admission of Virginia as amended by the Senate, and that the terrible Butler will show his hand, and that Bingham will be deserted by some of his late supporters. The prospect of a lively debate, with a good deal of backing and filling, and explaining and protesting, is, with the taking up of the bill, very fair.

SKATING.—The owners of rinks and skating pond proprietors are sad and dejected over the prospects for a paying season. There has not as yet been a single day's skating in the metropolitan rinks.

Yachting—Ocean and Other Races.

Mr. Douglas, of this city, owner of the yacht Sappho, has just published in London two challenges that we suppose English yachtmen will find it equally difficult to misunderstand or to ignore. He challenges, first, "any schooner yacht in Great Britain or Ireland to sail against the Sappho from Cape Clear to Sandy Hook, to sail on any day during the month of July the acceptor of the challenge may choose." This challenge is to remain open for one month. The second challenge is "to sail any schooner yacht in Great Britain or Ireland from the Nab Light to Cherbourg breakwater and back, any day during the first week in June," and this contest may be decided "either by one or three races over the same course." Here, then, is a plain defiance at once for a fair trial of yachts on the Atlantic and in the channel. Our readers are already acquainted with the theory on which English yachtmen claim for their boats that they are fitter for the open sea than ours are, and they are equally familiar with the conviction broadly entertained beyond the Atlantic that American yachts have no chance to win against Englishmen in a channel race. They will watch with the more interest, therefore, to see how sincere English yachtmen are in their two opinions when they have so clear an occasion to test the correctness of their views in two races against the same boat.

We cannot praise too highly the spirit and the style of Mr. Douglas' challenges. They are, we believe, the only important challenges recently issued for yachting contests, except the several series of challenges issued by Mr. Ashbury. We may let our national reputation for good taste and manly bearing stand by the way in which the owner of the Sappho proposes a contest without pitiful limitations and impossible conditions, as contrasted with the way in which the owner of the Cambria has proposed every contest, that has commended itself to his view of the chances. In Mr. Douglas' letter to Mr. Ashbury, published at the same time with his challenge, he declares expressly his purpose to rebuke the insinuation "that American yachtmen are afraid to meet their English competitors in any waters where the percentage is not greatly in their favor." This insinuation, it may be remarked, was made with regard to a yachtman who was not eager to make any race, but who would sail an ocean race if it was pressed upon him, and no other. The "waters" alluded to, therefore, are the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and it is worthy of note that we here have a leading English yachtman, and the owner of one of the finest English yachts, admitting that the chances are greatly in favor of American yachts on the open sea. What, then, becomes of the theory of the superiority of the English model for seaworthiness?

We are of opinion that any reflection of the sort insinuated comes very unhandsomely from an Englishman, as against Americans, within memory of the time when the Harvard men went all the way to England to get a race, and then had to yield every point of difference regarding terms before they could get it.

In Mr. Douglas' defiance there is no quibble, and no little limitation left as a means of escape. We may commend it to gentlemen beyond the sea as the plain, straightforward way in which our yachtmen deal. We may also say for their information that the winter ocean race between three American yachts was made in ten minutes. If they have any fault to find with the prolixity of some yachting correspondence this may help them to a knowledge where to make their complaint.

We hope that the gallant owner of the Sappho will secure the races he desire and particularly that his challenge for an ocean race may be taken up by some such splendid craft as the Guinevre, the Aline or the Alarm. This would make a very interesting ocean race, and also make a noble addition to the number of foreign yachts to be in our waters next summer. With the presence of several foreign yachts here the America's cup and the chances of a contest for its possession would be a great topic of discussion—the more especially as Mr. Ashbury has so often declared his wish to sail for it. It appears to us, however, that he, for one, has ruled himself out of a race for that trophy by his inability or unwillingness to comprehend the terms on which it is held. His claim to impose upon the holders of the cup the conditions upon which he shall sail for it is not modest, and his notion that it should be sailed for now according to the rules of the club that lost it nineteen years ago is preposterous, particularly as this would rule out of the race all but two of the yachts now in American waters. We are still of opinion that the America's cup is a trophy that should only change hands upon the clearest and least questionable demonstration of maritime superiority; that it should be never subject to narrower terms than those on which the America won it when she sailed "against the world" and beat a fleet of seventeen yachts.

MEXICAN NEWS.—Our correspondent in the city of Mexico furnishes us with an account of the progress of the revolution in the State of San Luis Potosi. The latest news from that quarter shows that the revolt, headed by General Aguirre, is spreading, and that the revolutionists had pronounced against the general government. This movement, however, was anticipated, the governors of several of the States being ordered to raise troops to put down the rising. Matters look serious, and the gravest fears are indulged in by those who desire a reign of peace, law and order.

JANUARY AND MAY.—We had them united yesterday. According to the almanac it was the 23d of January; but the warm sun and the soft south winds were the winds and the sun of a pleasant day in May. A most extraordinary January this—no snow, no ice and the Hudson open nearly to Albany. Has some enormous comet dropped into the sun adding to its heat? Has the Gulf Stream changed its course? or have the internal fires of the earth been warming up the ocean? We cannot tell; but we still expect a reaction, though if we have it not within a week, the chances this winter on this island for sleighing and skating will be slim.

THE WEATHER AND BUSINESS.—The present mild and uncertain state of the weather has a damaging effect upon business generally. Our merchants and manufacturers are in a quandary what to do and when to commence operations.

The Late Gold Corner—Fisk and Gould Before the Congressional Committee.

That disastrous "black Friday" to the Wall street bull ring on their gold corner, and the parties concerned in blowing up the bubble, are undergoing at Washington a Congressional investigation. On Saturday last Gould and Fisk, of the Erie Company, were before the inquisitorial committee, and the substance of their testimony is that their grand experiment was made up of moonshine and green cheese. Gould, it appears, after a mature consideration of the subject, gave it as his opinion that "all efforts to link the name of the President or Secretary of the Treasury with said gold corner were malicious fabrications; that he believed neither of those officers knew what was going on in Wall street" in the running up of that rascally corner.

Fisk, however, who appears to have been the head devil of the ring, had his own story to tell. In September last the Erie road was hard up—it was out of everything and was losing money. He saw a chance of making a raise on gold, and he resolved to go in. Gould seconded the motion, for he had seen Corbin, and gave Fisk a letter to Corbin, and that Fisk, after a full consultation or two with Corbin, was assured that he (Corbin) was all right behind the throne. Then there were more conferences with Corbin; and Fisk naively says that while talking with Corbin he felt all right; "but as soon as he was away from him he did not feel so brave, and found himself getting shaky." At last, to remove all doubts, that special messenger Chapin was sent with a letter to the President, then at Washington, in Western Pennsylvania; and with Chapin's despatch that the letter had been delivered and was "all right," the matter was clinched. The running of the gold corner and the grand smash-up, with that famous order from the Treasury Department to "sell four millions," rapidly followed, when Fisk, as he informed the committee, thought it was about time to go round and "see that damned old fool, Gorbin." It seems, however, that Corbin, with his cock-and-bull stories of letters from Mrs. Grant, and of his intention to go right on to Washington and make it all right with the President, still managed to pull the wool over the eyes of Fisk and fooled him as a Peter Funk fools a green country gosling. Fisk, moreover, thought that he had been betrayed by Butterfield. In short, from the reports of his testimony, Fisk is still as much befogged and muddled as he was with the collapse of Corbin and his bubble on that fatal "black Friday."

Corbin is the man whose testimony, if truly given, will clear up this business. But where is Corbin? When last heard from he was out in Kentucky, reported sick. Since then, we hear, his whereabouts cannot be learned. It is probable, too, that he may not turn up until this investigation is closed; and as it is apparent that, as the President's brother-in-law, he made himself the convenient instrument of the gold speculators in their scandalous, perilous and disastrous venture of September last, regardless of truth, honor and decorum, it would perhaps be as well for him never to show his face again, except as a criminal who, from point to point, carefully feels his way into obscurity and forgetfulness.

Prince Arthur, the President and Congress.

The presentation of Prince Arthur to President Grant will take place to-day, and afterwards the Prince will visit both houses of Congress. The Prince yielded a little point of etiquette in receiving informally a visit from Secretary Fish yesterday, but as Minister Thornton stretched a point in inviting President Grant to dine with him the young man may possibly have intended to be very gracious to our Secretary of State in order to make matters even. When he visits the House of Representatives he may hear the debate on the amended Virginia bill and take a lesson in our politics from it, or he may hear General Butler defending the economy of the administration from Mr. Dawes' attack and take from it whatever lesson the occasion may teach. In the Senate he may hear Sumner, the eloquent denouncer of the Alabama treaty, or Chandler, the terrible foe of England, the frantic Pogram of the Senate, whose "home is in the setting sun," or he may cast his royal eyes upon McCreery, who stood solitary and alone for England on the momentous Alabama claims question. Whatever he sees and hears the presentation and the visit to Congress will both doubtless be interesting and edifying.

The Prince attended the Church of the Epiphany in Washington yesterday, and the large crowd which generally goes there to worship God was greatly augmented by another crowd which went to see the Prince, and the young sprig of royalty about evenly divided the praises and devotion of the occasion with the great King of Kings.

THE PRESIDENT AND DAWES' SPEECH.—It is said that President Grant, in conversation with a committee recently said that Mr. Dawes in his speech against the economy of the administration had made several inaccurate statements. When General Butler gets the floor he proposes to prove this on Dawes, and we advise the latter gentleman to send immediately for old Grandfather Welles.

THE FEEJEES, TOO.—The United States ship Jamestown, arrived at San Francisco from the Feejee islands, brings the joyful intelligence that those enlightened cannibals desire annexation to the United States. The Feejee group of islands numbers one hundred and fifty-four, sixty-five of which are inhabited, and they are reported as producing a splendid article of sea island cotton. Why not annex them, however, for the purpose of a commercial and naval station in the South Pacific Ocean? In answer to the petition of the islanders let the Jamestown be sent back with the glad tidings to them that on the condition that they stop roasting and eating missionaries they are annexed.

GLAD TO REPORT IT—That the Board of Health have adopted some good rules and issued some good instructions concerning the smallpox, and that there is no occasion, meantime, for any apprehensions of a spread of the disease in Brooklyn, as it is really declining in the infected districts. In this city the mass of the community only know of the existence of the malady from the reports of the Board of Health; but the precautions of the Board should none the less be respected, even to the cleaning of the streets.

Herald Correspondents and Foreign Statesmen.

The Cleveland *Leader*, a well conducted and generally a very intelligent journal, published in one of the most prosperous cities on Lake Erie, characterizes as humbug the reports of interviews with such distinguished European statesmen as Bismarck and Beust by HERALD correspondents, and given in our columns. We assure the *Leader* that it labors under a grave mistake; and it augurs sadly for its knowledge of enterprise when it imputes to a newspaper like the HERALD any attempt at deception in a matter of the kind in question. If our Lake Erie contemporary had taken the pains to have kept the run of events in Europe he would have noticed that the statements to our correspondents by both the Prussian and Austrian Prime Ministers were amply confirmed by subsequent intelligence received by Atlantic cable. And it illy becomes an American journal to disparage the enterprise of a newspaper like the HERALD. In doing so it belittles itself, and, so far as its influence goes, makes its readers believe that some human beings are so exalted as not to be reached or talked to by gentlemen connected with a respectable press. We have yet to see or to hear of a prominent political personage who treats contemptuously the representatives of newspapers who conduct themselves like gentlemen. They, of course, have to exercise becoming prudence in order to avoid becoming the victims of impostors, charlatans and loafing Bohemians. But we feel assured in saying that there is not a distinguished politician or statesman in Europe or America who would not treat courteously, and feel complimented by being visited by, any authorized representative of a newspaper like the NEW YORK HERALD. It is only sheets of the *opéra bouffe* description that the magnates in any country entertain a distrust for. The *Leader* may learn a profitable lesson from this gentle rebuke.

Fine Arts—The Thompson Collection.

The large number of connoisseurs assembled on Saturday evening at Leeds' Art Galleries for a private view of the Thompson collection of oil paintings attests a revival of interest in the fine arts. It was noticeable that even the attractions of a well spread supper table could not monopolize the attention of the invited guests in the presence of so extraordinary a display of pictures. More than seventeen hundred of these works are specified in the bulky catalogue, but this cannot include all the carloads of canvases that are piled at the storerooms, in addition to those that hang on the walls of the two galleries. Every variety of style and quality is represented in this strangest of collections, from the crudities of tyros to the splendid perfection of genuine old masters. As we have testified in a previous article, at least four hundred paintings in this collection are of a high order of art. Not a few are rare and indisputably authentic specimens of the skill of celebrated artists. Many which are not entitled to the foremost rank possess, nevertheless, undeniable merits. And even among the grotesque, absurd and in the French sense "impossible" productions which make up the balance there are some that have a historical value as indications of talent that has ripened into power and distinction. Thus several early works of Bierstadt reveal the promise which his subsequent paintings have fulfilled. Not the least interesting department of the Louvre is a collection of "first sketches" by famous artists, which was presented to Louis Philippe by an eccentric Englishman. We were reminded of these "first sketches" by several works in the Thompson collection curiously illustrating the embryonic stage of talent of some of our best known artists. It seems that among the eccentricities of the late Mr. Thompson must be counted not only a sincere love of art and an intelligent appreciation of its masterpieces, but a generous disposition to encourage the struggling aspirant for fame. He was always to be found at the elbow of the young artist, stimulating his industry and ambition by liberal patronage. Sometimes he would buy out by wholesale the miscellaneous contents of the studio of an artist anxious to go and study abroad, and this may partly account for the trash which, it must be admitted, forms a part of this immense and unique collection. But, conspicuous in the bewildering variety which it offers, are many pictures worthy to adorn the finest public or private galleries in the world. Certainly nothing like it has hitherto been exhibited in the United States.

THE RED RIVER AFFAIR.—The fact that the Hudson Bay Company has recognized the insurgent government in the Red River region as the only legitimate government there marks a very important point in the history of the revolution. It must be remembered that the Hudson Bay Company itself was the legitimate government there until it sold out to the Canadian Confederation; and if it has recognized the insurgents it will give them almost the prestige and fully as much aid as any organized nation could. An attempt to suppress the revolution by the New Dominion government is now out of the question; and, as the insurgents have declared themselves independent, a new republic looms up on our northwestern border, and the compensation that we demanded of England for our Alabama losses is being taken piecemeal from her pocket, without any corresponding figures to her credit on our little bill.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The public were led to believe at the commencement of our democratic reform State Legislature that it meant business, and that it would immediately look into the wants and requirements of the people and apply remedial enactments. Nearly a month, or about one-third of its time, has already been frittered away in log-rolling, dodging, buncombe movements, the healing of petty party splits, time-killing adjournments, bickerings over small fry appointments and looking after the pecuniary advantages of fat jobs. As yet nothing in the way of business has been done, and the glorious anticipations of the people that they were speedily to be relieved of the burdens of radical legislation have vanished.

SUBURBAN HALF-WAY HOUSES.—Unless we can have a few days' sleighing some of our suburban fashionable roadside inns will be apt to feel a decided money pressure, as they say in Wall street.

The Future of the Feejees.

The question of the future of the Feejee Islands with respect to a civilized protectorate or great power ownership of the territory is of much more importance to the American people than what has been inferred from the subject as it was presented from San Francisco yesterday. It already engages the active attention of France, England and Germany, the European diplomacy being mainly directed with the view of "heading off" American negotiations with the natives. These facts are made patent by the publication in our columns to-day both of newspaper and official documents from New Zealand, to hand by the latest European mail, which show forth the fine resources of the soil of the islands, particularly for the cultivation of cotton and for coal mining purposes. Some of the natives, influenced by local British interests, had forwarded a memorial to Lord Clarendon, a copy of which we append, praying for an English protectorate or annexation to Great Britain, and pointing out to the Foreign Secretary the very profitable advantages which would accrue to Queen Victoria from a constitutional adaptation of either plan. If England and France find that it thus concerns them to turn their ears and countenances to the Feejees, how much more incumbent is it on the government in Washington to do so? With either England or France, or both, in the antipodal territory as owners or protectors, and with its coal mines opened for the use of a united European steam fleet, California would not be easily guarded and would feel very insecure in case of a war between either or both of these "friendly Powers" and the United States.

A far-seeing statesmanship never despises apparent trifles in the present. England, indeed, deduces her governmental and financial inferences and combinations about twenty-five years ahead. The stealing of a hatchet and a goat from a British settler at the Cape of Good Hope by a native afforded Britain a pretext for the great Kaffir war in that colony. She was laughed at at first for her action and then hooted for her apparent inhumanity. The hatchet and the goat and the war, however, brought her a valuable African colony, the possession of which enables her to trade to India to-day independently of the Suez Canal and Franco-Egyptian alliances. President Grant may take a look at the map of the Fejees.

BUSINESS AND BALLS.—Business among our merchants, importers, jobbers, shopkeepers, wholesale and retail, is slack and dull; but the ball season, as well as the theatrical season, is unusually lively. The catalogue of balls, routs, parties, &c., for the next two weeks is large, and so far every society ball given has been a great success. The simplest explanation of this difference between business and balls is probably this—that when the men have less time required of them for business they have more time to give to pleasure. A few weeks more, however, and the tide will turn.

OBITUARY.

John H. Stephens.

Yesterday afternoon, between three and four o'clock, at his residence on Broad street, opposite Trinity church, Newark, N. J., John H. Stephens, one of the oldest residents and largest real estate owners of that city, was gathered to his fathers, at the ripe age of eighty-two years. He was born in another part of the State, and went to Newark when very young, at a period when, as he recently stated himself, there were only 12,000 inhabitants in the town. During a long series of years he was well and favorably known in connection with various public interests, more especially for his sturdy and persistent efforts to preserve and increase the navigable facilities of the Passaic river. He was a most uncompromising foe to the various railroad bridges, with but slight success, however. In conjunction with his two sons-in-law—Mr. Charles E. Milnor, a New York banker, and Mr. George Washington, a great grand nephew of the "Father of His Country"—he caused to be built at the Highlands of Navesink, at a cost of $20,000, All Saints' Memorial church, one of the handsomest early English Gothic structures in the State, which he presented to the parishioners, together with a neat schoolhouse adjoining. He studiously avoided politics all his life, though from his sterling qualities as a business man and great wealth he might easily have secured the highest city or State honors. An unflinching democrat, he was an ardent admirer of "Old Hickory." Eight or ten years ago he retired from business and has since lived kindly, but without any display whatever, in his plain looking brick house. In his death Newark loses, probably, the most generally known, highly respected and the wealthiest private citizen in her annals. His property in real estate and commercial interests is reputed to be over a million and a half. His funeral takes place next Wednesday, from Grace church.

Henry Placide.

This well known and popular actor died at Babylon, L. I., on Sunday morning last. He was a native of Louisiana, and was well advanced in years. At an early age he adopted the profession of an actor and soon became distinguished for the able manner in which he represented the various characters he was cast in. Of late years he had settled down into "old men" parts, and was best known for his rendition of Grandfather Whitehead. The last time he played this part in New York was at the Winter Garden theatre, when that place of amusement was under the management of Mr. Stuart, the occasion being a benefit for Mr. Blake, the veteran actor. His Sir Peter Teazle and Sir Anthony Absolute were also admirably acted characters. Mr. Placide performed professional engagements in all the towns and cities of the Union, and to the time of his death maintained the reputation of being one of the best of American actors. Personally he was a clever, genial gentleman, and his death will be deplored by numerous friends.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Proposed Alterations of Tariff—Interviews with the President and Vice President of the United States—Political Feeling in Nova Scotia.

A gentleman connected with the local government of Nova Scotia, now staying in this city, has recently had interviews with the President and Vice President of the United States and also with Secretary Fish upon the state of political feeling in Nova Scotia and the desirability of the United States government, by a conciliatory policy, winning over the Nova Scotians to more decided demonstrations of alliance, by which they may become in closer alliance with the United States government and ultimately become independent of the Dominion influence. He urges that, as Newfoundland is a farming and fishing country, it would be good policy on the part of the United States to reduce the duties on breadstuffs and dried fish. Canada is trying for this trade, and he urges that it is more desirable that the trade should be with the States than with Canada.

Prince Edward Island is a large potato-growing country, as well as a large fish-producing country, and the same liberal policy would be extremely beneficial to this country. For Nova Scotia he urges a reduction of the rates on coal, which would be extremely beneficial, he has pointed out, to New England.

Both the President and the Vice President have promised that all these suggestions shall receive prompt attention, and if reduced to legislative enactments may be productive of beneficial consequences to this country and widen the line of separation between these provinces and the imperial government of Canada.

ARREST OF TWO BURGLARS.—William Moody and Michael Fay, sons of common toil, were arrested at West Farms on Saturday evening by officers Osborn and Burras, of the Thirty-second sub-precinct police, on a charge of burglary. It appears that about twelve o'clock on the previous night the prisoners feloniously entered the residence of Gouverneur Corsa, in the above village, by breaking through a glass door. The crash awakened Mr. Corsa, who, on quickly descending the stairs, recognized both men, ere they had time to disappear, carrying with them in their flight a large door mat. On their arrest the accused were fully identified, and pleaded intoxication as an excuse for their burglarious exploit. Their examination will take place to-day.