

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed.

Volume XXXV.....No. 117

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

- WOODS MUSEUM AND MENAGERIE. Broadway, corner Tenth and Madison streets. Performance every evening. NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between 11th and 12th streets. THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES. BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery. THE FOREST OF BONDY. VARIETY, NEW YORK 1540 70. BOOTH'S THEATRE, 255 St. between 5th and 6th av. A WIDOW HERE. FOOTBALL. THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway. COMIE VOCAL. NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between 11th and 12th streets. WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street. THE LOVE CHASE. OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway. NEW VERSION OF MACBETH. MADISON AT 2. FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—PROOF. GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and 55th st.—THE TWELVE TRIFLINGS. ACADEMY OF MUSIC, 14th street.—ITALIAN OPERA.—THE MAGIC FLUTE. FRENCH THEATRE, 14th st. and 6th av.—THE LADY OF THE PALMERS. THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. MRS. F. B. COWAN'S PINK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—LADY ADELPHI'S SECRET. TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 BROADWAY.—COMIE VOCAL. NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between 11th and 12th streets. BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 16th st.—LEA'S 10 MINUTE. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 555 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, 50. KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS, 729 Broadway.—FROW FROW. SPINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—GRAND CONCERT. APOLLO HALL, corner 55th street and Broadway.—THE NEW HUNGARIAN, Madison at 2. HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—MINSTRELS.—SUPER-NATURAL ILLUSIONS.—HARLET. HYPOTHETICAL, Fourteenth street.—PROFESSOR REBEL'S COMBINATION. NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

QUADRUPE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, April 27, 1870.

CONTENTS OF TO-DAY'S HERALD.

- 1-Advertisements. 2-Advertisements. 3-Advertisements. 4-Advertisements. 5-The State Capital: Last Day's Session of the Legislature of 1870; Governorial Veto of all the Bills Granting State Aid to Railroads; Passage of the Arcade Railway Bill in the Assembly; Report of the Committee on the Washburn and Fox Nuisance; the Eight Hour Law Signed and Enforced; Order of the Noble Society; Advocacy of a New Indian Policy—Bribe-makers' Strike at Croton, N. Y.—Personal Intelligence—The Estate of Anson Baringham—The Indians. 6-Home: His Important Reports from the Committee on the Washburn and Fox Nuisance; The House of Commons on "Harris's List"; J. H. P. and Fox's for the House—The London Trades; How a Traveller Topped in a Society; Phil D. tells of the Hackensack Bridge Outrage—New York City News—Dinner of Union College Alumni Association of New York—The Baltimore Evangelical Alliance. 7-The Kant: Bolshakoff's Ornamental New York Avenue Fifty-ninth Street; Only Central Park on a Monument Sale; Beauty of the Broad Boulevard; Col. at Impoverishment at Washington Heights and Vinton—The McFarland Trial; S. M. at the Deep Sea of Italy; Mea by a Love and Emotion—Jack Tar Ashore—Sorrows on the Right Track—The Poets. 8-Editorials: Leading Article on the Influence of the American Navy in Case of a European War—Amusement Announcements. 9-Telegraphic News from all Parts of the World; France Agitated by the Ploestian Canvass; The British Colonial Quest in Parliament; Punishment of the Greek Brigands; Progress of the Ecumenical Council; Death of McFie, the Artist—Ontario—City Politics—A Desperate Run Down—India—Business Notices. 10-Europe: British Finance, Industry and Home and Foreign Speculation; Premier Olivier's Cabinet Position and the Policy Towards the Plebiscite—The Negro Vote; Proclamation of George T. Downing—Insurgent Danes; The fifteenth Amendments Go Their Whimsical Straggle and Like B—Musical and Theatrical Notes—Horse Races—The Force of Example—Jersey City Police Captains—Killed on the Erie Railroad—HERALD Quadruple Sheets—Miscellaneous. 11-Breakings in the New York Courts—Financial and Commercial Reports—The O'Day Murder—Cupid in Jersey—Antiquary on Relics at Trenton, N. J.—Marriages and Deaths. 12-Washington: The Wimpole War; Refusal to Allow Dominion Troops to Pass Through Federal Territory; The Indian Troubles; A New Department of Government Proposed—Shipping Intelligence—Advertisements. 13-Rowing: Growing Popularity of the Easting; B. A. S. their Construction, Classification, Dimension and Cost; The New Party Shells and Working Bats; the Misshimmen vs. the Atlantias—Treasurer Spinner and the National Buns—Also the Navy—An Interesting Computation—Advertisements. 14-Advertisements. 15-Advertisements. 16-Advertisements.

LET THE PEOPLE REJOICE.—That the ornaments of the lobby have been dismissed from Albany, and that their most outrageous schemes of spoils and plunder have failed.

TWO GREAT EVENTS came off at Philadelphia yesterday—the colored celebration of the fifteenth amendment and a prize fight. Let brotherly love prevail!

GOLD COINS are the latest peculiarity developed in Jersey. It seems that there has been a large number of old Spanish pieces discovered in Trenton by laborers excavating in a new street. The Jersey men are excited about it.

THE SCHEMERS for a BIG SPECULATION in the destruction of Broadway might as well now give it up. If a railway ring representing untold millions of capital has failed to secure the job it may be said that Broadway can't be sold by our Legislature, though the Legislature itself may be bought.

GEORGE T. DOWNING is the latest colored pronouncer. He writes a long letter to the HERALD, which will be found elsewhere this morning, taking the ground that the negroes will all vote the republican ticket, whatever the faults of the party may be. Our democratic friends must look out, for Downing is a power among his brethren. As a colored man and brother he gives notice that he would not accept "social equality" with many white men whom he meets in public places.

Influence of the American Navy in Case of a European War.

Complications seem to be arising in Europe. Who can tell what a day may bring forth, and how soon the armed hosts of the different nationalities may be contending with each other? France is in a feverish condition, and upon the life of Napoleon depends the peace of Europe, as seems to be admitted on all sides. Prussia, having taken her first great stride towards the Baltic, is only biding her time to annex Denmark, whose territory she considers a necessity in order that she may become a great naval Power. Prussia has her eye also on the Danish Islands in the West Indies, and in this may be seen the reason why Mr. Seward backed out of his St. Thomas bargain; for evidence exists that at the request of Count Bismarck our late vicarious Secretary of State withdrew from his agreement and left General Rasmussen involved in difficulties which finally compelled the latter's resignation from the Danish Ministry. Turkey and Egypt are on bad terms, and the latter only submits to the imbecile authority of the Sultan through fear of the interference of the great Powers. The monument raised by the Russian Empire still points the road to Constantinople, and the map showing the completion of the great railroad from St. Petersburg to the Crimea is an evidence that Russia is determined to be prepared, in case of another great struggle in the Sea of Azof, to send her armed hosts to the Turkish capital.

There is now a race going on between England and France to see which can build the greatest number of iron-clads in the shortest possible time. The former has already accumulated a fleet of iron-clads far greater in power than the wooden fleet of her palmiest days, and her great machine shops are pushing on the machinery of war as if hostilities were on the eve of commencement. While England has been constructing her fifty heavy iron-clads France has kept pace with her in building fifty-ons, which, although not quite so formidable in the weight of their armor, are even superior in that of their guns. Russia, also, has entered into the competition and is building heavy iron ships. Prussia is fast catching up, and the lesser Powers of Europe are following in the rear as fast as their limited resources will permit—all of them far in advance of us.

Now it remains to be seen what would be our position in case of a general war in Europe, of which we should feel the effects, no matter how neutral we might be. What respect would be paid to our small squadrons in the Mediterranean or elsewhere by the forces of France and England when it came to a question of sequestering American merchant vessels for alleged violations of decrees in council or for ignorant running of paper blockades which the contending parties might think proper to enforce? Which one of our naval commanders could resist imposition except with a prospect of uselessly sacrificing his whole force without a chance of any public benefit? If we had only one powerful sea-going iron-clad with which we could go into action with the prospect of sinking half-a-dozen opposing ships before we were conquered ourselves there would be a prospect of some attention being paid to the demands of our commanders; for either the great Powers would hesitate to put themselves in a position where they might be humiliated by us, or do anything that would be likely to enlist our strength against them if we were but respectably armed.

We have the ability and ingenuity among our constructors and navy officers to build ships that could bid defiance to half a dozen of those now in the navies of England and France; and, in connection with this subject, it is indispensable that we should begin to build before the contingency of a European war arises. If we were prepared no nation in Europe would wish to make an enemy of us; and, while in case of a European war, all the commerce of the contending Powers would be swept from the ocean, ours, if properly protected, would come in for the carrying trade of the belligerents.

There is, however, scarcely any hope of anything being done for the navy while such men as the Western Washburn exercise influence on the floor of Congress, or while any one of the Washburn family occupies the position of "watchdog of the Treasury." (!) The late speech of Mr. Washburn, characterized, as it was, by misrepresentations and ignorance, is only a foretaste of what we may expect from that enlightened statesman! A child of four years old would be amused if it could read the weak attempts at argument and the illogical deductions of this Treasury Corbuser. He reminds one of a man who has taken a sufficient number of boxing lessons to induce him to go into the street and invite a thrashing from the first coal-heaver that comes along, or of a youth who attempts to swim without his cork. Mr. Washburn first attempted to take the lead in the great movement for the resuscitation of our commerce; but he was singularly unfortunate in his efforts, and so muddled the matter that nothing has yet resulted from the different bills before Congress. Now he is going to let the navy go to the dogs, and use some of the money proposed to be spent for it in building merchant steamers that are hereafter to be the only bulwarks of the nation! After all the trouble that has been taken to inform the honorable gentleman that the mercantile marine must be merely a great adjunct in time of war, he is going now to constitute it the grand means of national offence, the leading idea being to save dollars, which, in his eyes, have the size of cartwheels. In Mr. Washburn's apparently well-studied speech, filled with respectable personalities on naval officers, there is not one grain of common sense, and not an individual throughout the country who read the Congressional Globe the morning after the honorable member brought forth his mouse but ridiculed his policy, deprecated his personalities and regretted that so important a trust should be confided to such hands.

It is such attempts as these to deceive the people, and get up the reputation of a great national economist, that are just now disgusting the public with a certain class of politicians of which Mr. Washburn is a type. The people do not believe in their figures nor appreciate their ill-tempered allusions against officers who are faithfully serving the country. Before Mr. Washburn assumes again to speak for the majority of officers of the navy and the American people he should first satisfy

himself that the latter have not forgotten the services of the former during a war in which no mention whatever was made of Mr. Washburn.

Our Docks—The Need of Improvement.

New York is lamentably behind other great cities in the right kind of city improvements, and in no special department where improvement is possible is it so far behind as in that of docks. To say that our docks, as they at present stand, are a disgrace to us is to say but little. These rickety, rotten, dangerous structures would be contemptible in a city of far less commercial glory than ours; and indeed it is inconceivable that a city whose trade is in the hands of merchants of the most liberal, enterprising and energetic spirit—whose people take a pride in their progressive character—should so long have remained contented with the water front that it found satisfactory in the long ago years when it was one of the inconsiderable points in the map of traffic. Our system of wharves and piers is now the same as it was when the commerce of the port was in its infancy. The wharves are faced up by a structure of timber filled in behind with the dumpings from excavations and other sources, and the piers that extend from the general wharf line are open timber frames, in some cases filled in with broken stone, in others not filled in, and simply floored over like bridges. Although the first cost of wharves and piers built on such a plan may be cheap, nothing more extravagant in the end could be contrived; for the expense for repairs alone would in a few years suffice to build the most magnificent docks in the world. Constant traffic wears away the flooring very rapidly, and often great openings are left for months without attention. It is an occurrence not so uncommon as it should be for the street children playing on the piers to be drowned by falling through those places into the river. Then where a strong tideway bears directly on a pier some of its supporting piles are carried away, and the pier remains with its back broken for years. Occasionally a pier remaining thus for a long while is at last, in some violent storm, carried away, to the injury of the shipping near it and piers have even been carried away with merchandise upon them, for which the city has had to pay damages. All this indicates the very great expense to be finally paid out of the city trade, in one way or another, for the worst piers and wharves that can be had, and may even help to show how much the worst cost more than the best. But there is now a promise that we shall soon begin to establish a better system. The main point is to begin right, and to give the city, in the matter of these improvements, all that it has to pay for. The law creating the Department of Docks authorizes a fair yearly expenditure, and evidently contemplates a great progressive labor. If the men charged with the duties that relate to this expenditure will determine beforehand upon some definite plan, not for the improvement of the present docks, but for the building of entirely new structures of masonry, and will apply the money allotted from year to year to the carrying out of such plan, we may contemplate the possibility of having the city some day as well supplied with dockage as some of its great commercial rivals. With the labor once fairly begun we should be satisfied with nothing less than the best docks engineering skill can contrive.

Congress Yesterday.

Apparently both Houses of Congress had an exceedingly dull day yesterday. In the Senate Mr. Wilson introduced a substitute for the Army bill. It proposes an army of twenty-five thousand men—a force that is not sufficient to keep our sea-coast cannon from rusting. Mr. Wilson is right enough as far as economy is concerned, but there are many better ways to show it than by reducing the army to such an insignificant fraction as this. A great number of the officers to be mustered out or placed on half pay under the bill are men who have won their present rank by hard service, one day of which has, in many instances, earned their whole pay, and it is pitiable policy in such a government as ours to treat them so scurvily. A bill for the survey of the ship canal and railroad across the Isthmus of Darien was introduced and referred.

In the House the Fortification bill was introduced. It makes various appropriations for the neighborhood of New York, amounting to \$314,000, appropriating \$1,264,750 altogether. A bill was passed appointing special agents for the Treasury Department to spy out the books and balances of collectors and other customs offices. The most of the day, however, was devoted to an animated debate on iron. It is astonishing what a fruitful source of argument this subject is. It is the most cheerful subject on the books, except Butler, and Cox and the absentees. An extended debate ensued yesterday on one of the many denominations of iron, and the Pennsylvania members, finding themselves beaten, indulged in invective and oburgation that were quite amusing. It is probable from present indications that they and their cherished Tariff bill will both be defeated.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM CUBA.—The news which we publish elsewhere from our special correspondent in Key West relative to matters in Cuba is important. It seems that Captain General De Rodas is meeting with a most determined opposition from those officers from whom he might reasonably have expected the most energetic support. Valmaseda has come out openly against him, and not only disregards his instructions, but refuses even to obey instructions from Madrid. General Carbo is also meeting with opposition from the Governor of Cabanas Castle, who refuses to obey him. The rebels are taking advantage of the situation, and have shown themselves active and energetic in the Cinco Villas district. Owing to the critical state of affairs throughout the island the Captain General was expected in Havana yesterday.

THE PROSPECT AT WASHINGTON.—Fears are beginning to be expressed that the present session of Congress will run into the dog days. We think the two houses will have to clear out before the 1st of July; for the President has probably hinted to them that after that date his private arrangements will call him to Long Branch.

Adjournment of the Legislature—The Arcade Abolition Passed.

Last night the State Legislature, having finished the business of the session, adjourned sine die. Reviewing its work we find much to praise and but little to censure. It might have been expected, and probably was, that the democrats would make a sweeping and radical change in the several departments of government. For the first time in many years they found themselves in complete control of the State, and there was nothing to prevent their overturning everything established by the republicans had they felt so disposed. But, on the whole, they acted wisely, discreetly and with a view to future party victories. They promised to institute reforms, and have fairly redeemed the promise. With but the exception of a single bill, to which we shall especially refer, their legislation has been wholesome and conservative. The troublesome question of the canals has been settled in a manner which promises good for the State, and other measures have been instituted of a character calculated to prove beneficial to the people at large. But the most noteworthy and the best act of the late Legislature was the passage of the New York Charter, by which the metropolis has been relieved from irresponsible partisan commissions and placed under the immediate control of her own citizens, who are the proper persons to administer the government of the city. For this work all the praise does not belong to the democrats. By promptly coming to the support of those of the majority who were opposed to seeing New York handed over to the Morrissey-O'Brien faction the republicans acted with patriotic spirit and deserve commendation. Indeed, taken altogether, the legislation has been singularly devoid of partisan measures, and the debates have been, in the main, free from those asperities which have rendered noteworthy previous Legislatures.

The only bill passed which meets with our unqualified commendation is that incorporating the Broadway Arcade Railroad. This was rushed through the Assembly at the close of the session against the wishes of a large majority of our city representatives in both houses, and in spite of the protest of the property holders along Broadway. We shall not now consider what influences were exercised to bring about the passage of the bill. All we shall do is to insist upon Governor Hoffman vetoing it. His principal objection to the bills granting State aid to railroads holds good with this Arcade project. The people of the metropolis do not desire it, the property holders directly interested oppose it, and he will be derelict in his duty if he approves the measure. Thus far his official acts have been statesmanlike and proper, and we trust he will not permit any political or other considerations to induce him to abandon the high position he has assumed in his administration of the affairs of the State. It depends solely upon him for this bill to become a law, and we call upon him to kill it.

The Sudden Armistice in Europe.

But the other day the political songsters of the European press were attuning their softest accents to celebrate the certain coming and permanence of peace. We on this side of the Atlantic joined gladly in the chorus for a moment, hoping that much for progress and humanity. But now, it seems, the tune has very suddenly changed. The din of dreadful preparation is heard from the Danube to the shores of the Baltic. The Northern Colossus, Russia, is concentrating heavy corps d'armee on the Austrian and Prussian frontiers; Prussia is pushing her fortifications and her equipment of troops with improved weapons with the utmost haste. In some of her arsenals and strongholds the work is continued by reliefs of men all night. The German journals say that the directors of the gymnasia and other secondary institutions have been notified by the authorities to transmit a complete list of all professors subject to military service, yet indispensable for the duties of instruction, but to restrict the number as much as possible, so as to exclude all the day tutors and all professors who have any rank in the army—this step to be taken in view of a possible mobilization of the latter.

In the Saxon army, which, of course, is to move in alliance with the Prussian, there is a general stir. All the new recruits and soldiers, as well as officers on furlough, have been recalled to their respective garrisons to participate in the grand manoeuvres or to complete their instruction. The officers repair in crowds to Berlin, Spandau and other Prussian cities and camps to brush up their gymnastics, artillery practice, &c.

Again the complaints of Denmark in reference to the non-execution of the fifth article of the Treaty of Prague have placed the Austria Cabinet where it must decide definitely upon the course it is to pursue on that subject, and this just at a time when the various nationalities that make up her empire are all clamoring for special recognition. Thus Austria sees trouble outside and inside of her frontiers, and little Denmark in real alarm is thinking how to defend Copenhagen from possible bombardment by a German fleet. At the same moment we find General Claidin, the best soldier that Italy has of high rank in her service, resigning because the army is to be reduced at a crisis—as he seems to consider it—in the fate of his country and of Europe. In the meantime his Holiness graces repeated military reviews at Rome with his presence and that of his cardinals; puts squads of infantry through the manual in the galleries of the Vatican, giving the word of command with his own Pontifical lips, and is said to be collecting arms and ammunition for two hundred thousand men. Spain swarms with armed bands, regular and irregular; and now Portugal begins to take a hand in the dance. In all directions and all countries trade strikes are rife, and in some of them are suppressed by ball and bayonet.

Such is the general situation, and, with regard to the sudden armistice, the question naturally arises, What is now in the wind? Is it the plebiscite, the infallibility dogma or the revolution, or the conjunction of all three together, that so shakes the potentates from their propriety? In a former article we hinted at the contingency of a grand Northern alliance to meet the eventualities that may arise in France, and we are inclined to seek for the explanation of what we now find going on in

that same hypothesis. Should the new constitutional triumph in France all monarchic Europe will instantly feel the thrill of reform. Should it fall there is imminent danger of an insurrection, a coup d'etat or a foreign war, to be got up by the Emperor in order to divert the minds of his people. In any case it is evident that the Old World foresees another political earthquake.

Treasurer Spinner Ventilating the National Banks Again.

We publish to-day another capital letter from Mr. Spinner, the Treasurer of the United States, on the grasping cupidity of the national banks. Mr. Spinner wants the Sherman Funding bill to pass, and is rather savage with the banks for opposing it. The section of the bill requiring the banks to take new bonds at a reduced rate of interest—that is, bearing five, four and a half and four per cent interest—in equal proportions to deposit in the United States Treasury as security for their circulating notes, and in place of the six per cent bonds now deposited, is the one the banks are opposing with such determination. Mr. Spinner says, "To-day a gentleman said in my hearing that not a corporal's guard could be found voting for the Funding bill now pending before the House unless the section in regard to the banks should be stricken out." He then exclaims, "I don't believe it, and I won't believe it until I see it, and then we shall see what we shall see—what the people will have to say on the subject."

Though Mr. Spinner affects to believe that the banks will not show power enough in the House to defeat the Funding bill, or the bank section of it at least, he is evidently afraid of it. Our special despatches from Washington assure us that "the national bank interest is beginning to develop itself, especially in the House. Members from the West boast that no measure can go through that is inimical to the banks. The same is also true of the Southern members." This is just what we have been telling the public for a long time past. We have had no doubt that this gigantic monopoly would develop a power superior to public sentiment, Congress and the administration whenever its interests were touched. Probably two-thirds or more of the members of Congress are interested, directly or indirectly, in the national banks. It requires no prophet to show that their individual interests will prove superior to the public welfare. The banks are already turning round upon the government that so recently created them and gave them vast privileges. They get a free gift of over twenty millions a year, and expect to get forty millions from the pockets of the people and the Treasury, and yet they refuse to share the burdens of government. It is always so with vast corporations and monopolies.

The banks say that injustice would be done them by the adoption of the bank section of the Funding bill referred to, and they have the cool presumption to talk of honor, justice, equity and good faith. What a mockery! They have already received immense advantages without giving the government or people anything in return, and Congress reserved to itself the right to legislate for, remodel or abolish the national banking associations. There would be no right to complain of injustice if Congress should take away from them the privilege of a national circulation and the enormous profits on it. In fact, it is an injustice to the people that the privilege is given away at all. Mr. Spinner shows by a "little ciphering" what enormous gains the banks have received. They bought the bonds they deposit at 111 in currency, at a time when gold stood at 201, which would be about equal to 563 in gold. Since then they have received back again on the nominal amount, for interest, thirty per cent in gold. They bought these stocks with circulating notes, on which they have not paid a cent interest. In five years they have made a clean profit on their investment of nearly eighty per cent, without reckoning the yearly profits on their circulation. These are the poor, suffering institutions that refuse to contribute a few millions a year to support the government, while all the rest of the community are heavily taxed.

The Infallibility Dogma—The Protesters at Last.

At last we see some fruit of our Sunday editorials on the folly of Rome in the matter of infallibility. We knew all along that we were expressing the sentiments of the best Catholics in the United States, in Great Britain, in every English speaking country, and, indeed, in all parts of the world. The Catholic Church in the United States, inwardly ashamed of the doings of the Council and the ultramontane tendencies of the Pope, has been slow to speak out. It has been more or less the same in Great Britain and in France. At last, however, the patience of the most patient has been exhausted.

In our columns to-day will be found a protest against the definition of the dogma of infallibility, in the required form and with all necessary solemnity, presented to Pope Pius the Ninth by a large number of church dignitaries. We are glad to find that twenty-one of them are Americans, and that of these twenty-one twelve are natives of the United States. The accompanying document will well repay perusal. We had all along hoped for some such action. It has come late; but better late than never. This protest will fall like a thunderbolt on the nations. It is not, perhaps, bold enough. But what fruit it is to bring forth who can tell? It is a beginning not at all unworthy of the Catholic Church of the United States.

THE GOVERNOR'S VETOES.—Governor Hoffman has given the Legislature some excellent vetoes in the course of the last two years; but his veto of one of the State aid railroad bills, which knocked the whole lot in the head, was the best of all. Our railroad corporations all over the United States are getting to be rapacious beyond the limits of public endurance, and it is high time to "put down the brakes" against their intolerable demands for money from State treasuries and for money, lands and bonds from the United States. Therefore we heartily commend these railway vetoes of Governor Hoffman to the approval of the people of New York city and State.

GOOD AGAIN.—The Central Railroad bills, at Albany, covering an increase of fares, had to be abandoned. Our lawmakers found out, perhaps, that if they passed it they would have to explain this thing to the people and be held to answer for it.

Our Special European Correspondence.

From London and Paris we have special despatches by mail in illustration of the situation as it existed in Great Britain and France—we may say, indeed, in Great Britain and on the Continent generally—on the 14th of April.

Our special writer in London exhibits the financial condition of England, the direction of the monetary enterprise of the country, its more solid hopes and most attractive current speculations. The industrial aspect was not at all cheering. Change looked inward and outward for new fields of profitable investment, while the people, the masses, surveyed the still narrowing circles of many rather cheerless freights, and debated by the domestic hearth the subject of how they could best meet the revenue imposts of the new budget even after their readjustment by Mr. Chancellor Lowe. From Paris we are told of France in preparation for the plebiscite; the nation placing the "house in order," from the highest to the lowest of its sons—in the Tuilleries, the political centres, the caucus rooms of the "Reds," in the workshops, and in the streets. It was a trying moment, evidently, in Paris, the city reflecting an empire in political concentration for the purposes either of a still more radical expansion or a still more solid cohesion under the aristo-democracy of Bonapartism. Apart from French politics we are told of religion, science, art, song and vital statistics. Mr. Rénan was again before his college and Patti triumphant in the Italian opera, magnetic, as usual, over the hearts of her sympathizing audiences. Our special European correspondence exhibit is thus at once instructive, consoling, entertaining and refining by its facts and widespread influence.

The Pope and the Czar.

The antagonism or the alliance of two sovereigns, one of whom has actual autocratic control over the lives and fortunes of more than sixty millions of the human race, and the other claiming the spiritual allegiance and the brotherhood in Christ of a hundred millions of brethren—"Cento milioni di fratelli"—is a matter of undeniable importance, politically and socially, to mankind. It is, therefore, not with indifference that the statesmanship of Europe and America can learn that the Czar Alexander has very recently manifested a decided longing to renew his diplomatic relations with the government of Pius IX. A Berlin paper positively asserts that no less discreet and skilful a personage than the Baron Wastloff has, for a few weeks past, been active near the Holy Chair, having been specially despatched to Rome by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg to bring about, if possible, a rapprochement between it and the Papal Ministry. A certain Monsignore Czako, a Polish ecclesiastic of celebrity and great influence at Rome, is working to effect this object and to prepossess Cardinal Antonelli in favor of the new Russian policy in Poland; and a pious and accomplished lady of Polish birth, the Marchioness de la Barra Bodenham, who was conspicuous in aiding the conversion of the Marquis de Bute to the Catholic faith, is applying all her eloquence and zeal to the furtherance of these Muscovite advances.

The importance of this movement on the part of the autocrat of all the Russias cannot be over-estimated when we consider the existing situation. All Europe is in the very throes of reconstruction, and there the chief rival elements are France and Germany. All Asia is shaking with the onward tread of the Czar, whose policy is felt in the very heart of the Chinese empire; has just annexed an island six hundred miles in length from Japan, and pervades the Ottoman empire, secretly and openly, from the banks of the Danube to the head of the Persian Gulf. Already Constantinople has become almost a suburb of St. Petersburg. Meanwhile, on the westward side, facing towards Europe, Russia diligently hastens the provisioning and reinforcement of her strongholds, and avails herself of all the latest and best discoveries of modern science. The eleven-inch steel guns that now stud the walls of her maritime fortresses are perfect. Their projectiles at long range will penetrate the thickest steel plating hitherto invented for vessels of war, and Russia is now so far independent of foreign aid that her foundries can furnish eight hundred splendid guns, of heavy calibre, per annum. The Grand Duke Michael has just reported that the whole field artillery of the empire has been equipped with steel rifled breech-loading pieces, and that the sharpshooter battalions have been supplied with the finest and lightest repeating weapons in existence. The whole body of infantry has been armed with patent rifles, and the factories are working night and day on the best known model of repeating arms for the cavalry also, along with metallic cartridges of a novel and peculiar efficiency. Who will say that these imposing preparations are for idle show? Russia is a practical Power, and when she moves it is with a definite object. The mountain capped by the rock of St. Peter would not come to the Mohammed of the Doi, the Dnieper and the Volga; that Mohammed, then, must go to the mountain. "The whiskered Pandours and the fierce hussars" of the Danube and the Ukraine are, metaphorically, on the march again. Are their pennons turned toward that glittering point in the eastward distance where the Roman and the Greek cross—the emblems of a common Christianity at least—surmount the heights of Mount Zion? And while the empire of Charlemagne arises again from its slumber of ages, summoned thence by the genius of Germany's great statesman, are we, in our day of wonders, to behold a reunion of creeds, a reconciliation of long-severed brethren and a sublime triumph of light and progress where the crescent shall have set forever behind the Holy Sepulchre? Was it with true prescience of this great time, rather than with a mere foreshadowing of his own, that Constantine saw the sacred emblem in the sky and read the prophecy of victory—in hoc signo vinces?

INFORMATION WANTED.—Of General Banks, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, concerning the delay of said committee in making a report on the Cuban question. Are the committee waiting for the end of the Cuban insurrection, or for the election of a King of Spain, or for the dogma of Papal infallibility, or what?