

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

All business or news letter and telegraphic despatches must be addressed New York Herald.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed.

Volume XXXVI. No. 39

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

- NEW YORK STADT THEATRE, 45 Bowery.—AUS MALLA.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—SARATOGA.
BOOTH'S THEATRE, 234 st. between 4th and 5th av.—NIGHTINGALE.
FOURTH STREET THEATRE (Theatre Francaise)—EDWIN FORRESTER AS KING LEAR.
NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE SPECTACLE OF THE BLACK CROSS.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—OZEA.
LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 79 Broadway.—HUNTED DOWN BY THE TWO LIVES OF MARY LETCH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th av. and 23d st.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
OLYMPIA THEATRE, Broadway.—THE PASTORINE OF RICKELTIN OF THE TROOP.
BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—SEE SAW—NECK AND NECK.
GLOBE THEATRE, 22 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.
WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 5th st.—PERFORMERS EVERY EVENING.
MRS. F. E. CONWAY'S FINE THEATRE, Brooklyn.—HE RED LIGHT.
TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 21 Bowery.—VALENTY ENTERTAINMENT.
THEATRE COMIQUE, 64 Broadway.—COMIE VOCALISE.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTER HALL, 55 Broadway.—NEED MINSTER, FANCIES, DISAPPEARANCES, &c.
BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 251 st. between 4th and 5th av.—NEED MINSTER, FANCIES, DISAPPEARANCES, &c.
HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOVER'S AND KELLY & LORON'S MINSTER.
APOLLO HALL, corner 28th street and Broadway.—DR. COBBY'S DIORAMA OF IRELAND.
NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fulton street.—SCENES IN THE KING, AGRICULTURE, &c.
NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.
DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 745 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, February 8, 1871.

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The "Japs" in Washington attended Mrs. Admiral Porter's German yesterday. They are determined, while studying our financial and political systems, to pick up a few social items here and there, and they can find no better place to do it than in the glamour and crush of the Washington season.

COAL ON THE MISSISSIPPI.—The Memphis (Tenn.) papers are congratulating themselves upon the low price of coal in that city. What a contrast! The coal market in New York is now on the rise, and no good reason for it. We hope the Memphians will continue to enjoy immunity from the encroachments of coal monopolists.

THE DETERMINED OPPOSITION of the people of Jersey City to the proposed legislative charter for that suburb should insure its rejection by both houses of the New Jersey Legislature. Men of all parties declare that corrupt men are trying to ride into power by this charter, and the experience of New York city in times past should be taken as a warning by our neighbors across the Hudson.

AN ALDEMANO MIDDLE in Brooklyn has been settled by admitting to his contested seat in the Board William Richardson, of the Twenty-second ward, the man who "runs" the Atlantic and Fifth Avenue Railroad, keeps fires in the cars and keeps his passengers as warm as a pie. Richardson's seat was contested by the democratic candidate, Mr. Talmadge. It took six weeks' wrangling to settle the little difficulty.

A KIDSLY WELCOME.—The Mobile Register reports that another carpet-bagger has been elected representative for Yazoo county, Miss., in place of the one that hanged himself the other day, and the people of Yazoo "are perfectly willing that he should take the place of the deceased—that is, in the halter." Will the prejudices of the Southerners against carpet-baggers never wear out? What would the South ever have been without cotton bags?

THE PRESIDENT yesterday sent a message to Congress recommending that our mission to Berlin be raised to a first class, on an equal footing with that of London and Paris. As united Germany, without doubt, occupies a foremost position at present among the nations of the globe, there can be no possible objection to the proposition, and it is, besides, a very graceful recognition of the recent union of the German States—an event which bears almost the same relation to Germany as the restoration of our shattered Union five years ago bore to the United States.

American Relief for the French and German Sufferers—How to Provide It.

By a grand universal law of compensation the savages of war impel all disinterested spectators to afford immediate and substantial relief to its surviving victims. The President and the Congress of the United States, in arranging preliminary measures for the relief of the sufferers by the Franco-Prussian war, are faithful exponents of the unanimous will of the American people that this law shall be promptly and effectively recognized. On Monday the House of Representatives concurred in the Senate bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to send a vessel of war to the port of New York for the purpose of carrying provisions to the starving French and Germans. General Banks offered an amendment directing the Secretary of the Navy to place a vessel of war at the port of Boston and another at the port of Philadelphia for the same purpose. Ten thousand dollars have already been subscribed in the city of New York, and contributions in kind are already beginning to pour in to each of these three great cities. Their benevolent citizens will doubtless exhibit a generous rivalry as to which shall be foremost in a nobler strife than any between contending foes. A signal instance of what can be wrought by such rivalry was shown by the American relief gladly extended to Ireland after the dreadful famine of 1847.

But a rare opportunity is now offered for the American people to make a national act of charity unprecedented in historical annals. Congress, by a joint resolution, might authorize President Grant to issue a proclamation appealing to the people at large in behalf of the suffering French and Germans. To secure a popular response to this appeal it would be easy to use the machinery employed at our elections. The inspectors of the polls might be instructed to supply, at booths erected in every district, all purchasers with tickets, to which coupons, representing from one dollar to twenty or a hundred dollars each, could be attached. If only four fifths of the usual number of voters should buy individually a one dollar coupon the sum thus raised would amount to at least four million dollars. Many voters would willingly buy coupons of a higher figure. Moreover, the subscribers to this noble charity would by no means be limited to the list of voters. Native citizens, naturalized and unnaturalized foreigners, particularly those of German and French birth, would be alike invited to join the throng of purchasers. What a splendid chance would the women of America thus enjoy to make their first appearance at the polls! Bingham himself could not object to woman suffrage in so graceful a guise. He might even march up to the polls arm in arm with Mrs. Woodhull on such an occasion. The less strong-minded of the sex might cast their votes for the relief of the widows and orphans of French and German soldiers, in ballot boxes placed in churches or in the parlors of acknowledged leaders of society. In every college and school, at the meeting place of every benevolent association, in all the clubs, in all the theatres and in all the churches throughout the land special contributions might be made, which, together with private personal gifts from the merchants who have directly profited by importations from France and Germany, and from wealthy travellers who recall with delight their visits to those countries, would largely swell the vast aggregate sum to be realized by our quasi election scheme at the polls.

This scheme would prove at once novel, simple and effective. Within a fortnight it would yield a far greater amount of contributions in kind and in money than could be possibly obtained in any other way. By the processes ordinarily adopted the idols of mutual admiration societies in our different towns and villages would strut their brief hour on the public stage, and the only result would be columns of wordy and self-glorifying resolutions and, at the utmost, a meagre collection of twenty or thirty thousand dollars. Such a pitiful sum would be but a drop in the bucket in view of the exigencies of the case.

No rhetoric can adequately set forth the urgency of the case. The single item of the loss occasioned by the destruction of cart wheels alone in one short campaign has been cited by a thoughtful writer as a striking illustration of the costliness and destructiveness of war. The aggregate of the losses, direct and prospective, incurred by the people of Germany, as well as by the people of France, since the Franco-Prussian war is simply incalculable. Apart from the irremediable loss of life and the waste of war material, the depreciation of values and the utter annihilation of certain kinds of property, it must be remembered that food has been taken out of millions of mouths and clothes of millions of backs. Hunger and nakedness cry aloud to us for relief, not only on the desolated plains and in the bombarded cities of France, but in many a bereaved household in Germany.

Doubtless no inconsiderable part of American contributions for the relief of the suffering French and Germans will be made in kind, especially in the West, that granary of the world. Probably it will be advisable to convert most of the rest of the contributions, whether jewels, plate or money, into articles of food and clothing. The money can thus be at once profitably thrown into circulation here, while abundant provisions are sent abroad. Ships can be freighted with wheat, corn, bacon and all other kinds of food that can bear transportation. American manufactures can be more favorably exhibited abroad than they have yet been at any World's Fair. Boots and shoes from Lynn, cottons and woolsens from Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and even, if needed, silks from New Jersey, as well as ready made clothing from New York, Boston and Philadelphia, might for once, at least, be usefully exported to Paris and Berlin.

Altogether, aside from the immediate, substantial relief which the American people would afford to the people of France and Germany by such a national, spontaneous contribution of provisions, clothing and money as we have suggested, there is a still higher consideration in its favor. It could not fail to impress the people of those countries and of all other countries in Europe with a sense of the prodigious force of voluntary, concerted action on the part of the citizens of the great American republic. It would be a convincing

proof of the unexampled prosperity of a land in which republican institutions are established. It would be a revelation of the might of a free, self-governing people. It would be an eloquent protest against the iniquity and destructiveness of such diabolic duels as the one in which the Franco-Prussian war began. It would be a sincere expression of our sympathy with the people of both France and Germany, and of our gratitude to each nation for the inestimable advantages which we have ourselves derived from their science, art and civilization. In fine, it would be the best proclamation in favor of practical republicanism which the United States could make to Europe and the world.

The Chaos in France.

No one can reflect on the condition of affairs in France at the present time without feelings of regret and pain. To see that once proud and powerful nation the prey of the noisy, turbulent and unprincipled crew who now attempt to guide her is a melancholy spectacle. In the presence of the enemy, during the siege of the capital, while the armies of France were in the field or in the early days of the republic, we had few of those evidences of the conflicting elements of which the republican party in France was composed. That they existed we were well aware; but the severe lessons which the nation had experienced by the German invasion, it was considered, had taught the French a lesson which would not be altogether lost upon them. The devastation of the fields, the destruction of cities and towns, the capture of the capital and the cries of a famine-stricken people have had little or no effect on the wretched desperadoes who now influence or attempt to influence public opinion throughout the nation. While the war was accomplishing its work of destruction these fellows kept quiet. Husbanding their strength they watched their opportunity, and now, at a time when the nation stands weak and powerless, unable alike to defend itself from the assaults of a foreign foe or a domestic enemy, these vipers, in the name of liberty, are by their very acts strangling republicanism in France in its infancy. The special despatches to the HERALD published to-day, and on other occasions, from Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons and other points throughout the country, serve to show the wretched character of the majority of the men who are candidates for the National Assembly. It seems as though the very slums of Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons and Marseilles have thrown upon their refuse to be used by the unprincipled demagogues who wield temporary power in France. Rapidly the nation is lapsing into a state of anarchy, not hopeless we trust, as we have every confidence in the ability of the French people to free themselves from the power of the rash and reckless men who are profiting by the prostration of the country. While famishing people cry for bread in the streets of Paris the mob yell for a Robespierre and the guillotine. The people ask for food, sigh for peace and pray for protection, and their leaders have nothing better to give them than starvation, war and violence. In the agony of their despair the terror-stricken people suffer in silence, afraid to speak their thoughts or raise their hands to save themselves from the tide of violence which threatens them with destruction. For the moment the mob rule and despotism is the law. Are these the materials with which France expects to establish a permanent republic? or are they but miserable exhibitions on the part of the insignificant actors, who now play their pranks while a nation suffers, ere they fall into that obscurity from which they can never again rise? Truly, France is suffering. Bleeding from every pore, paralyzed in every part, humiliated, cast down and prostrate, she is even now, in this bitter hour, tormented by the dissensions and evil teachings of her own children. Had these so-called republicans of France the love of country at heart and an honest respect for the wishes of their countrymen they would have appealed to the nation in the name of liberty, and, without threat or intimidation, awaited the result. This is true democracy, which these fellows cannot appreciate. Gambetta, Flourens, Rochefort and the rest of that crew have destroyed the chances for the present of a permanent republic in France.

THE LOSS OF THE SAGINAW—RESULTS OF HER OFFICERS AND CREW.

It is with much pleasure that we give the special telegrams from the HERALD's correspondent at San Francisco announcing the safe arrival at that port of the wrecked officers and crew of the United States steamer Saginaw, all safe and well. This will be welcome news to their friends and relatives, and it removes a load from the public mind, which has been waiting and wishing for information of the unfortunates, fearing that great suffering was to be their lot on the desert island upon which they were cast away.

IT IS STATED that Senator Sumner's Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate is opposed to General Buller's resolution of welcome to the Fenians. They hold that it is an official recognition of Fenianism, which would be tantamount to a direct insult to England, and is an outrageous departure from the etiquette of nations. It is quite likely that such is the case; but we are a nation of innovators, and as we were strictly correct in our previous department toward the Fenian invaders of Canada and in other matters of national politics, we might be allowed the privilege of a little blunt rudeness in this case, where our own citizens have been returned to us from British prisons.

THE COLLISION between the steamers North Star and Ella Warley, on the 9th of February, 1863, off Long Branch—by which the latter vessel became a total loss—had its final decision in the Court of Admiralty on Monday. Perhaps the most difficult fact to come at is the actual liability to blame in case of collisions at sea, all the witnesses being interested parties. In this case Judge Woodruff decided as the Court below had already done, that in the case of the vessels, like the men who were disputing about the color of the chameleon—that "both were right and both were wrong," but the wrong a little on the side of the lost steamer. The cross libel suits were therefore dismissed, each litigant having to share the loss of the accident.

The Hudson River Railroad Accident.

The particulars of the collision on the Hudson River Railroad, near New Hamburg, on Monday night, are replete with horror. A kerosene train runs off the down track and is wrecked across the up one just a couple of seconds ahead of the New York passenger express for Buffalo, which, with its packed mass of human beings, plunges into the wreck. Then the kerosene, that terrible agent of death and mutilation, takes fire, and then the drawbridge upon which the collision took place gives way, and then drowning and burning are added to the other horrible methods of death that waited upon the crash. Thirty-eight persons are supposed to have been slaughtered in this dreadful disaster, and a great number of them are New Yorkers, the passenger train being the regular sleeping car train which left this city on Monday evening. The details are given in our news columns. They are too heartrending for us to enter into them here. The description of the dead bodies will read with horrible fascination by many of our readers this morning, who dread to see some loved one's person outlined in the list or read some dear friend's name among the killed.

So far as human judgment can go at present it is impossible to say that the blame of the accident lies upon any human being. There are little deficiencies that are overlooked in every phase of human life every day, which the ordinary human intellect is doubtless incapable of recognizing, and which, little as they are, are enough to affect such disasters as the present one. In this case the initial cause of the calamity seems to be that the train "jumped" the track. It is not known that there was any defect about the rails or the wheels, or that there was any cause for the "jumping" which the human intellect could have foreseen and removed. The train, with a perverseness nearly human, merely "jumped" the track, and bounding for the length of a few rods along the solid sleepers tilted over upon the up track and lay helpless in the way of the coming mass of humanity. The most careful investigation could not probably have foreseen or prevented this perverse jumping, and we believe there has never been any serious complaint of the management of the Hudson River Railroad, so far as the carefulness of its employes are concerned. After the first wreck took place there seems to have been no time to warn the coming passenger train, for it was even then whirling, at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour (and yet not twenty rods away), upon the stumbling block that so suddenly interposed for its destruction. So far as these particulars go, man may be held blameless. But the breaking of the bridge and the fearful horrors of the kerosene explosion are matters that must be investigated. The bridge, one of those trestles with which the whole line of the railroad is dotted, may not have been built to sustain the shock of such a collision upon it; but it should have been. It must be shown by legislative investigation at once that there were no rotten timbers in that edifice. As for the transportation of so inflammable a substance as kerosene upon passenger railways, it is a practice which is too fraught with danger to be justifiable unless extraordinary precautions are used. The worst horrors of the disaster would have been avoided and, most probably, many lives would have been saved had that bridge been able to bear the shock of the collision and had there been no loaded cars of kerosene to add fire to the dismal agents of death that rioted upon the wounded. The public demands an investigation into this matter, and the censure and punishment must be mercilessly and impartially placed where the fault lies.

The Defenceless Condition of Great Britain—Army Reform.

In view of the opening of the British Parliament on an early day it is proper to notice the fact that among the many questions demanding attention the absorbing question is the condition of the British army. It is on all hands admitted that while the British navy is equal to any demands that may be made upon it, the British army is weak, not only for aggressive but for defensive purposes. The condition of the army is the grand theme of the quarterlies, of the monthlies, of the weeklies. It is the testing question wherever members of Parliament have found it convenient or necessary to meet with and address their constituents. Earl Russell has submitted a plan by which he proposes to utilize the strength of the three kingdoms. Lord Elcho, the soul for many years past of the volunteer movement, has made public his scheme. Mr. Trevelyan, an able and eloquent nephew of the late Lord Macaulay, has been traversing the country, delivering speeches and writing for periodicals, calling for army reform and holding up the example of the soldiers of the days of Cromwell. Later, a distinguished army officer, Sir William Mansfield, a man who has won distinction in India, has submitted a plan which promises, in a modified form, perhaps, to be accepted by Parliament as the best basis of army reconstruction. Sir William proposes that every able-bodied young man be bound by law to serve for one year in the militia, which must be reorganized and placed on a better footing. He proposes also that in the event of invasion the young militiaman be subject to service for five years more. The ranks of the militia force are to be kept full by the ancient though disused form of the ballot. In the course of five years, according to Sir William, the militia would consist of some five hundred thousand or one million of men, greater or less, in proportion to the blanks fixed on for the ballot. The regular army is to be recruited from the militia by voluntary enlistment. To avoid all unfairness which might result from frivolity or wealth the plan proposes that every man within the limits of age must either serve as a volunteer or submit to the chances of the militia ballot.

This rapid sketch of the most promising plan of the moment shows how thoroughly John Bull is frightened out of his boots by the recent events on the Continent of Europe and how he means to prepare himself for emergencies. Big nations with their big armies have seriously affected the European equilibrium. No nation is so seriously affected by the change as England. It is well that her eyes are open. In the forthcoming session of Parliament Mr. Gladstone will have some trouble with army reform.

Threatened Anarchy in Paris.

Yesterday we expressed surprise at the order and quiet which prevailed in Paris. This morning we publish a special despatch from our correspondent in the city which shows that the Parisians are becoming again as revolutionary and impracticable as ever. They are dissatisfied with everything and everybody. All is confusion in the French capital. Favre and his colleagues are in disfavor because they agreed to an armistice, and the feeling against Gambetta is increasing—we suppose because he failed to raise the siege. Red republicanism of the worst type begins to show itself. One orator at a public meeting declared that a Robespierre was required and that the guillotine alone could save France. Unhappily for the immediate future of the country a declaration so atrociously bloodthirsty, instead of receiving indignant condemnation, was, our correspondent assures us, received with enthusiasm and yells of delight. And, in keeping with this atrocious sentiment, we have the fact that most of the Paris candidates for the Assembly are men taken from the slums of Belleville and St. Antoine—men notorious for their violence, recklessness and lack of ability, genuine descendants, doubtless, of the desperadoes who were the early inhabitants of the French capital. We have no doubt that these villains, madmen and fanatics are a minority of the population; but, unfortunately, they are the party of action, compact and united, against the party of order, divided and irreconcilable in their division. Will the old *no-messe* coalesce with the Orleanist bourgeoisie, the Orleanists with the imperialists, the imperialists with either? Yes, if either can absorb the others, and not otherwise. And as this is not practicable the result promises to be a political cutthroat game all around, probably winding up with a real cutthroat game played upon the guillotine.

Jules Favre and his colleagues seem to dread approaching anarchy. Their postponement of the elections till to-day is an indication of their dissatisfaction with the situation. Already, as our correspondent reports, their arrest and trial are advocated, and one speaker, M. Gaillard, has denounced them as twelve bandits who have sold Paris for gold. To appease the public feeling they have officially denied having entered into peace negotiations, declaring that they have no power to treat for peace. It does not appear, however, as if any explanation will satisfy the "reds." Rochefort's and Pyat's (sweet pair of political doves!) new papers breathe nothing but revolution and vengeance. In fact, Paris is a small volcano at the present moment.

And while the political situation is so threatening the actual horror of starvation is looming up. On Saturday last all the flour in the city was exhausted, and the work of re-ventilating made but slow progress. Thus we must conclude, from the tenor of our special despatch, that between red republicanism on the one hand and famine on the other, Paris stands on the verge of anarchy.

Business Failures in the United States—Interesting Facts for Traders and Politicians.

We have before us a mercantile circular for the year 1870, in which we find some interesting facts in the shape of figures giving the number of business failures in New York and Brooklyn and throughout the Union for the years 1868, 1869 and 1870 respectively. It thus appears that the aggregate of failures in money for each of these years is as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Year, New York and Brooklyn, United States. Data for 1868, 1869, 1870.

Here it will be observed that while the failures in New York and Brooklyn in 1868 were nearly equal in money to all the failures in the United States outside of these cities, the New York and Brooklyn failures in 1869 were less than one-half, and in 1870 they were less than one-third of the failures outside this metropolitan district. This would seem to indicate that while the merchants of New York and Brooklyn have been holding down the brakes since 1868 those of the country outside have been putting on steam. So it happens that while the sum total of all the failures in the Union in 1868 (including our two cities) was in round numbers sixty-three million dollars, it is given for 1870 at eighty-eight million dollars.

There would be in all this, however, nothing very alarming but for these important facts:—The whole land, city and country, is overrun with merchants of all sorts. In the competition thus produced there has been a fearful cutting down of profits, which, with the steady decline in gold since the war, has operated to break the backs of the weak traders who on pay day could not come up to time. The great mass of the consumers of "store goods" have, meantime, gained from the losses of the sellers, and so the eighty-eight millions of dollars lost by our mercantile failures of 1870 may not in reality be the loss of a sixpence to the actual wealth of the country. The merchant is not a producer. He is the mere agent who passes the productions of the farmer and manufacturer from hand to hand, collecting his toll in the transfer. The banker is not a producer, nor is the broker; and yet upon these three indispensable classes, who produce nothing—bankers, brokers and merchants—all the productive interests of the country depend.

And yet, again, our enormous national debt, with its heavy burden of taxation, is operating in every way and among all classes, to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, to draw the solid wealth of the country houses and lands from the many into the hands of the few. The masses of the people are beginning to realize the increasing pressure of this state of things, and in looking about for a remedy—"short, sharp and decisive"—they are beginning to perceive that they can have it in the Presidential election of 1872. By this simple process of turning out the party in power and of turning in the democracy it is quite possible that we may have a final settlement by the year 1873 or 1874, which upon paper will signify a loss of two or three thousand millions to the country, but which in reality will signify only that if some classes of our citizens have lost so much other classes have so much gained. This is the problem which comes upon us in the consideration of our mercantile failures and the pressure of our taxes, and it is a problem which,

If not settled meantime by General Grant and Congress in lightening our taxes, will be settled in the result of the elections of 1872.

Congress Yesterday—The Chorpennig Case—The West Point Cadet Difficulty—The Income Tax—National Education.

The Chorpennig fraud was before both houses yesterday. The Senate discussed the House bill repealing the joint resolution of last session, under which an allowance of nearly half a million of dollars had been made by the Postmaster General where there was not a cent due. Two Senators, Trumbull and Vickers, reflected upon the action of Mr. Creswell, while Senator Hamlin, of Maine, defended him as having merely carried out the terms of the law. The Senate passed the repealing act, and there is an end of the Chorpennig fraud, for the detection and exposure of which the country is indebted to the active chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts. The same subject was also up in the House, in the form of a personal explanation from Mr. Cossna. This was the gentleman who, as a member of the Post Office Committee, introduced and had passed the joint resolution of last session under which the Treasury was to be depleted. His defence was that Chorpennig was a constituent of his, and therefore honest; that Jeremiah S. Black, one of Chorpennig's attorneys, had been a judge in Pennsylvania, and therefore incorruptible; that the witnesses in the case were residents of his own district, and therefore of undoubted veracity; that Mr. Earl, another of Chorpennig's attorneys and formerly the law partner and assistant of the Postmaster General, was a man of character and intelligence, and that Chorpennig had managed—we presume through the influence of Mr. Jerry Black—to get a sort of quasi endorsement for his claim from President Buchanan and President Johnson. Finally, Mr. Cossna asserted his own innocence in the matter and that of the Postmaster General, and invited the closest scrutiny of his official conduct. He did not, however, venture to assert that there was any justification for the decision of Mr. Creswell, except that he believed there was still a small balance due to the claimant. And thus ends this latest job of the Washington lobby in defeat, disgrace and mortification.

Another job also came to grief yesterday, in the shape of a veto by the President of a bill for the relief of contractors for building iron-clads and machinery for the government during the war. The President based his veto on the ground that a rise in the cost of labor and material, after the making of a contract, does not give the contractor a valid claim against the government, particularly when the loss was occasioned chiefly by delay in fulfilling the contract.

The Washington and New York Air Line Railroad bill was discussed for some time in the Senate, but was finally laid aside to give place to the consideration of private bills. One very important private bill was passed, being a bill for the relief of loyal citizens of Loudon county, Virginia, on account of stock seized by the United States forces, under General Sheridan, in 1864. The passage of the measure establishes a precedent for claims the aggregate of which would bankrupt the national Treasury.

The sub-committee which investigated the recent difficulties at West Point made a report in the House yesterday, which reflects severely on the management of that institution, and recommends the readmission of the three cadets who were violently expelled by the cadets of the first class, the dismissal of the leaders and ringleaders in the affair and the trial and punishment of all the other participants in it. The report is to be taken up for action on Tuesday next.

The bill to repeal the income tax was reported from the Committee of Ways and Means and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union. It stands No. 18 on the calendar of that committee, and cannot be reached without laying aside, by separate vote, each bill that has precedence of it. When we know how business can be interrupted in the House by a resort to what is termed "filibustering," and how calls of the House occupying a whole evening can be forced by members declining to vote, we can readily conceive what difficulty there will be in getting at this bill, particularly as it is doubtful whether a majority vote in the House could be secured in its favor.

The bill to establish a system of national education—a synopsis of which will be found in our Congressional reports—was before the House yesterday, and was supported by an argument made by its author, Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts. It proposes a remarkable advance in the progress of centralization, but we doubt whether it can find much support in either house. Subsequently a deficiency bill, appropriating over ten and a half millions of dollars, was reported and postponed for future action.

Mr. Fernando Wood having voted on Monday for the Union Pacific Railroad bill, followed up that action yesterday by presenting petitions from this city against the land grant policy. This is another instance of looking the stable door after the steed is stolen.

A Good Snub.—Judge Flippin, of the Memphis Criminal Court, is receiving encomiums from the press of that city for sending persons to jail convicted of carrying concealed weapons. A little of the same practice would be wholesome for the city of New York.

THE ICE CHOP looks prosperous for the coming summer season. So great has been the abundance on the Hudson river alone that the ice houses are all glutted with the article. Although we are in the coldest portion of the winter, and ice is still superabundant, the gathering of the crop will cease altogether on the Hudson to-night, the reason why being that there is no room for more. In Maine and all the Eastern States the ice crop this year is something immense. Now we will see what the ice companies will have to say about the price on the Fourth of July next. What kind of an account of their winter stewardship will they give? Last summer, we remember, the plea of a mild winter in 1869-70 was offered in justification of what every one knew to be a gross extortion, which compelled the rich to restrict themselves in the luxury of a free use of ice, and deprived many of the poor