NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

WOOD'S MUSEUM Broadway, corner 30th st.—Performances every afternoon and evening.

GLOBE THEATRE, 728 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, &c. Matinee at 2½.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—SARATOGA. Matinee at 1½.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 23d st., between 5th and 6th avs.—LOVE AND LOYALTY. Matinee—RICHELIEU.

NEW YORK STADT THEATRE, 45 Bowery.—SEEBACH IN DEBORAH.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE SPECTACLE OF THE BLACK CROOK. Matinee at 1½.

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

LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 720 Broadway.—KIND TO A FAULT—ALADDIN. Matinee at 2.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th av. and 23d st.—BARBE BLEUE. Matinee at 2—LA GRANDE DUCHESSE.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE PANTOMIME OF WEE WILLIE WINKIE. Matinee at 2.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—WATCH DOG—A. S. S.—DON JUAN—MOSE.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES—NIGHT OF THE WOODS.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—JEFFERSON AS RIP VAN WINKLE.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2½.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO ACTS, &c.—THE FIRE FIEND. Matinee at 2½.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREL HALL, 585 Broadway.—NEGRO MINSTRELSY, FARCES, BURLESQUES, &c.

BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 23d st., between 6th and 7th avs.—NEGRO MINSTRELSY, ECCENTRICITIES, &c.

APOLLO HALL, corner 28th street and Broadway.—DR. CORRY'S DIORAMA OF IRELAND.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—SCENES IN THE RING, ACROBATS, &c. Matinee at 2½.

ASSOCIATION HALL, 23d street and 4th av.—GRAND CONCERT.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOLEY'S AND KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS.

BROOKLYN OPERA HOUSE.—WELCH, HUGHES & WHITE'S MINSTRELS.—CARRY THE NEWS TO MARY.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 745 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

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

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Saturday, January 14, 1871.

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THE *True Georgian* is still advocating the nomination of Governor Hoffman as the democratic candidate for President in 1872. The report, therefore, that it had "gone where the woodbine twineth" is premature.

IT IS REPORTED that the Connecticut radicals intend to throw overboard Congressman Starkweather, of the New London district. What for? To attempt to make a Governor of him?

MANLY SPORTS are specially cultivated in Oregon. Last week, in Umatilla county, a man named Clarke relieved the monotony of a horse race by shooting his friend William Starke.

THE REMOVAL OF SING SING PRISON is broached in the Legislature. It ought not to be removed any further from New York. With the stern administration of justice which Judge Bedford and Recorder Hackett have instituted and kept up we need to have Sing Sing or its successor convenient to our doors.

THE BUILDING OF THE NEW STATE CAPITOL at Albany seems to be proceeding quite honestly. Several State Senators yesterday called for a report from the State Comptroller as to how the funds are being managed, and we may take it for granted that it is no job, or else they would know all about it.

GERMAN RETALIATION.—A despatch from Washington, published this morning, gives the substance of a circular issued by Count Bismarck and received by cable at the North German Legation. The document says that the treatment of the German merchant navy by France obliges Germany "to withdraw our declaration (made at the beginning of the war) that French merchant ships which have no contraband of war on board shall be exempt from capture by our vessels of war." This withdrawal takes effect four weeks after the date of the circular. Our merchants generally will provide against loss before the period of probation expires.

The Proposed New Issue of Five Per Cent Bonds—What is Our Proper Financial Policy?

The House of Representatives has passed the Senate bill authorizing the issue of five hundred millions of five per cent bonds, with an amendment that the total amount of bonds shall not be increased. The object of the amendment must be apparent to every one. It is to prevent the increase of the debt through exchanging the present six per cent bonds for five per cent ones. We suppose there will be no difficulty in passing such an amendment in the Senate. In that case the bill will become law. Then it will remain to be seen if the Secretary of the Treasury can exchange so large a portion of the debt—five hundred millions—from a six to a five per cent security at par. Of course he must offer inducements. What are these to be? The government can pay the debt off as it matures at par in gold, and, instead of doing that, it can offer to the bondholders five per cent long time bonds. Will the public creditors accept these new securities in place of the old ones at par? That is the question. It is an experiment, and there is no harm in letting Secretary Boutwell try what he can do. Another plan is to raise a loan in the markets of the world at five per cent, either for the whole of the five hundred millions or for such a portion of it as can be floated, and if this should be taken at par in gold the Secretary could redeem the outstanding six per cents without increasing the total sum of the national debt.

But, whatever may or can be done in the way of transforming the debt and saving interest on it, the paramount question now is to reduce taxation and to relieve the country of the burdens which so much depress industry and paralyze trade; and to do this, while consolidating the debt in long time securities, would help Mr. Boutwell in his efforts to change the debt from a six per cent to a five per cent interest one. We want no large surplus in the Treasury, and only a small sinking fund for awhile. When the six hundred horsemen charged the Russian guns at Balaklava Bosquet, the illustrious French general, said, as he gazed on them going to certain but useless destruction, "It is magnificent, but it is not war." So we, when we observe our gallant politicians and people tilting full at the windmill of our national debt with big, unmanageable surpluses, are compelled to cry, "It is magnificent, but it is not finance." In truth, the spirit in which we have gone to work hitherto with our revenue system and our public debt has been not that of men of business, hard-headed practitioners, with ledgers and interest tables, but of pure and simple—alas! only too simple—knight-errantry. When we had once got the debt on our shoulders the first impulse was to throw it off at all costs and hazards, without stopping to consider whether the process might not cost more than it was worth. The first stage in the affair was that movement to pay it off by subscription, as though the republic were a sort of broken-down old pauper, for whom the hat must without delay be sent round. That broke down altogether. It was too absurd a miscalculation of expediency and of profit and loss. But we are not prepared to say that the next steps were much wiser.

In point of fact they have been steps only, and have not amounted to a policy, and have been due to the popular horror of such a thing as a national debt existing at all. The bare fact of the burden seemed to place us in uncomfortable juxtaposition with the decaying, wornout States of the Old World. And it was natural and praiseworthy, perhaps, however financially unreasoning, that we should have risen in insurrection against it. It is now, however, high time that we stop short and think the matter over carefully.

We have struck the right key on this subject in our columns, and we earnestly invite the attention of our politicians and the public to our observations. We particularly insist upon the fact, so strangely overlooked hitherto, that by the plan of raising vast surpluses to pay off debt prematurely we are not diminishing the burdens of the people though we may decrease the nominal figure of the debt. Nay, we are by that process virtually increasing the debt. We increase by that method the sum which government owes the people, if the account were properly kept or could be; for this extra sum is capital taken from them and loaned to government under the pressure of the tax gatherer. Only, unhappily, this disguised loan will never be paid off till the day of judgment, and the profit and loss account of the people who inhabit the United States is the worse forever by the difference between the value of the money to them in their business and the figure of value at which the public debt stands.

Now, we believe this difference to be about two to one. Speaking roughly the public debt of the Union is now a five per cent obligation—that is to say, the bonds of the republic sell now in the market for a sum which brings about five per cent return. In point of fact it is somewhat less, but the difference is in favor of our argument; so we take it at five. Now, to pay off this five per cent charge we take away from the public pocket every year money which is worth at least double to the business of the country. Where is the sense in such proceedings as this? Where the evidence of the special Yankee 'cuteness on which we pride ourselves? It is well to have a horror of debt; but that horror should surely be regulated and disciplined by Cocker and the multiplication table and sober calculations of profit and loss.

In Great Britain the policy of paying off the national debt by a sinking fund obtained by special and extra taxation is entirely given up. Not a soul now urges it. Why? Simply on the grounds we here advance and insist on. Economists there say, "We have a three per cent debt; but money is worth to the people at least five. It would not be a paying game, therefore, to take this more valuable thing from them to pay off the less valuable thing." So they confine themselves to redeeming their debt out of the mere expansion of the public revenue due to the increase of the country. Why should not we?

The matter may be put clearly in this way. The country is a large partnership which borrowed a vast sum to keep its business going, that business being the Union itself. Here, then, is a fixed partnership charge payable at long date. But the profits of all the rest of the business done by the individual partners in the Union—every citizen, that is—give a much larger return for capital than the interest on the debt. What, then, is the good of paying it off except gradually? No private partnership would do so. And it is a mistake to suppose that any different principle is applicable to the financial affairs of the national partnership than that which regulates a private firm. It is positively painful to have to insist on such obvious truths.

The present Quixotism on this subject has lasted long enough. The public credit and the resources of the Union have received such overpowering illustration in the taxation of the last ten years that the world of capital is quite satisfied on that head; and it is to be observed, moreover, that the capital which seeks a great public debt is the sober investing capital which requires a safe, permanent security. Our plan of feverish, unresting paying off the debt does not suit that variety of capital at all so well as one which is more deliberate in character. The truth is that the public must make up its mind one way or another. If it is determined to get rid of the debt at all costs then there is nothing to be said. Profit and loss are out of the question, and we have to do with the Don and his windmill. But if the people are determined to make the most of their time and money, like reasonable beings, then it is nothing short of ridiculous to submit to oppressive taxation for the bare empty sound and name of a reduction of the public debt, which is purchased by the cruel increase of every private burden, and, therefore, in fact, of the public burden, too.

The War News—France Prostrate.

At Le Mans, on the 11th inst., Prince Frederick Charles sealed the fate of Paris by inflicting a terrible defeat upon General Chanzy's army. We have at hand no details of the struggle, but that the French were badly beaten is undoubtedly true. Coming at the present time, such a disaster cannot fail to exercise an influence over the people of France which Gambetta will find it impossible to counteract. It is doubtful, indeed, unless the reports which we publish this morning be gross exaggerations, whether Chanzy will be able to infuse sufficient spirit in his men to risk another battle. Prince Frederick Charles seems to have performed his work thoroughly. His march has been rapid and his blows have fallen with immense effect. Doubtless the French troops fought well, but all the generalship was on the other side. Chanzy's great mistake was to permit the German army to remain quietly in camp until it had been heavily reinforced. He has reaped the harvest of his own sowing. The Germans, we suppose, will follow up their victory at Le Mans and probably drive the ill-fated French Army of the Loire to the sea.

Our special and other despatches from Versailles tell the story of the progress and effectiveness of the bombardment. An advanced battery has been captured from the French, bringing the German guns one mile nearer to the doomed city. Fires, evidently caused by the shells, are becoming numerous within the walls of the doomed capital. Meantime Trochu makes no sign, and the French troops are demanding peace. The belief prevails in Versailles that surrender is imminent. We shall not be surprised if it is. Paris is now thoroughly isolated. Her last chance of succor faded to nothingness at Le Mans.

The other war news is unimportant. Von Werder is reported advancing, and our correspondent at Vienna telegraphs that Austria is moving in the matter of peace. Judged by past events she will not be successful, however. Prussia has now a certainty of final success, and she will probably exact her own terms without permitting interference from neutral Powers. Nevertheless we trust that the report of Prussia's willingness to accept the Austrian plan will prove correct. French imbecility has ruined France. The best thing Gambetta can do is to make peace, for any further struggle will be nothing better than an insane sacrifice of human life.

The Eastern Question—A New Phase.

For some weeks past the world has been waiting to hear the thunders of war resounding from the Bosphorus and the shores of the Black Sea. Russia, already armed to the teeth, was making gigantic preparations. It was not otherwise with England. There was to be a conference. Then again a conference was impossible. Austria was in a belligerent mood. Turkey was full of fight; and so on, and so on. All at once it bursts upon the war-expecting world that there is not the slightest chance of war. A prominent Russian military officer now in this country on a tour of inspection has been interviewed by a HERALD reporter, and General Gorloff laughs at the popular idea of a fresh war on the Eastern question. Between Russia and Turkey, the General says, there is no difference. That the Russian officer is right is proved by one of our latest despatches from London relative to the Eastern question. A special announces that "Turkey is willing to dispense with action by the Powers." In other words, the Sublime Porte prefers to be allowed to deal with Russia alone on this new Black Sea question. After Paris has fallen it will not surprise us if a conference meets in London or some other centre, specially at the request of the Czar and the Sultan, to ratify private arrangements, and thus modify the Treaty of Paris. It is simply absurd to expect war on the Eastern question if the Sultan and the Czar are agreed. It would seem as if another war bubble had burst.

A BILL TO REPEAL THE ERIE DIRECTORY ACT was introduced in the Assembly yesterday, and is apt to create some salutary excitement before it is finally squelched. It is quite likely that it will make a good fight in the Assembly, where there is a Tammany majority of only one; but in the Senate the majority is somewhat more decided. The bill should at least be fully discussed, even if there is no hope of pasing it, for such a magnificent outrage as the Erie bill is a wonder of impudence and cheek that our people should miss no opportunity of enjoying.

THE DIVORCE BUSINESS IN ILLINOIS.—A proposition has been made in the Illinois Legislature giving the federal authorities exclusive power upon the subject of divorce. What will become of Chicago without her perennial crop of divorces?

Congress Yesterday—Confirmation of Admiral Porter—The New Five Per Cents—Opposion to Woman Suffrage.

The Senate spent the greater part of the day yesterday in executive session, the result of the secret deliberation being the confirmation, by a majority of three to one, of Vice Admiral Porter as Admiral. The appointment of Rear Admiral Rowan to the rank of vice admiral was not acted upon, but its confirmation will naturally follow the other, and that action effectually disposes of the House bill abolishing the ranks of admiral and vice admiral. We think that the action of the Senate will meet very general approval throughout the country. Resolutions were presented in open session from the Pennsylvania Legislature and from the Philadelphia Common Council asking the Executive to request the general co-operation and attendance of citizens of the whole country in the proposed International Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876.

The morning hour in the House was given to the consideration of private bills, of which about a dozen were passed. This business was followed by a financial measure of very great importance, which was disposed of satisfactorily and without unnecessary discussion or consumption of time. We allude to the Senate bill authorizing the increase of the five per cent bonds, provided for by the Funding law of last session, from two hundred to five hundred millions of dollars. This bill was reported back by Mr. Hooper, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, with two amendments. One amendment was to leave it within the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury to decide whether the interest should be payable quarterly, as provided for in the Senate bill, and the other was to add a proviso that the aggregate issue of bonds authorized by the Funding law should not be increased. The amendments were agreed to, and the bill passed. It will be necessary for the Senate to concur in these amendments before the bill can be sent to the President for his approval.

Subsequently the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Legislative Appropriation bill, when much time was consumed over the items for the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Education. The usual conflict over these subjects developed itself, the distribution of pumpkin seeds and hollyhocks never failing to supply shafts of ridicule with which to assail the one, and prison statistics as to the proportion of criminals whose education has been neglected furnishing equally trite and valuable arguments to maintain the other. The long-headed Farnsworth, of Illinois, illustrated the weakness of the argument based on the prison statistics, which showed that ninety-eight per cent of criminals had learned no trade and twenty-four per cent no alphabet, by the suggestion that if there were any force in the argument it tended to prove that Congress should establish a bureau of trades and mechanics rather than of education. The items for the Department of Agriculture and for the Bureau of Education were, however, voted on, and the amounts increased even over what were reported by the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to reorganize the Treasury Department was introduced by Mr. Dawes, and referred to the Committee on Appropriations. It was drawn by the Secretary of the Treasury, and is intended to place the salaries of officials on a fairer basis of equality than that which now prevails, some officials having had their salaries increased by special provision of Congress, while officers of equal rank, who had not been so rich in Congressional influence, were not so favored.

Another important bill was introduced by Mr. Buffinton, of Massachusetts, and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. It provides for a commission to audit all the claims for damages by the Confederate cruisers, and for the issuance of United States bonds in payment of the same. This is in furtherance of the views of the Board of Underwriters of this city, as developed in the resolution passed unanimously by that body yesterday.

The advocates of woman suffrage, who have been on the rampage in Washington during the week under the marshalship of Susan B. Anthony and Victoria C. Woodhull, were checked in their wild career yesterday. Mr. Loughridge, of Iowa, a man who would hardly be suspected of such a weakness, presented his report, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, in support of the claim of woman suffrage; but it was rejected by the committee, receiving only the vote of its author and of Mr. Butler, of Massachusetts. That action of the Judiciary Committee will, probably, suffice to keep Congress clear of this demoralizing reform movement for the present session, at least. The Senate will not be in session to-day, but the House will keep up its reputation for industry and attention to public business.

ANOTHER FECHTER ROW.—Fechter has succeeded in getting up another sensational theatrical row in Boston, based upon his proposed complimentary benefit. Mr. Fechter seems determined to keep himself in hot water in his Boston professional relations. The water being hot, is there no danger of another Boston "tea party" being celebrated at the Hub?

CONGRESSIONAL PERQUISITES.—The Philadelphia *Inquirer* declares it to be all vanity and vexation of spirit for Senator Trumbull to press his joint resolution prohibiting members of Congress from soliciting the appointment to office of their particular friends. Although the Congressional tyranny in the matter of appointments is abominable, yet it is not likely Mr. Trumbull will have a corporal's guard in the House in favor of his proposed reform. When Congressmen voluntarily surrender their perquisites in this or any other respect, at least in a great majority of cases, you may expect the heavens to fall.

LOSS OF THE SAGINAW.—Our special correspondent at San Francisco sends us further and very interesting details of the loss of the Saginaw. Her leaving Midway for Ocean Island on an errand of mercy, her approach to the reef, going ashore and the exertions of all hands to save everything possible from the wreck are vividly described. Everything is given that has been received from the scene of the disaster, and we must wait for further particulars until the vessels sent to rescue the unfortunates return to Honolulu.

Austria as a European Peacemaker.

We are specially informed by a telegram from Vienna, transmitted for the use of the HERALD to London and forwarded thence by special cable report to New York, of the important fact that Austria is moving decisively in the matter of the arrangement of a peace between France and Prussia. The government of his Apostolic Majesty Francis Joseph has outlined a programme, or the points of basis, of a peace treaty. Should the suggestions which have just been made from Vienna be adopted and elaborated with honest intention by the European diplomats to a conclusion the horrible carnage which is now being perpetrated by the contending armies of the two foremost peoples in Europe would come to a close. Austria proposes that the French shall acknowledge the logic of events in the field, say they are beaten, and thus ward off the actual *va victis* of the conqueror. Francis Joseph recommends a present surrender of all the armed forts of France; that France give up her twenty war ships, pay Germany one thousand millions of thalers as a war indemnity, destroy all her forts which stand within twenty miles of the Rhine, and cede to Prussia a strip of land four miles in breadth inward on the left bank of the Rhine—Prussia to supply the inhabitants of Paris two millions of rations daily pending the final signature of the more immediate treaty of peace. Count Bernstorff, the Prussian Ambassador at the British Court, "welcomes," as we are assured by our telegram, this Austrian proposal. We do not see, indeed, why he should not. Austria is exceedingly well qualified to speak, both on the "glooms" and the "glories" of war. Her peoples and their rulers have experienced at different times the natural feelings that are engendered by triumph and defeat in battle. The Emperor Francis Joseph knows of the morning after Sadowa. His Majesty can in the progress of his present humane effort assure both the Prussians and French of "what heroes feel with all but life and honor lost."

Confirmation of Admiral Porter.

The Senate yesterday, in executive session, by a vote of thirty to ten, confirmed the nomination of Vice Admiral D. D. Porter to the grade of admiral, vice D. G. Farragut, deceased. By this action the Senate has sustained its reputation for fairness and impartiality; for being a body above petty spites and jealousies, and one that accepts or rejects an official upon his merits—upon his fitness for the position to which the President has nominated him. Unlike the House of Representatives, which appeared to be carried away by sudden impulse when Mr. Logan's resolution was brought forward, it has weighed the subject calmly and dispassionately; it has considered well all that has been said for and against the Vice Admiral; it has remembered his distinguished services, his many hard-fought actions, his devotion to the cause at all times and under all circumstances, and, coming to the conclusion that he deserved well of his country, confirmed his nomination, and he now stands at the head of our naval service—a service in which he has always taken a just pride, and in which he has passed so many years of an eventful life.

The Vice Admiral has been promoted, notwithstanding the influence brought to bear against him by secret enemies, and in spite of the bitter, personal enmity of B. F. Butler. The former have tried to defeat his nomination through Mr. Logan's resolution, while the latter has left no stone unturned to disgrace the officer who did not appreciate the value of his military services either at New Orleans or Fort Fisher. We are well satisfied with the result. The HERALD has persistently taken the side of the Vice Admiral and advocated his promotion. It has argued that his services entitled him to the rank; that it would be base ingratitude on the part of the country if he did not get it, and it has urged that if we expect faithful service on the part of our officers we must not allow them to go unrewarded. Almost alone the HERALD took this course, and from the beginning we felt assured that the Senate would act as it has; and now that the contest is over, we feel certain that a majority of our people will say that only justice has been done to an old and faithful servant of his country.

THE ST. DOMINGO COMMISSION is now complete. Dr. Samuel G. Howe, of Boston, has been appointed in place of Bishop Simpson, and Allan A. Burton, of Kentucky, has accepted the secretaryship, General Sigel, feeling doubtful of his Spanish, having declined that place. Dr. Howe is a gentleman of thorough culture, has achieved a general literary reputation, and is widely known as the instructor of the deaf and blind mute Laura Bridgman and for his connection with the Greek revolution. He has travelled extensively through the West Indies with his wife, Julia Ward Howe, and is fully posted upon St. Domingo. Altogether, he is an excellent substitute for Bishop Simpson, and the commission remains a highly creditable selection. The culture and erudition of Professor White and Dr. Howe will fairly match and offset the homely wisdom and hard practicality of Ben Wade, while the reputation of all three will fully insure a true and honest report.

THURSDAY was a bad day for hunting negroes in Kentucky. A party of masked men in Scott county, duly armed and equipped, started out after negroes, but found game scarce, and succeeded in bagging but three specimens. However, three other negroes were badly wounded. Unfortunately, only one of the chivalric huntsmen was killed.

THE PRESIDENT'S KU KLUX MESSAGE.—President Grant has sent in his Message relative to reported outrages in the Southern States by the Ku Klux and other raw head and bloody bones organizations. He makes no suggestion as to the action of Congress in the matter, nor does he accompany the Message with any startling comments upon the facts as set forth in the accompanying documents. He merely leaves these documents to speak for themselves. The Ku Klux Klan is evidently no myth. The wild young fellows who lost their occupation and their "niggers" at the close of the war do probably ride abroad at night, frightening the wits out of superstitious darkies; but that they keep up a persistent reign of terror in the South is open to doubt.

The Revival of the Legitimate.

The star of the legitimate seems again in the ascendant, and our dramatic records of the past week clearly point to the conclusion that the public are returning to those healthy fountains of amusement from which they delighted in the best days of the stage to drink. Last week Mr. Edwin Booth splendidly inaugurated this revival of the legitimate drama at his beautiful theatre in twenty-third street. The appearance of Mr. Lester Wallack, whose annual engagement at his own theatre always marks an epoch in the dramatic year, will, on Monday night, set the crown on this good work. Mr. Wallack belongs to our best and highest school of art. He did not, as so many now attempt, catch the golden apple of position at a bound, but by long and patient study, trained under his distinguished father and many of the brightest lights of our stage, year by year put on that light which has culminated in such luminous perfection now. Mr. Wallack will, we are informed, appear in two of those charming and graceful pieces which have been too long strangers to our stage, "Faint Heart Never Won Fair Lady," and "Used Up," of the leading characters in which he may be said to be, with Charles Mathews, the only living representative. They are the only two men on the stage now who would have the gay audacity to appear in either part. We say it with sorrow, but that whim, address, gayety and grace, light as the wave of a feather or the flutter of a fan, seems in the present day to have wholly faded and nowhere to be found. We cannot point to a single name in this country which can even give us future hope. We have excellent low comedians and eccentric comedians—men like Warren, an artist of supreme merit, like Jefferson, like John S. Clarke, like Owens—we have tragedians of unquestioned excellence, like Mr. Edwin Booth and Mr. Edwin Forrest; but with the one exception of Mr. Lester Wallack, we have not what may be termed the gentleman of the stage, the qualities for which are as much the gift of nature as any other accomplishment—such qualities as Palmer and Elliston exhibited and Mr. Charles Mathews exhibits. It is impossible to acquire this peculiar quality. You catch it from your early training and association. Both Palmer and Elliston were brought up in the best society of their day—not, like poor Grimaldi, to be placed as food for amusement "between Lord Byron and another lord," but as equals and compeers. Mr. Charles Mathews was in his youth the favorite companion of Count D'Orsay, and Mr. Lester Wallack's associations, as we all know here, have never been such as to brush a tinge of its natural lustre from the attractive charm of his wing.

Mr. Wallack's greatest quality is perhaps his wonderful variety. Although a representative light comedian, some of his greatest successes have been achieved in serious and melodramatic parts in the "Romance of a Poor Young Man," in "Pauline," "Monte Cristo" and "Rosedale," all of which have had runs of almost unequalled duration on the stage. The part of Sir Charles Coldstream, being the part in which Mr. Lester Wallack first made his appearance on the stage in this country, and his not having appeared in it since that engagement, will doubtless impart a special interest to an occasion which merely requires to be "heralded" to insure for it an overflowing success.

"Where Is the Little Nigger?"

We notice by our reports from Albany that Boss Tweed has introduced a bill to legalize the purchase of certain lakes and lands for the uses of the Croton Aqueduct, and for which the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars has been paid. We suppose this is to cover the purchase of Lake Gilead, in Putnam county, last summer, and the payment to the owners of the above amount by Mr. Tweed as President of the Board of Public Works. It will be remembered there was no little gossip at the time on the subject, to the effect that Boss Tweed was making a fine job out of the transaction—the charge being no less than the selling to the city for two hundred thousand dollars property for which he paid only twenty-five thousand. But that scandal is put to rest by the bill just introduced, indemnifying the Boss for exactly the amount of cash he paid down—twenty-five thousand dollars, no more and no less. This is a miracle of honesty on the part of a ring manager that would be deemed incredible did we not have the plain facts and figures before our eyes. Is it possible that Mr. Tweed can have performed this service for the city and not even pocketed a percentage or a commission in the operation? But do we really see the whole thing in its present light? Is there not something in the background—some balm in Lake Gilead that will allay the itching palm of the great big Boss? Is there or is there not a little nigger in the wood-pile? If so, where is the little joker? If it turns out to be a fair and square transaction on the part of Mr. Tweed we shall have to give that gentleman credit for possessing a degree of conscientiousness unparalleled in the annals of corporation jobs and jobbers. Taken in connection with his recent vaunted charitable donations, it may foreshadow a change of heart and lead to a *bonâ fide* moral reformation that will startle the political world and cause old Tammany Hall to be filled with lamentations. What! no more corporation scalps, no more pickings and stealings, no more cent per cent operations, no more tax levy subsidies? Horrible!

We shall be very glad to help Mr. Tweed along in this great work of reform—a work that should be encouraged by all taxpaying citizens. But, seriously, is there or is there not a "little nigger in the wood-pile?"

THE PACKING SYSTEM IN THE HORSE CARS.—Efforts are being made in the Legislature to relieve the street cars from the system of close crowding that has proven to be such a sore tribulation to man and beast. Similar efforts are being made in Washington, where they settle the question by making the passengers get out and walk. But such a course in New York would plaster Mr. Bergh's society all over with lawsuits. The surest remedy is a multiplicity of cars. Let them be strung all along the most frequented routes a block apart, or only half or quarter of a block apart, if the traffic permits, and then leave it to human nature. A man going home in a hurry will get on a crowded car if he can, and will consent to stand rather than delay in waiting for