

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 730 Broadway... GRAND OPERA HOUSE... OLYMPIC THEATRE... WOODS'S MUSEUM... GLOBE THEATRE... FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE... BOWERY THEATRE... BOOTH'S THEATRE... NEW YORK STARD THEATRE... NELLO'S GARDEN... WALLACK'S THEATRE... MRS. F. B. CORWY'S PARK THEATRE... BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC... TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE... THEATRE COMIQUE... SAN FRANCISCO MINSTER HALL... BRANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE... APOLLO HALL... BROOKLYN OPERA HOUSE... NEW YORK CIRCUS... DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM... NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY...

New York, Friday, December 30, 1870.

CONTENTS OF TO-DAY'S HERALD.

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The Hudson from Albany to Rhinebeck is at last closed effectually by ice.

A TERRIBLE BOLLER EXPLOSION occurred in Williamsburg last evening. Two men were instantly killed, another is missing and several were severely injured.

THE DEMONSTRATION in Cooper Institute last evening in favor of the French republic was very enthusiastic. Speeches were made by John Mitchell, Algernon Sullivan and a number of others.

TURNING THE TABLES.—The chances of war are mighty uncertain. It was King William, we believe, who was going to bombard Paris. Well, it seems Paris has gone to bombarding him.

COMMISSIONER PARKER, of the Indian Bureau, is charged by Mr. Welsh, of Philadelphia, with various misappropriations of the funds in his charge. The matter will probably be investigated soon by Congress.

PRESIDENT GRANT denies any intention of interfering against Logan in the choice of a Senator from Illinois. He has had rather bad luck heretofore in interfering, and the change of policy indicated is good for everybody, possibly, except Logan.

COMMODORE VANREBILT and his counsel both being sick, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has postponed the hearing of the argument relative to the payment of certain back taxes on the bonds of the New York Central Railroad. It appears that the sum of a million dollars is due the government in this connection, and we hope she may get it.

THE COMMISSION OF ENGINEER OFFICERS of the army who have just returned from an inspection of the sea coast and harbor defences of the principal nations of Europe make a very interesting report of what they saw, and a very important one in view of the possibility of a general war. England and Russia, it seems, are far ahead of the other nations in the use and adaptation of iron for harbor defences, and Russia especially has shown herself very progressive in the matter.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRIM.—The eight shots fired at Prim on Tuesday night by a band of assassins—three of which shots struck the General—indicate that assassination is a feature of the policy adopted by his political opponents. The virulent, factious spirit which is thus revealed at Madrid is still stronger in the provinces. King Amadeus cannot felicitate himself on so bloody an intimation of the welcome which, perhaps, awaits him in Spain.

THE REV. MR. SABINE'S REFUSAL to preach the funeral sermon of George Holland is on a par with the Boston Fulton's invective against the dead actor Dickens. Holland was a good, honest man, a true, humble worker in his own lowly path, and he is not now to be judged by such as Sabine. With the Fultons and Frothinghams and Cooks and Sabines of the period it seems we have an unusually bad run of preachers these days. Shall we never have the good old-fashioned lowly pastor in actual life again?

The New Era of Telegraphs and Newspapers.

In another place in this day's HERALD will be found a thoughtful little article which we reprint from the Evening Mail of yesterday. The Mail, with its usual good sense, appreciates our enterprise. In its opening sentence the Mail speaks of "the HERALD plenipotentiary who has been let loose on the Continent of Europe." "Plenipotentiary" is good, but it is not the right word. Our ambassadors are everywhere—near to all emperors, kings, princes, generals, statesmen, diplomatists—their name is legion, and they are all plenipotentiaries. In Europe alone, at the present moment, we have not one, but many plenipotentiaries. We maintain them at enormous cost; but as we own and edit a great newspaper, as it is our vocation to give the people news, the growing necessity is to enlarge, not to diminish, the number of our special representatives. Evidently the editor of the Evening Mail, like the rest of mankind, finds every morning fresh cause for wonderment at the enterprise and success of the HERALD.

We take to ourselves far less credit than the wondering public is disposed to give us. We know what an independent newspaper means; we are not ignorant of the wants of the American people, and we think we understand the age in which we live. Knowing our position we strive to honor it. Our success is our reward. The truth is we live in an age which is entirely new. All old things are passing away. The days of the old stage coach, the "tally ho" or the yellow "independent" are no more. Life is no longer a sleep, a dream. It is a race—a feverish, ever-onward rush. We live years in days, days in minutes. The wayside inn, with all its delights, has passed away from the region of fact into the region of memory. Life has no longer its leisure moments. In the journey there is no halting place; in the battle there is no truce. Steam and electricity have revolutionized society quite as much as they have changed the face of the globe. Under the manipulation of science time and space have become very little things. In this late age of the world distance does not separate the sons of men; nature's barriers—ocean and Alpine heights—do not hinder their progress. In nothing are the quickening and resistless impulses of modern times more strikingly revealed than in the independent newspaper. The people are hungry for news. They cannot, they will not wait. Nor is this hunger for news limited to matters of local or national interest. It is universal. The stirring events which are taking place around the walls of Paris to-day must be reported in to-morrow's HERALD with as much fulness and accuracy as the events which are now taking place in Washington or Philadelphia or Boston. As the means of communication multiply this public craving for news increases. It doth not mock the meat it feeds on; it grows and thrives upon it. It is the business of the great independent newspaper to meet this want, to appease this daily hunger which it cannot hope to satisfy. If we have been more successful than most of our contemporaries in the accomplishment of this task it is because we have worked with perhaps more clearness of vision and more directness of aim, and with less regard for the considerations of a miserable and fruitless economy.

We have already said that the age is peculiarly new. Its scientific triumphs have a very special bearing upon journalism. The steamship was an immense improvement on the old sailing vessel; the steam car was a big stride in advance of the old stage coach; but as a newspaper agent the telegraph leaves the steamship and the steam car a thousand miles behind. It was a great day in the history of the United States, in the history of the world, when the first message tripped along the wires between Baltimore and Washington announcing the doings of the Democratic Convention in the former city. It is not forgotten that a HERALD correspondent, standing in one of the windows of the north end of the Senate wing of the Capitol, proposed on that summer day of 1844, amid the plaudits of assembled thousands, the first resolution recognizing the merits of this new agent of civilization. How mighty the leap since 1844! How the wires have worked! How they have multiplied! How they have told on trade, on politics, on journalism! We have never been blind either to the advantages or to the responsibilities resulting to the independent newspaper from this new lever of power. How we used it during our civil war—at a cost of not less than four hundred thousand dollars—is to the world generally matter of history, to us especially matter of pride. It is not necessary to refer to the use which we made of the telegraphic wires during the Abyssinian war. In advance even of the British government we gave news to England while providing for the wants of the American people. Not to speak of our special efforts in peace times, we can refer with pride to the columns of this journal since the outbreak of this Franco-German war. At a cost of scarcely less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars we have kept our readers posted in all the details of this tremendous struggle. Our correspondents, in their eager search for information, have refused to know difficulties. From Worth, from Welsensbourg, from Gravelotta, from Strasbourg, from Metz they have hurried on the news. We have interviewed the fallen Emperor at Wilhelmshöhe, and all the prominent men who, as generals, statesmen, diplomatists, have taken part in the struggle. As in the columns of the NEW YORK HERALD is to be found the best history of the American civil war, so in the same columns the future historian of this Franco-German conflict will find the most authentic and reliable materials for his history. To-day, mainly through the telegraph, the means of communicating thought and, of course, of obtaining information are multiplying enormously. From every centre on this Continent intelligence is hourly flashed to our office. Then ocean cables are rapidly on the increase. Not an item of this news can be lost. We have now three Atlantic cables. In a few years the three may have swelled to thirty. We shall soon be in telegraphic communication with all the West Indian islands. The day is not distant when Pacific cables shall make news from Shanghai and Peking, from Calcutta and Madras, as important, if not as interesting, as news from Berlin or from London. The

prospect is something alarming. But we rejoice in the prospect, and mean to turn it to account. It is our hope that within a very few years from to-day we shall have our plenipotentiaries in every known centre of life and industry, and that the telegraphic columns of the HERALD will reflect Sydney and Melbourne, Bombay and Teheran, as faithfully as they now reflect Rome, Constantinople, Versailles or Liverpool. It is very evident from all this that the age of small newspapers is rapidly drawing to a close. A journal to meet the wants will employ enormous capital as well as marvellous enterprise. The result cannot but be that newspapers, properly so called, will become fewer and fewer, and individually larger and more potent. Great journals like our own or the London Times will be able to hold their place; but the owning of a great newspaper will henceforward imply large capital and serious responsibility. It is not to be denied, however, that these impending changes will have the effect of dispelling ignorance, of breaking down prejudice, of uniting the families of mankind in a closer brotherhood, of begetting unity of interest, of language, of religion; of creating a genuine cosmopolitan spirit; of making an end of horrid war, and that thus they will prove a blessing to humanity. Pantarchy, after all, is not an empty dream. In our day we have witnessed and taken part in many revolutions. We do not despair of yet witnessing the golden age, the realization of poetic dreamland, "the parliament of man, the federation of the world."

The War in France—The New Movement of the Crown Prince.

The news from the seat of war is of rather startling importance this morning. It is said that the French guns on the new earthworks in front of Mont Valerien have rendered Versailles untenable, but we will not place too much stress upon that until it is more fully verified. The important points of the situation are comprised in the sudden northward movement of a heavy German force under command of the Crown Prince and the Duke of Saxony to reinforce Manteuffel in his operations against Havre and Faidherbe's army, and the steady advance of the French Army of the Rhone, reinforced probably and aided certainly by Bourbaki, up the valley of the Saone to Dijon and Gray.

The movement of the Crown Prince to the aid of Manteuffel can only be for the purpose of making short work of the Army of the North, in order to return the troops as soon as possible to the necessary work of guarding the long line of railway now seriously threatened, or else to take Havre by a heavy attack upon it and secure the immense supplies stored there for the use of the army. If the Paris and Strasbourg Railroad is actually held by the French forces, these supplies will serve to maintain the investing army for a period long enough probably to admit of successful operations for the dislodgment of the enemy. If Faidherbe's army, which has evidently offered an unexpectedly stubborn resistance, can be broken at once and completely, the German forces in the north can be whirled by rail to the front of the advancing Frenchmen. The transfer of troops was a favorite movement of the old Napoleon, before railroads were in use, when he marched the troops on foot from one part of a field to another; but in our war it was practised by Lee on at least one occasion, when Longstreet's corps, after striking the enemy in Virginia, was transferred by rail to Chattanooga in time to reinforce the dispirited troops of Bragg in one of the battles about the famous East Tennessee stronghold.

In the meantime the Army of the Rhone has occupied Dijon and Gray, and the German forces are said to be rapidly retreating before them. It is still a long distance from the line of the Strasbourg Railway, but the French army engaged in the expedition is probably far superior to General Von Werder's command in numbers, and most likely will soon be reinforced by Bourbaki and his corps. They can, indeed, afford to move leisurely. General Faidherbe need only pursue the Fabian policy and avoid the decisive battle that the Germans are evidently anxious to bring on. The movement against King William's communications is the best plan now open for the relief of Paris, since the failure of all direct attacks upon the line of investment. Lee's movement into Maryland, although it threatened an indispensable line of communication between the Army of the Potomac and its base of supplies, compelled the withdrawal of that entire army from the front of Richmond merely by threatening its rear. The present movement is therefore more serious than that of Lee, for it threatens the frail thread upon which the life of King William's army is suspended.

The United States Hydrographic Service.

We are glad to see that an effort is being made to establish a hydrographic department, upon a permanent and efficient plan, whereby our navigators can be supplied with maps and charts of the ocean without being dependent, as they now are, upon foreign governments. It is well known that our sea captains have to rely upon the charts of the British government for their guidance. Until within the last five years we had no United States Hydrographic Office at all. The miserable appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars a year was wholly inadequate to the service required. A petition is about to be presented to Congress, signed by the representatives of several of our leading steamship lines and insurance companies, upon this subject. We print the document in another column. It sets forth very clearly the wants complained of, and suggests the proper remedy, by establishing an efficient national hydrographic office, to which our mariners can apply for the necessary books and charts required for navigation.

THE CUBAN, YASQUEZ, who killed Josephine Weiss, in October, 1869, was arraigned for trial yesterday, and it was shown plainly that he was insane. He had fallen from the tower of a church in Havana when only six years old, and has frequently attempted suicide since. The jury rendered a verdict accordingly, and the Recorder sent him at once to the Lunatic Asylum, where it would seem to be a matter of course all murderers go found should be sent.

A Glance at the Position of the Contending Forces in France.

Winter, bleak, inhospitable and dread, nothing cheering, nothing consoling, but struggle, fight and conquer. This is the German prospect in France to-day. And on the side of the French, what of that? Resistance, and then the attempt to secure that which France has so long sighed for in vain—political liberty. The prospects, though not altogether bright, are yet of such a character as to suggest the belief that from out the desolation which now disfigures a portion of France, there may yet arise the genius which will save the nation. In one of the letters of our correspondents from Tours an instance is given of the spirit which animates the men of France who are now enrolling themselves under the banner of the republic. "It is no colder for me than it is for the Prussians," said one of the recruits now hurrying to the field; and if this spirit prevails throughout France may we not anticipate a diversion of the current which has so long flowed in favor of the Germans?

The surrender of the Emperor Napoleon and the fall of the empire found France paralyzed, as it were—downtrodden, almost helpless. No ray of light throughout the country imparted hope to the people. The capital was even threatened, and terms humiliating in the extreme were being prepared by the conqueror for the ratification of the conquered. Yet how few weeks have slipped away and yet these terms have not been complied with—not even offered. Since Sedan the country has awoken, and now three-quarters of a million of Frenchmen wield the weapons of France. The struggle, however, is not for the restoration of the empire, but for the permanent establishment of a republic. Not in the whole history of the campaigns of the empire has there been any such proofs of valor, determination, and, we might almost say, discipline, as have of late been shown by the republican armies. In some of the fights near Orleans the French did not know they were beaten, and would not know it. The sorties from Paris have given the French experience, if it has not secured to them victory. General Trochu is a cool, calculating, stern soldier, one whose abilities the empire never appreciated, or, appreciating, would not acknowledge. His seeming inactivity at the present moment must not be construed into indifference as to the situation of affairs in France. That General Von Moltke justly estimates the ability of Trochu and carefully calculates the injury he can and may inflict we feel fully satisfied. There is not in France to-day a German army at any very considerable distance from the German army surrounding Paris; more than that, there is not a position the Germans now hold that they are not prepared to surrender, and that immediately, should occasion require their presence before the walls of the capital. Taking it for granted that the Red Prince was badly beaten, so long as his retreat was not cut off he has the army around Paris to fall upon. It is the same with Manteuffel in the north, and neither are very far from this base of supplies. The German commander, thorough soldier as he is, well knows the many dangers, daily increasing, which threaten the German armies in France; and possibly it is the voice of the cry "Let us have peace" would find a more responsive echo from the German breast to-day than it would from the French.

The Proposed Monument to Farragut.

The proposal to erect a monument to the illustrious sailor whose loss the nation lately mourned meets with universal and well-merited favor. It is earnestly to be hoped that the greatest care may be exercised in selecting both the design and the site for such a monument. American artists should be invited to compete for the honor of supplying designs, among which competent judges may choose the one most worthy at once of the nation and of its great naval hero. The competition should be free from all undue influences that might expose the public to wasting their money on yet another of the monumental monstrosities which disfigure so many cities, both in Europe and in America. Undue haste—the raw haste which true art rejects—should also be eschewed. Ample time should be allowed for planning, discussing and executing the work, so that when finished it may happily illustrate that old close relation between art and the national feeling, without which, as Palgrave truly asserts, the fine arts never flourish. What Palgrave has said of England is but too applicable to this country—that "the course of our public monuments generally runs with an ominous smoothness, suggestive of a prearranged job, and issuing too frequently in a work as far from art as from nature." As for the site for the proposed monument, what would be more appropriate than the Battery, again transformed into one of the most attractive promenades in the city? Whatever form the monument shall assume, it might fitly stand on the Battery, where it would be daily saluted by the flags of all nations.

NAPOLEON DEFINES HIS POSITION

very explicitly in a letter which we publish this morning from Wilhelmshöhe. He says, among other things, that "I am the sole sovereign who governs next by the grace of God by the will of the people, and I shall never be unfaithful to the origin of either;" that "the whole people, which has four times approved of my election, must recall me by its deliberate votes, else I shall never return to France." To make "assurance doubly sure" he says, "the army possesses no more right to place me on the throne than had the lawyers and loafers to push me from it." "Lawyers and loafers" is good; as good as Bismarck's "gentlemen of the pavement." Indeed, the whole letter is good and Napoleonic. Read it.

THE GREAT WESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY was declared insolvent yesterday, and a receiver was appointed. The trusting policy holders of the concern may thank their stars that they did not die with their policies on hand, for it appears that twenty-five per cent in addition to the entire capital of the company had been exhausted. It would plainly have been a dead loss to die with such an insurance policy on hand. The Superintendent of Insurance deserves great credit for crushing in such a mere shell of a company.

New Year's at Washington—Signs of a Gay Winter.

On New Year's Washington has this advantage over New York, that whereas here the ladies stay at home all day they there join in thronging the official receptions at the White House and elsewhere in the forenoon and reserve the afternoon and evening for their own receptions. Their smiles and jewels and elegant dresses thus unite with the embroidery and gold lace of foreign ministers and of army and navy officers in enlivening the official receptions, and the other guests enjoy the pleasure of meeting them twice on the same day. An English lady of rank who passed New Year's at Washington some fifteen years ago said:—"I think there is something beautiful in one feature of the American celebration of New Year's Day. It is made an opportunity for the oblivion of neglects and for the forgiveness of social injuries." Now, as then, it certainly offers such an opportunity, and there is nothing to hinder Senator Sumner from shaking hands with General Grant on that day in proof of his assertion that no personal antipathy prompted his recent rude onslaught on the St. Domingo policy favored by the President. The same lady to whom allusion has been made describes an evening party which she attended, and which included all the notabilities of Washington, as being much like a crowded assembly in London, except that she thought there was more amusement, because the Washington party consisted of a reunion of people who, though under the same government, reside thousands of miles apart. Now that the era of reconstruction has fairly commenced, the South, as well as the North, the East and the West—the whole country in fine, from the Atlantic to the Pacific—is represented at a Washington party, not to mention the representatives of almost every nation on the face of the Earth whom it may include. It is this kaleidoscope variety of national and cosmopolitan elements which makes Washington society in winter peculiarly attractive. Moreover, the old reproach which foreign tourists used to fling at the dancing boys and giggling girls who, according to them, compose what passes for "fashionable society" in certain American cities, can by no means be applied to Washington society, which receives its tone from men and women whose distinction is independent of the accidental advantages of youth, wealth and "fashion." The very best circles of society throughout the Union are represented at the Washington parties, which offer alike to our citizens and to foreigners an agreeable and profitable study of American social life. According to our Washington correspondent there will be no lack of such parties this winter. Mrs. President Grant will receive every Tuesday afternoon, beginning with January 10. The President will give a series of State dinners during the next two months. There will be three levees at the Executive Mansion this season—one in January and two in February. Mrs. Secretary Boutwell will hold weekly afternoon receptions, and many other signs are visible that the winter will be very gay at Washington.

The French Republican Demonstration.

The meeting held last night at Cooper Institute by the French residents of this city, to manifest their adhesion to the republican government established—as we hope—in France, was one that accorded with the sympathies of the vast majority of our people. While the French empire was unmistakably on the path of aggression the cause of German unity and freedom from foreign interference had the earnest approval of nine in every ten Americans; but the position has changed since the surrender of the Emperor Napoleon at Sedan and the capitulation of his last grand army at Metz. The world now beholds a young republic struggling for national existence and upheld by the devotion of armed citizens against the combined forces of a monarchical alliance.

These sentiments were fully expressed last evening, in mere than one language, by able and popular speakers, and their words were applauded to the echo by an assemblage of three thousand persons. At the same time ferocious and vindictive words were discountenanced, and the honest appeal made on behalf of our ancient ally, the true people of France, will ring throughout this country and across the seas, and cheer the hearts of the gallant men who to-day along the valleys of the Loire, in the recesses of the Vosges and under the walls of Paris defend their honor, their homes and their liberty.

Roumanian Independence—The Eastern Question Excitement.

By telegrams dated in London and Constantinople and forwarded through the Atlantic cable we have the important intelligence that the Roumanian government has thrown off its suzerain position toward Turkey and declared its independence. The inchoate relations which the executive and people of the territory have hitherto occupied in legislative and administrative matters have been abandoned. A new nation claims association with the great families of the world. Such, in fact, is the substance of our telegraph reports to-day. The Roumanians repudiate the Treaty of 1854, and claim both the acknowledgment and support of the European protecting Powers. As may be supposed, Turkey is deeply excited. Shall we say that Constantinople is alarmed? The feeling which prevails in the Turkish capital is termed one of "profound sensation," and very correctly, too. This sensation may effect the most serious consequences. We may have the Eastern question reproduced in a still wider range than before. At all events the London Conference will not assemble "one moment ere its time" of absolute necessity.

"MISFORTUNES COME NOT single spies, but in battalions" is the apt quotation to use in reference to the unfortunate proprietor of the Globe theatre, in Boston, Mr. Arthur Cheney. Fechter and Wallack have just finished their damaging rumpus in the pet theatre of the Hub, smashing things generally, like two variable wild bulls in that Cheney shop, and now comes another distinguished foreigner, Mr. James Schenker, who sues the unfortunate and unmanagery Cheney for three thousand dollars for alleged breach of contract in the production of "Fernando." Really the school for art that was to regenerate the drama (in such an out of the way place as Boston, too) finds the idea very difficult of realization.

M. Guizot and the French Republic.

In other columns we this morning lay before our readers some extracts translated from the original text of a pamphlet from the pen of the eminent historian and statesman M. Guizot. The whole document, placed in our possession by the latest mail from France, is one of the ablest that has ever emanated from the intellect of its eminent writer, and is the more worthy of attention that it expresses the convictions of a mind thoroughly conversant with the politics of Europe and trained in the highest walks of public service through a long, laborious and distinguished career. It is addressed to the provisional republican government of France, and sets forth the condition of opinion, parties and affairs in that country with peculiar point and power. For this reason it is exciting earnest comment throughout the Old World, and will have no small influence in shaping the views of honest and discriminating statesmen.

To Americans it is especially interesting, because it points to the example of Washington and of our own republic in their hour of trial as a guiding light in favor of parliamentary forms resting on the people in one direction and on the judgment and patriotism of a wise Executive in the other.

M. Guizot grows more and more hopeful as he develops his argument, and at the close becomes even enthusiastic in applauding the new spirit that is at last to restore the prestige, the national integrity and the civic happiness, as well as the political freedom and safety, of the land he loves.

Charity Races Extraordinary—Boss Tweed Against Sheriff O'Brien.

General John C. Smith, the physical giant of Sherman's staff, has said of the late General John A. Rawlins, the mental giant of Grant's staff, that Rawlins could "swear without wickedness." In the charity race now going on in this city between Grand Commissioner Tweed and High Sheriff O'Brien the bosoms are audacious poured upon the head of Boss Tweed by the Tribune, Times, World, Sun, Star, Transcript, Sunlight and other papers may well excite the inquiry, "Can the Boss listen to all this, and, like Rawlins, 'swear without wickedness'?" These papers have been complimenting Tweed on his fifty thousand dollar gift, and seem to have lost sight altogether of the munificent donation of twenty thousand dollars' worth of coal given each year for the past three years, making sixty thousand dollars in all, or plus ten thousand on Tweed's contribution, by the modest Sheriff O'Brien, whose term of office is about expiring. Why should not Sheriff O'Brien receive some testimonial for his benevolence? If the stipulations of the political race last fall had been properly understood every candidate and the friends of candidates would have been properly handicapped with charity. Belmont would have been called upon; Vanderbilt might have done something; Bismarck Sweeney might have planked down something handsome; Dick Connolly assuredly would; Judge Hilton might not have been called upon; A. T. Stewart would probably not have been backward; Hugh Smith might have helped along the ball; Tom Fields might have shied his castor into the ring; Chamberlain Bradley might have planked down handsomely—but, as it is, the race has settled down to a contest between the ambitious Commissioner Tweed and the modest Sheriff O'Brien, with ten thousand dollars ahead on the three years' stake in favor of O'Brien. Let Sheriff O'Brien have a testimonial.

These charity races are very good things. They are calculated to stir up the bowels of compassion among those whose riches are plethoric, and who require occasional bleeding in order to keep their bodies politic in a proper degree of health and vitality. Again we say let Sheriff O'Brien have a testimonial.

MONEY TIGHT IN WALL STREET.—When a pauvre diable picks a pocket or a lady accidentally takes a few cents' worth of candy in a fancy store there is a terrible hue and cry, and the detectives make a glorious arrest. But down in Wall street, where there is an organized conspiracy against the well-being of society, and where the law of usury has been openly and flagrantly violated every day for a couple of weeks, the detectives and the police are blind to the malefaction. Yesterday borrowers paid at the rate of ninety-seven per cent per annum for the use of money. Fortunately this is the season when business is dull, otherwise the inconvenience arising out of such a dangerous conspiracy to "lock up" money would be of the most serious character.

Personal Intelligence.

Major General Sir Trevor Chute, K. C. B., the hero of the first New Zealand war, and Lady Chute, arrived yesterday by way of San Francisco, and are now staying for a few days at the Brevoort House. Sir Trevor is the commander of the British forces and next in rank to the Governor General of Australia. He is now on his return to England, after an absence of twenty-two years, during which he has seen some hard fighting in the colonies. Mr. James P. Newcomb, Secretary of the State of Texas, is sojourning at the Metropolitan Hotel. Commodore Case, of the United States Navy, is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on a brief visit. Mr. L. W. Shedd, the large railroad builder of Mexico, is stopping at the Grand Central Hotel. Mr. Alexander H. Rice, ex-Mayor of Boston, came to the city yesterday, and put up at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Mr. W. L. Burt, Postmaster of Boston, is at the Astor House on a brief visit.

ICE BLOCKADE OF THE HUDSON.

Six inches of ice on the Hudson above Rhinebeck.—The steamer Connecticut Sectionally Damaged. PONTOONS KEPT, Dec. 29, 1870. Intense cold prevails here and the water in the Hudson is very low. The river is effectually closed from Albany to Rhinebeck, a distance of sixty miles, with ice six inches thick. At Catskill the Knickerbocker and Washington ice companies are preparing to harvest the crop. The steambot Connecticut, in endeavoring to force her way south past Germanstown yesterday, sustained serious damage, her hull being injured, so that it was found necessary to run her on the flats on the west shore to prevent her from sinking. She is heavily laden with an assorted cargo, which will be forwarded to New York by the Hudson River Railroad. Gangs of men, with timbers and sheets of iron, have arrived from New York to repair her injuries. She is now surrounded by huge masses of ice, and will probably remain in her present position until spring. The steambot Norwich reached here to-night from above. Her captain states that he ran through six inches of ice for three miles south of Rhinebeck. She is waiting here to break the way through to Rondout for the Rip Van Winkle, which vessel is expected from New York to-morrow. The thermometer to-night is ten degrees above zero.