ISRAEL IN RUSSIA.

Condition of the Jews in the Muscovite Empire.

Penal Laws and Contradictory Provincial Restrictions—The Law and the Word, and Israelite Republican Rule—The "Kagal," Its Influence and Authority.

The London *Athenæum*, in an able review of two new books, entitled "The Book of Kagal—(Kniga Kagala)." "Hebrew Local and Universal Societies—(Yewreiskiya bratsva myestniya i vsemirniya); by J. Braphmann, (Wilna)," makes the following editorial remarks on the subjects referred to above:—

It is singular that no recent traveller in Russia has thought of telling us something about the Russian Jews. Yet there are 2,000,000 of them, chiefly concentrated in Poland and the Western Governments. Their condition is curiously anomalous; in Bessarabia they are not allowed to live within fifty versts of the frontier, and in other districts they form thirty-five per cent of the population, and possess all the property and wealth of the place. In Kharkof, till a short time ago, no Jew was allowed to remain, while in Yelisavetgrad, which you will reach in a day, your driver will reply to your interrogatories by telling you that if you continue to call him a Jew *(zhid)* instead of a Hebrew he can have you fined twenty-five rubles. While Rabbinical schools are closed in Odessa the first synagogue is being opened at Moscow; while poor Hebrews in some of the smaller towns are prohibited all occupations but usury, Polyakoff stands high in the confidence of the government as a maker of railways, and is prevented from buying the most magnificent palace in St. Petersburg only because a lingering scruple forbids the sale of the family chapel to a Jew. The Jews in Russia, hampered by contradictory enactments and restrictions, have almost created an *imperium in imperio*, and have their own customs, their own dress, their own laws and even their own language—at least the mixture of corrupt German, Polish, Russian and Hebrew, which they all speak, is known as the Israelite language, and can be heard to advantage at the Jewish theatre at Warsaw. Everybody in Russia has regarded the Jews with such contempt and indifference that the revelations of Mr. Braphmann—himself a Christianized Jew—on Hebrew laws and customs, supported by authentic documents from the archives of Wilna, have excited a great astonishment and have at once reopened "the Hebrew question," which has been for some time rising in importance. Some Russian liberals propose various remedies and measures; some, who call themselves very liberal, think the Jew should have no civil rights, while others, with whom we believe our readers will agree, say there is one very simple remedy—abolish all distinctions and educate the Jews equally with other Russian subjects and there can be no Hebrew question.

With the Hebrew question in Russia, however, we have at present nothing to do, and the books of Mr. Braphmann are chiefly interesting to us as showing the peculiarities of the Hebrew law and life actually existing in Russia, derived from the Talmud and the ancient Judaic law. The line of Schiller,

Die Juden bilden einen Staat im Staate,

has been wonderfully realized in Western Russia and Poland, where the Jews have formed and preserved to this day in every city or town a Talmudical municipal republic, of a very aristocratic kind, in which the patrician caste have arbitrary and despotic power over the plebeians. This government is carried on by two institutions, the Kagal or Kheder-Hakagal, the communal government, and the Beth-Din, the Talmudical Court, which is partially recognized by the Russian laws. The government is indeed elective, but both electors and elected must have obtained a certain rank in the community, gained nominally by proficiency in the learning of the Talmud, and often granted in reality to rich men for a money consideration. The Kagal not only directs the schools and internal government of the community, but supervises and regulates all the affairs of Hebrews with the non-Hebrew population, forbidding or allowing them, as it considers best for their interests. This power is completely arbitrary, and there can be no appeal from it. The authority of all external laws and regulations is denied and said to be not binding on Hebrews, and they are strictly forbidden to have recourse to a Russian court in disputes with each other, even when the Russian laws coincide with the Hebrew. The Kagal, however, does not scruple to have recourse to the external authorities when necessary and practicable to assist it in its objects. The Kagal claims to have authority over the whole territory and population of the district. Non-Hebrews are there, and in possession of property only as infringers of the rights of the chosen people of God. The Kagal grants or sells the right of living in the district to a new comer, and without the necessary paper a Jew coming from another district would find it impossible to live or support himself. The property of non-Hebrews is, according to the Talmud, a free wilderness, or, as Rabbi Joseph Kunn says, "a sort of free lake," in which only that Hebrew can place nets who has obtained a right for it from the Kagal. Thus regarding the property of non-Hebrews as the general property of the community the Kagal sells to Jews the right to occupy this property, and even draws up bills of sale and receives money from them. More than that, it sells the right to *exploiter* individuals, to lend them money and to get hold of their property. Things of this kind seem almost incredible, although Mr. Braphmann quotes in full formal acts, one selling the right to the shop of a Russian merchant, another a part of the city lands with the buildings that may hereafter be erected by the government, and another a whole Franciscan convent. After such a sale no other Jew can interfere without the permission of the purchaser, and should a Jew purchase or get hold of real estate belonging to a Christian, which had not previously been disposed of by the Kagal, he would have to buy again from the Kagal before his rights would be recognized by the Rabbinical Court or by his fellows.

Besides its power of fixing the residence of Jews the Kagal claims the right to interfere with their choice of occupation, and to prevent them from exercising it; regulates even the details of their domestic life; fixes the number of persons that can be present at a marriage or festival, the musicians that can be employed, and many other petty things. One of its greatest powers is in the butchering of cattle. The Jews, even with us, as is well known, can eat no meat but that killed in accordance with the precepts of the law of Moses; and in Russia this rule is most strictly regarded; but the religious instincts of the people do not keep them so much to its strict observance as the active supervision of the Rabbinical authorities. They are the more particular as they collect a tax on meat, which supplies funds for communal purposes. This tax has been recognized and confirmed by the Russian laws, and the government officials are required to assist in its collection, on the ground that the Kagal will thus be able to make good the deficiencies in the government taxes of Jewish communities. No doubt part of this tax comes from Christians. The Kagal is also authorized by law to impose a tax on all liquors sold in taverns and dram shops kept by Hebrews in country villages. This tax, of course, falls on the consumers; the purchasers are all peasants, and there are no other dramshops. Another curious instance of a tax on the whole population, for the benefit of the Jews, is found in Wilna. In the Jewish quarter there has long been permitted a tax on provisions for the Kagal; and a few years ago the Kagal succeeded in persuading the city authorities to remove the public fish market to that quarter, thus laying the excise on the whole community. This tax, in 1867, was farmed out by the city council for £340. One might almost think Judaism the State religion there.

THE KAGAL.

The Kagal maintains its authority by means of such taxes, and by severe punishments inflicted by the beth-din. These include forbidding intercourse of the neighbors with the condemned, prohibiting him to ply his trade, preventing his wife from purifying herself with the bath, and excommunication. As he who transgresses one little transgresses the whole law, excommunication is threatened for very slight offences, and, in a town almost wholly Jewish, it is really civil death. Sometimes, as occurred a few months ago at Shkloff, actual physical punishments are used. In that case, a woman suspected of improper intimacy with a man, suspected only, for the Rabbinical court has no rules of evidence, was beaten almost to death, and driven naked along the public street. In cases of great obstinacy the arm of the civil power is sometimes called in; and to prevent an appeal to the civil courts from its decisions, the beth-din takes good care to have the parties sign beforehand, on stamped paper, documents which would prevent such action. The author accuses the Kagal of buying up government officials, to make them wink at any stretch of power in their proceedings.

LOCAL SOCIETIES.

The local brotherhoods or societies are powerful agents of the Kagal. The author divides them into learned, whose object is to expound the Talmud, industrial or trade unions, religious and benevolent. The chief benevolent societies are those for buying up captives and the burial societies. As no Jews are held in bondage, the objects of the first of these can only be guessed at. Burial societies were instituted because the clergy are forbidden to perform funeral rites, which are considered secular and unclean works to such a degree, that even now, if the burial of a Jew has to take place on a least day it must be done, if done at all, by Christian hands). These societies become often instruments of great oppression and extortion. In 1866 a Jewess named Broyd complained to the city authorities of Wilna that the burial society had taken from her 1,500 rubles (£188) for the burial of her husband. She did not wish to pay, but the body was left unburied for five days, and then the society compelled her to pay and to sign a paper that she had given this sum to the society for benevolent purposes. When the Kagal learned that she had complained, they fined her 500 rubles (£60) in addition, as a contribution to the deficiences in the recruiting tax for poor Hebrews. The local authorities could do nothing to assist her, but were compelled to assist the Kagal to collect the tax, on the ground that in matters relating to the communal liabilities of Hebrews, the Kagal was a government institution. A similar case has very recently occurred at Kief.

The only remedy against such extortions is to become a member of the ruling class; and for that end every plebian Jew tries, if possible, to have his sons educated in the Talmud, that they may gain the necessary rank, and be better off than himself. The "Alliance Israélite Universelle" is an attempt to unite all Jewry by means of such societies.

Mr. Braphmann writes with no animosity towards the Jewish race, to which he himself belongs, but attacks sharply the system of the Kagal, which, in his opinion, is disliked by the most of the lower class, and does far more than the government to keep the Jews in a state of separatism. Until this influence is overthrown he thinks it impossible for the Russian Jews to coalesce with the rest of the population of the empire.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The most trying part of the season is now past, and managers can draw a breath of relief that the holidays have come at last. This being the week before Christmas the preparations for that great festival may interfere to some extent with the business at the theatres, but the worst is past. The bills are in general very attractive, and some long-looked for novelties are announced.

First, we are to have "Saratoga," a genuine American comedy, at the Fifth Avenue theatre. The entire strength of the company, with the exception of Miss Ethel, is cast in it. High expectations are formed of it, and great care will be exercised in its production. Tuesday has been selected for the opening night. This evening the ever welcome "London Assurance," with the vivacious Fanny Davenport as Lady Gay Spanker, will be given for the last time.

The beautiful comedy, "Coquettes," seems to have taken a firm hold at Wallack's. All mention of its successor is laid aside for the present, as it seems to be booked for a long and successful run.

"Rip Van Winkle" enters upon its 128th performance at Booth's to-night. The announcement of its withdrawal in January has brought up the houses to their original standard, and few vacant seats may be seen now when the curtain rises. The preparations for "Richelieu" go on with unremitting perseverance, and we may look for a revival such as will astonish even the metropolis.

An interesting event at the Grand Opera House on Wednesday will be the debut of Mlle. Aimée, a new aspirant for *opéra bouffe* honors. She will make her bow as Boulotte in "Barbe Bleue," the best, we opine, of Offenbach's operas. When we consider what a success Irma made in this *rôle*, we can only say that Aimée has selected a trying test for her abilities. Only two nights of "Les Brigands" remain, and likely the members of the company not cast in "Barbe Bleue" will favor the provinces with *opéra bouffe*.

The success of the revival of the "Black Crook" at Niblo's seems now to be an established fact. With the dancing of Cora Adrienne and Bonfanti, the scenery of Voegtlin, the music of Operti and the thousand and one spectacular attractions, it is easy to account for the crowded houses.

"Wee Willie Winkie" enters upon its twelfth week at the Olympic, with undiminished success. The name of Fox is a powerful talisman with the public, and "standing room only" may be looked for for many a week to come.

Miss Lina Edwin has made a genuine hit with the burlesque of "Little Jack Sheppard." It is not that this little play possesses any intrinsic merits beyond hundreds of its kind, but the sparkling music, which is well sung by this lady's admirable company, is something we do not usually hear on the burlesque stage. Miss Laura Keene will take temporary possession of the theatre about the middle of next month.

The local sketches of police court celebrities, at the Globe, have been received with favor by crowded audiences. Mr. Hart is a clever actor and to him much of the success of the institution is attributable.

"Neck and Neck" has met with unparalleled success at the Bowery and enters upon its fourth week. A spectacular play, called "Sunburst," has been added to the bill for this week.

Miss Gyn, the great English *tragédienne*, will give a grand dramatic rendering of "Antony and Cleopatra," at Steinway Hall, on Wednesday.

"Paris," in a reconstructed form, will be presented at Wood's to-night. Miss Ada Harland and Miss Nellie Henderson appear for the first time.

"The Black Dwarf" holds its run at the Comique. The rest of the bill is very interesting and bewildering in its length and variety.

The San Francisco Minstrels burlesque "Les Brigands" to-night. Immense preparations have been made for it.

Juveniles will be delighted to hear that their favorite temple, the New York Circus, will be this week the scene of a grand fairy spectacle, "Cinderella," got up especially for the holidays with costly costumes and appointments and a troupe of sixty little children.

The Bryants have also a burlesque on "Les Brigands" which will tax all the resources of their *bijou* establishment.

Tony Pastor has secured the Miaco Brothers, mid-air champions; little Josie, a singer; Carton, a comedian, and Miles Morris, ditto. "New York by Gaslight" is the drama for the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams produce "The Emerald Ring," the best of their extensive *repertoire*, to-night at the Park, Brooklyn, supported by Mrs. Conway's excellent company.

The burlesque on "Across the Continent" has made a hit at Hooley's.

A new bill is promised by Welch, Hughes & White's Minstrels at the Brooklyn Opera House.

The New York Conservatory of Music gives the first of a series of musical soirées at Steinway Hall this evening. A very interesting programme has been prepared and will be entirely rendered by pupils.

Mrs. G. C. Howard plays Topsy, in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," at the Brooklyn Academy of Music this evening.

Miss Emma Celia Terry gives a concert at Steinway Hall on Tuesday.

The diorama of Ireland at Apollo Hall is still continued.

The little son of Mr. Oliver B. Goldsmith, owing to a letter from several prominent citizens, will give a Shakspearian recitation at Chickering's Hall on Wednesday and another on Friday. This extraordinary child is only six years, and repeats with wonderful expression whole scenes from Shakspeare.

Miss Vienna Demorest, a charming young soprano and composer of rare ability, appeared for the first time in public a few days ago at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, and gave promise of becoming a bright star of the concert stage. One of her songs, "Birdie," has been accepted by Mlle. Nilsson, and included in her *répertoire*. This young American artist is yet in her teens, and inherits, although in a different line, much of the talent of her remarkable mother.

The annual performance of the "Messiah" by the New York Harmonic Society will take place at Steinway Hall on the 26th inst. Miss Brainerd, Mr. Barry (of Boston), Mr. Simpson and Mr. Joseph Jewett have been engaged to take the principal parts. The conductor of the Harmonic Society having abruptly terminated his connection with that body, the management applied to the Executive Committee of the Church Union Association for the services of their conductor, Dr. James Pech, and for the assistance of any of the members of the association who are familiar with the music to be performed, and who might feel disposed to aid an old organization in perpetuating, in the midst of many temporary distracting influences, the annual performance for the past twenty years of Handel's "Messiah." It is generally believed that Dr. James Pech has consented, very generously on a short notice, to direct the work on the evening referred to. Dr. Pech is thoroughly familiar, from long experience, with oratorio music, in which he has been as thoroughly educated as any musician we can remember.

Blind Tom plays to-night at the Cooper Institute.

The Liederkranz Society celebrated the centennial of Beethoven last night at their hall with a grand concert, in which the principal works of the great composer were performed.

Dr. James Pech, on Saturday night, at the Philharmonic concert, gave the orchestra and audience a surprise by presenting them with copies of a very cleverly written *brochure*, giving the life of Beethoven and some bold but well founded remarks on his works. The following extracts will suffice for the present:—

Haydn and Mozart often approached the very verge of propriety, but the caution with which they planned their works preserved them from remarkable excesses. Beethoven, however, following only the impetus of his imagination, and disdaining those constraints which sober judgment would suggest, rushes madly on, and often

Plays such fantastic tricks
As make the critics weep.

The history of the progress in art of a mind like Beethoven's would be most interesting and instructive. He does not seem to have devoted much time to close study, but to have acquired his powers of composition by continual practice. Notwithstanding this, the beauty of his first works, their novelty and the effects which they produced, created for him immediately a crowd of admirers. These persons quickly made him "the god of their idolatry," and, as became true believers, would not allow that there could be a spot or blemish in his creations. Thus situated, and with an impetuosity of temper which made interference of any kind a dangerous office, it is not surprising that Beethoven should occasionally have entertained false notions of his art; that he should have mistaken noise for grandeur, extravagance for originality, and have supposed that the interest of his compositions would be in proportion to their duration. That he gave little time for reflection is proved most clearly by the extraordinary length of some movements in his later symphonies, to which we might apply the epithet, "*Romans de longue haleine*," given to certain French novels of the old school. The great fault, if we may say so, which Beethoven committed, in making many of his compositions so long, will be seen if we consider that music, though the most vague, is the most exciting of the arts, and not all the finest passages from Homer, nor an exhibition of all the battles of Le Brun, would create half the effect on the minds of a party of British or American soldiers going into action as would be produced by "Rule, Britannia," or "The Star-Spangled Banner."

ENGLISH SPORTING GOSSIP.

Loss of Two Celebrated Horses—Wild Dayrell—His Pedigree—Emblem, Winner of the Grand National Steeple Chase, Shot.

LONDON, Dec. 3, 1870.

On Sunday last Wild Dayrell, winner of the Derby in 1855, was found dead in his box at Chilton, near Hungerford. He was only eighteen years of age, having been bred in 1852 by Ion out of Ellen Middleton, a daughter of the famous Bay Middleton. Of his birth the well known sporting writer, "The Druid," lately deceased, says:—"When a colt appeared, between twelve and one A. M., the butler was rung up and rushed to the scene with his nightcap on his head and a bottle of wine in his hand; and as it was necessary to remove the little stranger into a warmer box he got a wheelbarrow and insisted upon "wheeling the winner of the Derby for once in my life." There was nothing in that speech, but when Rickaby got home to his cottage, about five on that April morning, he assured his wife that there must be something remarkable for good or evil about that colt, as he had just seen the strange sight of a wild duck and a wild drake actually sitting on the quickset hedge, close by the high road. That morning was, indeed, a remarkable one in the annals of Littlecote. It hailed the first blood colt that Mr. Popham had ever possessed, and the first that Rickaby ever trained; and the latter was never at Epsom in his life till he fulfilled the threat of "bringing the money away." The colt, a very big one, so pleased the eye of Lord Lennox that he gave 500 guineas for him; but in a trial he performed so badly that his lordship sold him at Tattersall's to the breeder for less than half the sum he had given for him. He had soon cause to repent of his precipitation, for Wild Dayrell made great improvement as times went on, and at the Newmarket First October meeting, when he stood sixteen hands two inches, he cantered away with a sweepstakes of fifty sovereigns each, T. Y. C. During the winter he got on splendidly in his Derby preparation, and in a trial with Jack Sheppard and Gameiad beat both with the greatest ease. At this time his market price was 100 to 7, but the ring, believing he had no chance, laid against him with the greatest ardor, so that the process of "getting out" brought the horse to a very short price long before the fall of the flag on Epsom Downs, the more especially as the field he had to meet was a remarkably "rotten" one. His most notable probable opponents—St. Herbert and Lord of the Isles—had run such a fearful race for the Two Thousand Guineas that the former could not go to the post, while the latter had ruined his chance. Of the other horses engaged Lord Derby's favorite, De Clare, broke down on the Sunday before the race; and another well known animal, Rifleman, had to be scratched. The consequence was that Wild Dayrell won with the most ridiculous ease; but he injured himself so much that he was afterwards comparatively worthless on the turf, though he was "patched up" sufficiently to win a race at York; but finally broke down in the Doncaster Cup, won by the great Rataplan. At the stud he was not a brilliant performer, and was chiefly known for getting brilliant two-year-olds who would not be trained; but his son Buccaneer is one of the greatest sires of the day, and has a tremendous reputation in Austria, where he is stationed. Of his progeny Buccaneer won the Royal Hunt Cup at Ascot; Hurricane the One Thousand Guineas; Horror was third to Thormanby in the Derby, 1860; Wild Oats ran a dead heat with Pero Gomez (second for the Derby and winner of the St. Leger last year), for the Criterion Stakes, and of the others, Ischia, The Roe, Romping Girl, Wild Moor, Wild Agnes, Molly Carew, Moonbeam, Sea King, The Rake and Avalanche.

Emblem, the winner of the Grand National steeple chase and other important races, was recently shot by order of her owner, Lord Coventry, on account of her infirmities. She was bred in 1856 by Teddington, winner of the Derby, out of Miss Botty, and was purchased by Lord Coventry for 300 guineas after she had run several times on the flat. In this class of race she never shone, and she was accordingly trained for the "jumping business," and for some time followed hounds. In this line she attained extraordinary excellence, and wound up a series of brilliant performances by winning the Grand National in 1863. In the following season Lord Coventry did not send her over the Liverpool country, and was represented by her own sister, Emblematic, who, strangely enough, also won. In 1865 he sent out both to do battle for him in the Grand National, and Emblematic finished third to Alcibiade, while Emblem was a splendid mare, with the heavy weight of 172 pounds on her back. She afterwards carried off the Grand Annual Steeple Chase at Warwick, with 174 pounds, and turned the tables on Alcibiade, and at Cheltenham, a little later, was successful in the principal steeple chase, with the enormous impost of 181 pounds; and worked up the spectators to such an extent that they plucked hairs out of her tail to preserve as mementos of so wonderful a mare. She broke down soon afterwards, and was put to the stud, where, however, she was so unsuccessful that of late years she has been allowed to roam at will through the pastures at Croome, near Worcester.

THE IRISH CHURCH IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

Father Farrell's Lecture on St. Lawrence O'Toole, Archbishop of Dublin, in the Twelfth Century.

One of the most interesting and instructive lectures in connection with the history of the Irish Church during the Middle Ages was delivered last evening at St. Bernard's church, Thirteenth street, to a densely crowded audience, who, for upwards of an hour, listened to the learned and accomplished lecturer with the deepest attention. Father Healey, the respected and zealous pastor of St. Bernard's church, ascended the altar and announced that the distinguished young Irish *artiste*, Mlle. Rosa D'Erina (Miss Rose O'Toole), had kindly consented to preside at the organ, and would sing the following sacred selections of music, viz.:—"Ave Maria," Cherubini; "Angels Ever Bright and Fair," Handel; "Ecce Panis," Cherubini; "Ave Maria," Gounod; grand march for the organ, Rosa D'Erina. The above selections were rendered by the fair *artiste* in the true style of sacred compositions, and created among the audience quite a sensation. Possessing a splendid soprano voice of great culture and capable of the most varied modulations, it seems specially adapted to the sublime music of the Catholic Church.

The learned lecturer commenced his discourse by a rapid review of the state of Ireland from the conversion of Ireland by St. Patrick to the invasion of Ireland by the Danes, and described in beautiful language the noble efforts of the Irish race to throw off the Danish yoke, which efforts were crowned with triumphant success at the battle of Clontarf, in 1073, by the great King Brien Boiroimhe. Coming to the subject of his lecture, Father Farrell described the great virtues and sanctity of St. Lawrence O'Toole, but told his audience that his object was to present the great saint to them as a noble specimen of a great Irishman struggling for the freedom of his fatherland. Referring to the celebrated Bull of Adrian IV., in which he is alleged to have made a grant of Ireland to Henry II., of England, the able lecturer disputed its authenticity on the authority of Abbe Macgeoghegan and other distinguished historians. In a strain of the purest and most fervid eloquence he gave a rapid epitome of the great labors of the Saint and of his opposition to the gross misrepresentations of the English Court as to the state of Ireland at the Court of Rome. Father Farrell made an admirable reference to the perpetuation of the grand old Irish name, O'Toole, in the fact that the splendid voice they heard reverberate through the sacred edifice was that of Rose O'Toole, descended from the same noble family, and who would, through the music of her native land, renew the ancient glories of Ireland in a foreign land.

At the conclusion of the lecture the audience manifested their delight by the most enthusiastic applause, and we can truly add that a more instructive and highly interesting lecture, exhibiting the most perfect acquaintance with the ancient history of Ireland, it has never been our pleasure to listen to.

SEIZURE OF A LARGE QUANTITY OF FENIAN ARMS AND MUNITIONS OF WAR.

[From the Detroit Post, Dec. 16.]

Yesterday afternoon the United States authorities in this city received apparently reliable information as to the whereabouts of a large quantity of arms and munitions of war, which belonged to the Fenian Brotherhood, and which had been sent here last summer for use in the contemplated raid on Canada. A search warrant was immediately issued, and Deputy Marshal Harry Blanchard, assisted by Deputies Alvord, Bartlett and Sullivan, proceeded, about five o'clock, to the house of James Holihan, corner of Rivard and Franklin streets, where the articles were said to be located. Holihan was found on the premises, and a warrant for his arrest having been previously issued for violation of the neutrality laws, he was taken into custody. A search of the house was then made, and, stowed away under the beds in bedrooms, and in closets and garrets, were found a large number of guns, &c. They were immediately taken possession of under a warrant authorizing their seizure, and were taken to the United States Marshal's office to await the action of the Court in the matter. There were found in Holihan's house altogether upward of 200 stand of arms and eight cases of Fenian uniforms.

The guns are apparently new, and are a superior breech-loading rifle. They are furnished with bayonets, and are complete in every respect. They have been well kept, are nicely polished and in good order. It is not known where these guns came from. They may have been purchased abroad, or, more likely, they are a United States arm made over. The Fenian uniforms were new, and had never been unpacked from the cases. They consisted of dark pantaloons and the ordinary army blouse of green cloth. The packages were directed to Mr. Holihan, but the point from which they were shipped could not be ascertained.

It is understood that Holihan is the treasurer of the Fenian Brotherhood in this city, and that he had charge of these war outfits as such officer. They are supposed to have been sent here last spring, previous to O'Neil's raid, and their discovery, with that of 500 more rifles which were found at another place, and were to be brought in at a late hour last night, gives color to the story which was current at the time that an expedition was fitting out here for operations in the adjacent parts of Canada. It will be remembered that at that time pretty definite details of the proposed expedition were known. The United States authorities then received information as to the place where the arms were stored; but the Fenians eluded their vigilance and removed the arms before search could be made. In all probability the rifles seized yesterday were part of the same lot which were then reported to be secreted in a certain barn in the Eighth ward.

TENEMENT HOUSES ON FIRE.

At twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock this morning fire broke out in one of the two four story tenement houses over the Phenix Plaster Mills, Tenth avenue and Thirteenth street. The flames soon spread through both buildings and completely gutted them. The consternation produced among the occupants of the houses when the alarm was first given was extreme, and the shrieks of the women and children, crying out for help, soon brought a large number of persons to the street in front of the burning buildings. One of the houses was supplied with fire escapes, by means of which the inmates were enabled to get down without serious danger; but in the other, it having no fire escape, were it not for the extraordinary exertions of the firemen in using the ladder there must have been loss of life. As it was no injury was sustained by any of the inmates of either house. The loss is estimated at about $15,000. It could not be ascertained if there was any insurance.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

The steamer Tybee reports having left United States steamers Yantic at St. Domingo city, December 6, and Nantasket at Porto Plata, December 13, all well. The Swatara was expected at St. Domingo city from Martinique on the 7th.

The United States steamer Resaca was lying in Auckland for a considerable portion of last month and underwent some necessary repairs. It was reported that she was offering twenty dollars a month for 100 recruits to complete her crew. The officers of the vessel and the people of Auckland seemed to relish the acquaintance and an interchange of the usual compliments took place.—*Wellington (New Zealand) Independent, Nov. 3.*

The United States steamer Resaca sailed from Auckland for Valparaiso October 1.

PERSONAL NOTES.

S. B. Cleghorn, the new Mayor of Columbus, Ga., is thirty-one years of age, and lost his leg and several fingers at the battle of the Wilderness.

Miss Lily Peckham, of Milwaukee, who studied law just long enough to be shocked at the iniquity of the profession, is now preparing herself for the ministry.

Professor Cook, New Jersey State Geologist, who has been on a tour to Europe, returned to his home at New Brunswick last week with health much improved.

Bishop Persico has appointed Very Reverend William J. Hamilton, Vicar General of the Diocese of Savannah, to the pastorship of the Catholic church of Augusta.

The radical nominee for the Senate in the Seventeenth district of Georgia, one Aaron Gilbert (colored), has been indicted for sending a challenge to one R. H. Kirk.

George F. Elliot, member elect to the Massachusetts Senate from the Sixth Middlesex district who was a member of the Senate in 1867, is the senior member by date of service in the Senate of 1871.

Matthias Rich, of Ward Nine, will be the President of the new Common Council of Boston. Mr. Rich is of the firm of Matthias Rich & Co., wholesale grocers, and has had a year's experience in municipal affairs.

The Montgomery (Ala.) *Mail* says that in consequence of the continued indisposition of Judge Busteed the United States Circuit Court stands adjourned from the 19th of December to the third Monday in January next.

Hattie Rogers, a member of a travelling female minstrel troupe, attempted suicide by taking laudanum, at Sparta, Wis., on Thursday. At last accounts her condition was critical. A misunderstanding with her lover was the cause.

Among the speakers at the dinner of the Pilgrim Society, Plymouth, Mass., on the 21st inst., are Governor Claflin, Mayor Shurtleff, General Howard, Hon. Henry Wilson, Hon. George S. Hillard, Chief Justice Bradley, of Rhode Island; Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, Hon. John H. Clifford, Hon. Charles Francis Adams, Mayor McMichael, of Philadelphia, and Rev. Dr. Bellows and J. P. Thompson, of New York, are expected.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

The Legislature of Alabama is on a recess, which will last until the 18th of January.

The Shawnee Indian lands in Kansas, heretofore untaxable, will be placed on the tax rolls next spring.

A new post office has been established in Cortland county, N. Y., to be called Creswell, formerly Harford.

Navigation on the Upper Mississippi has about closed for the season, most of the boats having made their last trips.

Two hundred and twenty-seven miles of the Midland railroad have been completed, and 147 miles are in successful operation.

Mrs. Rachel Trimble, widow of ex-Governor Allen Trimble, died at her residence in Hillsboro, Ohio, on the 25th ult., in the eighty-first year of her age.

The Venango (Pa.) papers call for the suppression of an establishment in Franklin where young girls are in training for the "female minstrel" business.

A regular divorce matinée was held in the Common Pleas Court room, Indianapolis, Ind., on Saturday, Judge Blair presiding. Four divorces were issued.

A firm in Louisville has received an order from France for 1,500 casks prime mess pork for use in the French army. The contract is to be filled by the 15th instant.

Catharine Fealty died in Harrison township, Perry county, Ohio, on the 25th ult., aged 103 years. She was a native of Ireland and one of the first settlers of McLuney.

There is a vigilance committee in Southwestern Kansas, and the well disposed people assert that its operations are more damaging than the acts of the marauders which it was formed to suppress.

The one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Belfast, Me., will be celebrated on the 21st or 22d of this month. Mr. Joseph Williamson will deliver an address, and there will be other appropriate exercises.

The Duxbury (Mass.) and Cohasset Railroad Company have contracted with H. G. Reed, of Scituate, for the building of its entire road, eighteen and a half miles long, the road to be ready for the rolling stock by July 1, 1871.

The average price of cotton last year was ninety-nine dollars a bale and the aggregate value of the crop three hundred and ten millions. This year the average price is about sixty dollars and the value of a three and half million crop will be two hundred and ten millions.

The shipments of produce from Red Wing, Minn., during the season of 1870 were as follows:—Wheat, 876,524 bushels; flour, 31,417 barrels (in the aggregate equal to 1,083,909 bushels of wheat); barley, 81,943 bushels; butter, 1,782 pounds; hides and skins, 43,188 bundles; oats, 20,548 bushels.

Among the vessels which have been put on the berth at Boston for Cape of Good Hope, in consequence of anticipated immigration to the South African diamond fields, is the old schoolship Massachusetts. She will sail about January 1, under command of Captain George N. Elliot.

The shipment of corn from Peoria, Ill., on Tuesday last week amounted to 40,000 bushels, being the heaviest ever known. It is impossible to fully supply the demand in that city for cars for the shipment of grain. Within six months a half dozen new grain-dealing firms have sprung up in Peoria.

A despatch from D. Huntington, at the summit of Mount Washington, dated seven P. M. Thursday, reports the temperature at five degrees below zero. Velocity of wind, ninety-two miles an hour. It is fearful, but we have full confidence that the house will stand. The clouds on the mountain are dense.

Strong indications of coal oil have been discovered near Swanville, Ind. In quarrying rock for turnpike purposes a ledge was opened that is strongly impregnated with crude oil in the seams. A specimen, says the Madison *Courier*, showed strong signs that oil in paying quantities was not far off.

The Sheboygan and Fond du Lac Railroad has been purchased by James F. Joy, of Detroit, and not Mr. Vanderbilt. Mr. Joy's plan is to extend the road to St. Paul via Ripon, connecting with the Northern Pacific at the former point. A line of steamers is to connect the road with the Detroit, Howell and Lansing Railway, now in process of construction, and which will terminate either at Whitehall or Pentwater.

The will of Richard Nelson Hayden, of Chicago, one of the victims of the ill-fated steamer Camoria, has been probated. The estate is valued at $800,000. The will provides that for twelve years the rents of certain property shall be divided between the Orphan Asylum, the poor of the parish of Christ church, the Home of the Friendless and the Magdalen Asylum, the respective portions to be paid on each Christmas morning.

A party went up Mount Washington from Lancaster, N. H., last week, to visit Professor Huntington, who has arranged to spend the winter there. The party found the ascent a difficult one, and one of their number came nearly giving out. The Professor is entirely alone, his companions not yet having joined him. The telegraph furnished by government does not work very well. The frost has accumulated on the outside of the building a thickness of two or more feet, sticking out like needles. The scientific world will await with much interest the report of his winter's experience.

GERMAN CATHOLIC MEETING IN EVANSVILLE, IND.

EVANSVILLE, Dec. 18, 1870.

The German Catholics of this city held a large meeeting to-night. They denounced the occupation of Rome by Victor Emanuel and pledged themselves to the support of the Pope's severeignty and took measures to form a Peter's Pence Society.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD.

Sunday, Dec. 18—11:35 P. M.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SIGNAL SERVICE, UNITED STATES ARMY.

Place of Observation.	Height of Barometer.	Thermometer.	Direction of the Wind.	Force of the Wind.	State of the Weather.
Cheyenne	29.65	16	N.	Very brisk.	Cloudy.
Omaha	29.80	22	N. W.	Brisk.	Clear.
St. Paul	29.76	27	W.	Gentle.	Clear.
Duluth	29.75	28	N. W.	Very brisk.	Fair.
St. Louis	29.91	38	S.	Gentle.	Clear.
New Orleans	29.82	50	E.	Brisk.	Cloudy.
Milwaukee	29.90	25	S. W	Brisk.	Clear.
Chicago	29.94	33	S. W.	Gentle.	Clear.
Mobile	29.94	57	N. E.	Gentle.	Light rain.
Nashville	30.03	35	—	Calm.	Fair.
Montgomery	29.95	49	—	Calm.	Light rain.
Cincinnati	30.08	29	—	Calm.	Cloudy.
Toledo	30.02	30	—	Calm.	Cloudy.
Detroit	29.94	30	S.	Brisk.	Cloudy.
Cleveland	30.05	33	S.	Very gentle.	Cloudy.
Lake City, Fla.	30.00	57	E.	Gentle.	Cloudy.
Augusta, Ga.	30.37	47	—	Calm.	Clear.
Pittsburg	30.16	31	S.	Gentle.	Cloudy.
Buffalo	29.97	30	E.	Very gentle.	Cloudy.
Rochester, N. Y	30.09	23	S.	Gentle.	Fair.
Oswego, N. Y.	30.02	30	S.	Very gentle.	Clear.
Washington	30.10	38	—	Calm.	Cloudy.
New York	30.06	30	W.	Brisk.	Fair.
Boston	29.87	24	N W.	Gentle.	Clear.

Barometer corrected for elevation and temperature.

SHIPPING NEWS.

Almanac for New York—This Day.

Sun rises	7 20	Moon rises, morn	3 38
Sun sets	4 34	High water...eve	5 44

OCEAN STEAMERS.

DATE OF DEPARTURES FROM NEW YORK FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY.

Steamer.	Sails	Destination.	Office.
Iowa	Dec 21	Glasgow	7 Bowling Green
Idaho	Dec 21	Liverpool	29 Broadway.
Lafayette	Dec 24	Havre	68 Broadway.
City of London	Dec 24	Liverpool	15 Broadway.
Europa	Dec 24	Glasgow	7 Bowling Green
City of Cork	Dec 27	Liverpool	15 Broadway.
Nevada	Dec 28	Liverpool	29 Broadway.
Tyrian	Dec 28	Glasgow	7 Bowling Green
Caledonia	Dec 31	Glasgow	7 Bowling Green
City of Brook'n	Dec 31	Liverpool	15 Broadway.
Colorado	Jan 4	Liverpool	29 Broadway.

PORT OF NEW YORK, DECEMBER 18, 1870.

ARRIVALS.

REPORTED BY THE HERALD STEAM YACHTS.

Steamship Iowa (Br), Ovenstone, Glasgow Dec 3, with mdse and 70 passengers, to Henderson Bros. Had fine weather up to the 15th inst, since strong NW gales.

Steamship Copernicus (Br), Verrill, Buenos Ayres Nov 18, Montevideo 19th, and Bahia 29th, with mdse and 10 passengers, to Busk & Jevons. Had rough weather with strong variable gales.

Steamship Tybee, Delanoy, St Domingo Dec 6, via Porto Plata 10th, with mdse and passengers, to Spofford Bros & Co. Had strong N and NW winds and heavy head sea during the last 4 days.

Steamship Bienville, Baker, New Orleans Dec 11, with mdse and passengers, to Livingston, Fox & Co. Dec 13, lat 24 44, lon 83 40, passed schr Adeline Elwood