

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.

Volume XXXVI. No. 54

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- BOWERY THEATRE, BOWERY—POMPEY ON WAY DOWN SOUTH.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, TWENTY-FOURTH STREET—SARATOGA.
GLOBE THEATRE, 78 BROADWAY—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, &c.—AFTER THE WAR.
NEW YORK STADT THEATRE, 40 BOWERY—MARY STUART.
BOOTH'S THEATRE, 221 N. BROADWAY AND 5th AVE.—WELLI MATINEE AT 2. RICHELIEU.
WOODS MUSEUM THEATRE, CORNER 30th ST.—Performances every afternoon and evening.
PORTFENTH STREET THEATRE (Theatre Francaise)—RICHELIEU.
MIRLO'S GARDEN, BROADWAY—THE SPECTACLE OF THE BLACK COOK.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, BROADWAY AND 12th STREET—A MORNING CALL—WOODCOCK'S LITTLE GAME.
LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 78 BROADWAY—HUNTED DOWN; OR, THE TWO LIVES OF MARY LEIGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, CORNER OF 8th ST. AND 22d ST.—OPERATIO VARIETY.
OLYMPIC THEATRE, BROADWAY—THE RICHELIEU OF THE PERIOD.
MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PASTORAL THEATRE, BOWERY—SARATOGA.
TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 50 BOWERY—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.
THEATRE COMIQUE, 54 BROADWAY—COMIC VOCALISTS, ACTS, &c.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTER HALL, 48 BROADWAY—NIGRO MINSTERIAL, FAOLES, BOULETTES, &c.
BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 2d St. between 6th and 7th STS.—NIGRO MINSTERIAL, BOULETTES, &c.
HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, BROADWAY—HOOVER'S AND KELLY & LIND'S MINSTER.
APOLLO HALL, CORNER 28th STREET AND BROADWAY—DR. OBERG'S DIORAMA OF ITALY.
NEW YORK CIRCUS, FOURTEENTH STREET—SCENES IN THE KINGDOM OF AFRICA.
SOMERVILLE ART GALLERY, 82 FIFTH AVENUE—EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART.
NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 BROADWAY—SCIENCE AND ART.
DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 74 BROADWAY—SCIENCE AND ART.

WITH SUPPLEMENT

New York, Thursday, February 23, 1871.

CONTENTS OF TO-DAY'S HERALD.

- 1.—Advertisements.
2.—Advertisements.
3.—Advertisements.
4.—Editorial: Leading Article, "The Meeting at Versailles and Prospect for Peace"—British Edition—The British Merchant's Meeting—The British Navy—Amusement Announcements.
5.—Paris: Paving the Way for Monarchy—The French Government—The Peace Question—The German Headquarters—General Reports from France—German Imperialism—Americanism in Prussia and Austria—The Young King—Miscellaneous Telegrams—Lecture on "The Apostles"—Views of the Past—Business Notices.
6.—News from Washington—Proceedings in Congress—Canadian Reciprocity—The Pacific Coast—The Japanese in Paterson, N. J.—The Celebration of Washington's Birthday—The Schoppa Case.
7.—Advertisements.
8.—Surrender: Shocking Occurrence on the Steamship Isabella—Collision in the Harbor—Champagne and cigars—The Courts—New York City News—Amusements: The Young King—Winning Honorable Notoriety Among the Spaniards—Base Ball in France—Napoleon: The Emperor Advised to Say, "Let there be Peace"—Music and the Drama—The Safety of the Tennessee—The Five Per Cent Stamp Tax on Pawnbrokers—Tickets—Pierced With a Pick—The Lady in the Van—The Case—Ad Wednesday: His Observance Yesterday in the Catholic and Episcopal Churches.
9.—Finger Rings: Contest for the Double Bird Championship—Political and General Notes—The New Hamburg Disaster—The New York University—The Coal Famine in Paterson—Encounter With a Mad Dog—The Hamilton Opera Lottery—Rapid Transit—Fire—The Fremont Ironing Case—Financial Report—Marriages and Deaths—Advertisements.
10.—The Joint High Commission: Arrival of the British Commissioners—The Canal in the European Crisis—Shipping Intelligence—Advertisements.

THE STEAMSHIP VILLE DE PARIS, about which some anxiety has been felt, arrived safe at Brest on the 6th inst.

FENIAN AT THE WHITE HOUSE.—Yesterday the Fenian exiles visited the White House and were formally presented to the President. It is to be hoped that this affair will not add another to the many delicate questions to be settled by the Joint High Commission.

THE SUBSIDY LOBBYISTS have commenced giving social dinners to Senators and Representatives—"Just a small party; nobody but ourselves, you know." These are always fatal. Invariably when a free and independent Senator attends one of these social dinners he puts his foot in it.

THE RED REPUBLICANS OF Europe appear to be preparing for an important movement. The president of the "Freres de la Republique Universelle" association in Hungary has issued orders to the brotherhood in America to hold themselves in readiness for immediate action. This sanguinary society numbers nearly seven thousand in the United States.

THE NEW HAMBURG DISASTER.—The verdict of the Coroner's jury in the case of the recent railroad disaster at Wappinger Creek, which we publish this morning, may be summed up in a few words. It acquits the employes of the oil train and the signal men of all responsibility for the collision, asserting that they signalled the express train as promptly as they could and in time to have prevented the accident. All the blame is laid upon the express train, which, to use the language of the verdict, "could have been stopped provided all the appliances had been effective," but that, "from some reason, to the jury unknown, the patent brakes were not effectively applied." It seems to us that this verdict treats the question of responsibility very gingerly. It censures somebody by implication, but by implication only, and without naming anybody.

A BOGUS REPUBLIC IN SOUTH AFRICA.—The Cape (C. G. B.) Argus of the 2d January publishes what purports to be an official communication from Secretary Fish to "F. K. Horne, Esq., Secretary to the Government of the Orange Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa," in which the American Secretary of State announces that the government of the United States acknowledges the independence of the republic of the aforesaid "Orange Free State." Is it not rather queer that we should receive Washington news by the roundabout way of the Cape of Good Hope? We regard the whole thing as a silly hoax.

The Meeting at Versailles and Prospect for Peace.

We conclude from our latest cable despatches that M. Thiers and Jules Favre, of the committee from the French National Assembly at Bordeaux, were closeted yesterday at Versailles with Count Bismarck upon the important business of a treaty of peace between France and Germany. The 22d of February, as the day for this meeting, we regard as a good omen, and, from all that we hear, France will be spared at least some of the extreme exactions heretofore reported as the German ultimatum. A French journal of some repute (the Rappel) expresses the opinion that by Saturday next a treaty will be submitted to the National Assembly for its consideration, from which we infer that M. Thiers and his committee will conclude a treaty upon the best terms they can obtain, and that they have had in advance some general information of the terms that will be demanded. Among our latest rumors of the demands of Germany, it is said that they will embrace the restoration of Nice to Italy and the neutralization of Savoy, the neutralization of Alsace and Lorraine, or the German occupation for a time of these provinces, as "material guarantees," and the transfer of the present neutral territory of Luxembourg to Germany.

Of course all these rumors are mere conjectures; but from time to time during the last six months we have had, from well authenticated conversations of Count Bismarck, and from the German political press we have had such hints and suggestions as to justify the opinion that the bill of peace to France will include at least one thousand millions of dollars as the cash indemnity for the expenses of the war to Germany, the continued neutralization of Luxembourg, the independence of Belgium, the cession to Germany of the whole of the province of Alsace (which covers the whole Rhine frontier of France), the cession of part of Lorraine, and the temporary occupation by Germany of Metz and other strong places on the military line of the Moselle as "material guarantees," or the dismantling of those fortresses before their abandonment by the Germans. It has, also, been repeatedly given out through the Belgian and the English journals that Count Bismarck, in compensation for the German merchant vessels destroyed or captured during the war, will demand the surrender of half a dozen or more of the best iron-clad ships of the French navy, and in view of some such demand we have heard of no objections from France. Indeed, it has been suggested by certain French journals representing the present republic that if Prussia will accept, in lieu of Alsace and Lorraine, a fair equivalent in ships of war, France will not doubt consent to supply them, but that she never will consent to the dismemberment of her territory—"never—never!"

This is the great difficulty. Napoleon the Third and France did not enter into this war with the remotest idea that under any contingencies it would or could result in curtailing the fair proportions of France. On the other hand, so eager was France for this contest, in view of the Napoleonic idea adopted and cultivated among the French people by the late Emperor—his idea of "the rectification of our Rhine frontier"—that, on this wretched Hohenzollern pretext, the voice of Paris and of France gave to Napoleon no alternative but the fulfillment of his promise. He had his doubts of the march to Berlin; but it was the will of France that he should undertake it, and even "the reds" in the Corps Legislatif, so far as they opposed the war, opposed it, not from apprehensions of defeat, but from the fear that it would strengthen the empire from its conquests, and make easy and popular the transmission of the imperial government from father to son. In truth, Napoleon was in some danger of a French revolution in 1871 in peaceably compromising the Luxembourg difficulty with Prussia, when France was clamorous for war. Since 1814-15 the French people had been encouraged with the idea of the restoration of their boundaries as they were established under the first republic, covering the whole line of the Rhine from Switzerland to Holland and including Belgium.

This territorial restoration of France was the grand idea of the empire and its people under Napoleon the Third, and it extended to the reclamation on their southeastern frontier of Nice and Savoy. The acquisition of the Island of Sardinia, in an exchange with Italy for Rome and the Papal States, was, also, in the imperial programme of Napoleon. His scheme was to make of the pretty little island of Sardinia a little kingdom or vice royalty for the Pope, under the protection of France. The acquisition of Nice and Savoy, by what we would call in New York a wholesale system of election frauds, was accomplished; the scheme for a transfer of the Pope to Sardinia, in connection with the transfer of the Italian government to Rome, was said to be under way when General Prim, with his amiable Hohenzollern as King of Spain, spoiled everything. But France was eager for the reclamation of her old Rhine boundaries as the first Napoleon found them, not as he left them. She did not ask for the first empire; for that empire, with its vassals of the German States embraced in the "Confederation of the Rhine," was more than France. The third Napoleon plunged into this war of 1870 to restore France to her old Rhine frontier all the way down. A year or two before this he had attempted some negotiations with Bismarck covering the absorption of Belgium into France. For all this it was France that rushed him into this war.

All these things make the removal of France entirely from the Rhine an inevitable condition of a treaty of peace. Having avowedly gone into this war to despoil her German neighbors of a large slice of their most valuable territories, France, with the tables turned against her, must consent to take the consequences. It is only the old story of the poisoned chalice returned to her own lips. Furthermore, the South German States in this conference at Versailles will listen to no substitute for this surrender of Alsace, whatever they may consent to in reference to Lorraine. They will tell M. Thiers that this province on the German Rhine, with its city of Strasbourg and its great cathedral, is German; that its subdivisions, its cities, towns and villages, its streams and mountains are German; that its people are German and still retain their native German tongue, though for nearly two hundred years under the rule of France. They will tell M. Thiers that this province was stolen from the Fatherland, or that, through a despicable swindle, it was taken from Germany, with the city of Strasbourg, by Louis XIV.; and finally M. Thiers will be told by these South Germans, through Count Bismarck, that while Alsace, with the strong places of Strasbourg and the Vosges Mountains in the hands of France, is a perpetual menace of war to Germany, it will be, in the possession of Germany, a bond of peace. In a word, as the Rhine was the object of this war on the part of France, this war for the Rhine was the union of Germany, and German unity will require the removal of France from the Rhine in this treaty of peace.

We anticipate, then, a treaty of peace which will make peace and the triumphs of peace the future policy of France—republic, kingdom or empire. For two or three generations to come France will be occupied in the recovery from her fearful prostration by this war. Her only open gateway into Germany of 1870 will be closed, and thus hemmed in by difficult mountains, hostile fortresses and neutral territories and States, it is quite possible that her revenge against Germany may be postponed until it shall have become an unmeaning tradition, like the revenge for Waterloo. As the only serious difficulty to an immediate treaty of peace we have thus dwelt upon this vital question of the Rhine frontier. From the lights in which it presents itself to us the German ultimatum to France will be to fall back from the Rhine and behind the Vosges Mountains or run the hazards of a deeper humiliation from the resumption of the war. Inasmuch, too, as seven hundred thousand unarmoured French soldiers have been disarmed by this war, while seven hundred thousand active German soldiers are still on the soil of France, we think that upon this ultimatum there will be peace.

The German Entrance into Paris—General Trochu's Bad Advice.

The Germans have determined to march through Paris previous to returning to Germany. The old King, now the Emperor of United Germany, has resolved on this course. Paris must witness the German triumph and see the German standards wave in the triumphal march through its streets and boulevards. In the despatches from London which we publish this morning it is stated that General Trochu in a letter condemns the proposed entry of the Germans into Paris, and advises the people to close the gates and let the enemy open them with cannon. If Trochu has written such a letter we think he has acted most unwisely. The world accords to Paris a full measure of admiration for the heroic struggle which she made under the most trying circumstances, and an act such as that which General Trochu is attributed to counsel would tend to tarnish the fame won by the noble, self-sacrificing course which she pursued all through the siege. We hope that no violence in any shape will be attempted by the Parisians. Let the Germans have their holiday, let Emperor William parade his cohorts through the streets of the capital—at best it is but a vain, unnecessary show—and while the German Emperor and his soldiers glory in their parade let the Parisians prove by an orderly demeanor and quiet deportment that they can meet misfortune and sorrow with calm resignation, and finding consolation in the thought that they did their duty when the demands of war called them to battle.

The Imperial Crown of Germany—Bismarck's Caution and Regard to Etiquette.

A special telegram report from Berlin, forwarded through the cable, which appears in our columns to-day, comes in complete confirmation of the anticipations which we have already expressed in the HERALD to the effect that Premier Count Bismarck considered, and provided for, even the most minute technicality which might arise near the imperial crown of Germany after the consolidation of power in the hands of his Majesty, William, the King of Saxony, as will be seen by our despatch, has written to Berlin expressing his own personal hope, and the wishes of very many German people that her Majesty the Queen of Prussia should be solemnly crowned Empress of Germany on the occasion of the formal assumption of the national diadem by her illustrious consort. Bismarck objects to this. When we recollect the excellent spirit which the Queen of Prussia evinced, her courage, patriotism, charity and everyday personal sacrifices in Berlin during the progress of the war, this course of action appears, at first sight, a little strange on behalf of the Count. When we reflect, however, on the complete circumstances of the case we find, first, that the honor of imperialism will really be reflected on the Queen from her husband, so that her coronation is unnecessary; and, secondly, that Bismarck may wish to reserve the splendor of the occasion for the moment of the accession of the wife of the Crown Prince—the Princess Royal of England—as Empress Consort of Germany. The present title of this lady is "Her Imperial and Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Prussia, Princess Royal of Great Britain and Ireland." Thirdly and lastly, it may be that Bismarck indulges slightly, but naturally for him, a spleen against Queen Augusta, with whom the famous statesman has not been a favorite, and who opposed his war policy. Count Bismarck, as it is alleged, believes in worldly avengements. He is not a ready, forgiving man.

THE ETERNITY OF CHANGE.—A cable telegram, dated in Paris yesterday, says "the Bourse is stronger; rentes are quoted at 51 francs 95 centimes"—another symptom of France preparing for a resurrection and a fresh evidence of the eternity of Change. The Bible informs us of the first heavy moral force blow which was struck against the money changers in the Temple. The fraternity lived through that, however. They endeavored to tempt its author into treason against Caesar by means of a specie currency question, in revenge. Next they carried on their little dealings even in the Garden of Gethsemane and near to Calvary, flourished in the Crusades, were depressed under Oliver Cromwell, made money on the field of Waterloo, and "here they are again" on the Paris Bourse, yesterday, at 51 francs 95 centimes.

Congress Yesterday—A Series of Engagements in the House.

The House yesterday was in one of its most belligerent moods from the opening of the session, at eleven o'clock in the morning, until its adjournment, at six in the afternoon. There was a constant succession of skirmishes carried on with more or less acrimony and with more or less damage to the disputants. First came the conflict between Farnsworth, of Illinois, and Butler, of Massachusetts—those unrelenting antagonists—in which Farnsworth charged Butler with having an interest in a fraudulent contract for supplying granite for the Boston Post Office, and with having procured expensive mirrors from the Treasury Department with which to grace his Washington mansion. Butler indignantly denied both allegations, and applied to his opponent the perfumed epithet of a "mud machine," whose business it was to scatter filth on decent people. After this pair of worthies had retired from the scene a more amusing comedy was introduced by our friend Brooks, who, for want of a better subject, got up another discussion on the question of the interference of military at the elections last fall and in aiding the revenue officers to suppress illegal distilleries in Brooklyn. The idea of the government doing anything to thwart repeaters or contrabandists is something so repugnant to the State rights democratic instincts of Mr. Brooks that he loses no opportunity of expressing his horror of federal intervention, and so he struck in upon that favorite topic yesterday, apropos of some army items in the Deficiency bill. Mr. Dickey, of Pennsylvania, came to the rescue of the administration, and said some severe things about the New York democracy and its readiness to create a riot whenever any movement was made to stop its supply of whiskey.

As soon as that discussion was got out of the way another sprung up, in which democratic New York and republican Massachusetts were pitted against each other. The cause in controversy was some items in the Deficiency bill for the Freedmen's Bureau. Mr. Fernando Wood opened his batteries upon General Howard, whom he assigned for all manner of misdeeds connected with his management of the bureau. A democratic member from Illinois—Mr. McNeely—aided him in the attack. But Hoar, of Massachusetts, came to the defence of General Howard, and pointed to the speeches of Wood and McNeely as two additional illustrations of the malignant hatred of the democratic party toward all the poor and oppressed and downtrodden. Then Sunset Cox moved to the rescue of the "fierce democrats," and said all manner of disagreeable things against the people of Massachusetts for the treatment of their paupers and their insane and for their peculiar idiosyncrasy of poking their noses into other people's business. He insinuated that in the discussion Massachusetts was not defended by her ablest man, making a classical allusion to Troy and Hector. But Hoar made a brilliant flank movement upon him, and turned his classics against him by the remark that Troy did not need to put forward Hector against an attack that was led by Theristes. This turned the fortunes of the day against our doughty little champion, and he did not turn up in the fight any more. But his colleague, Fernando Wood, did not so escape. The veteran Townsend, of Chester, Pa., assailed him in connection with his famous telegram to Toombs, of Georgia, and his proposition to the New York Common Council to set up this city as a free port, independent of the general government. The stately Fernando parried the attack, and asserted that in the trying days of the rebellion his public acts bespoke the ardor of his loyalty. Dawes, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, was so worried and worn by the continuous conflict that he found himself constrained to interfere and put an end to it by a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill without further discussion. This movement was successfully carried out, and then the House adjourned, after a seven hours' session.

The proceedings in the Senate were without interest, the session of the day being devoted to the consideration of the Indian Appropriation bill.

Washington's Birthday.

It is a noticeable fact that the 22d of February is more generally observed as a holiday throughout the United States than it was before the war. This indicates a growing, healthy public sentiment—a patriotic feeling which underlies all communities, and which will ultimately restore those friendly relations formerly existing between the North and the South. In this city the day was celebrated in the usual manner, by a general suspension of business, a grand display of bunting and parade of the veterans of the war of 1812. The shipping along the wharves and in the stream were decked in their holiday garbs, gay flags floating from every topmast. Jersey did not forget her revolutionary history; and, if flags and streamers are gauges of patriotism, that noble passion had entire possession of the people of Hoboken and Jersey City yesterday. Staid Philadelphia, pragmatic Boston, fussy Cincinnati, bustling Chicago and sprightly St. Louis vied with each other in honoring the memory of the great American, and even from across the Atlantic comes the intelligence that the day was duly honored in Berlin and Vienna in truly American style. The North and the South have at least one sentiment in common—reverence for the memory of Washington and his revolutionary comrades—and yesterday showed that this feeling was increasing in both sections.

EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS.—A morning paper contains a report of a partial investigation by the Grand Jury into the matter of the Broadway widening project, and just as some damaging disclosures were being made against certain parties the jury, at the instigation, it is alleged, of Tammany leaders, were cited to appear before Judge Sutherland, who discharged them from any further duty. This is a very extraordinary proceeding. The Tammany Regency should be careful how they become identified with such matters. They are going too far and too fast. They have a great game at stake in the next Presidential contest, and they should not furnish ammunition for their enemies by engaging in operations, of such extremely doubtful propriety as the one we now refer to.

The Decay of Italian Opera—The Reason and the Remedy.

Italian opera may be almost regarded as one of the "lost arts" in this community. It is so long since we have heard of it in its purity that it remains with us only in the misty but golden memories of Grisi and Mario, of Alboni and Sontag, of Lind and Bishop, and the other great artists who gave a high European tone to opera in this country nearly a quarter of a century ago. But, in proportion as we have advanced in the other branches of art, as our theatres became more numerous, our dramatic writers more fruitful, our scenic effects more elaborate, and our theatrical audiences larger, perhaps, than any city in the world, Italian opera, the highest branch of all, has fallen into utter decay. Why is this? Is it because the American people do not appreciate that high-toned class of amusement? Is it because they are not willing to pay for it? Not at all; because there is no community on either Continent that entertains a keener sense of appreciation of all that is really good in art than the people of our own city, and assuredly there are none so lavish in their expenditure upon everything that deserves a generous recognition as well as a good many things that do not. They spend money liberally upon tasteful equipages, on horses of the finest blood. They spare nothing in the decoration of the public parks and the construction of grand drives and boulevards. They do not stint their purses even in patronizing opera bouffes and Black Crooks. Therefore the decay of Italian opera is not attributable either to parsimony or want of taste on the part of the people. The cause is very simple. Italian opera is an expensive luxury. It costs a large amount of money, as well as of labor and enterprise on the part of the manager, to produce it properly. This fact is recognized in Europe, and hence in Paris and other great capitals the opera receives a subsidy from the government. In New York it is directly the reverse. Here a heavy tax is laid upon Italian opera by about two hundred citizens who hold stock in the Academy and monopolize the best seats in the house. The result of this selfish policy of course is that every manager, from the incipient struggles of Ulman down to the present time, who undertook to give opera in the Academy of Music, came to grief, and many of them to financial ruin.

We cannot expect European managers to surrender the *douceur* they receive from their own governments, which secures them a fair margin of profit, to come over three thousand miles of ocean only to lose the money they have made at home. Yet this has been the case with every *impresario* who risked his fortunes with the stockholders of the Academy. Now we believe that there is a remedy for this, and it is not at all out of reach. We have very little doubt that a large number of the stockholders—probably, if they were canvassed, two-thirds of them—would be found willing to relinquish their claim to the choice seats, or at least consent to some commutation or arrangement whereby Italian opera can be restored in this city. We think also that many of the stockholders comprehend the idea that such contributions as they have made, or are making, in the loss of interest on their investment, are contributions to art for which they are amply repaid by the consciousness that they are doing the duty of good and intelligent citizens. Besides, they must be consoled by the fact that, although they receive no dividends, owing partially to their own selfish policy, the original stock has actually doubled in value through the increase in the value of property generally.

There never was a more opportune time for reviving Italian opera in New York than the present. The war in Europe has thrown hundreds of excellent artists out of employment. They would, no doubt, be willing to make favorable terms with any manager proposing an engagement in the United States. But what manager would be rash enough to venture upon such an enterprise, with past experience before him, unless he had a sure guarantee that the stockholders of the Academy would so far modify their claims upon the house as to give him a fair chance to make the undertaking profitable? Thus, we perceive that the public is actually dependent upon the liberality of the two hundred stockholders as to whether we shall have Italian opera or not. The public have begun to look upon this Academy business as a very gross monopoly; in fact, as a public wrong, because, unfortunately, we have no other opera house to rely upon. It is not too late for the stockholders to exhibit a little magnanimity, and, as we have said already, we believe that many, if not a majority of them, are quite ready to do so. We hope, therefore, that they will not let the opportunity pass unheeded.

The Infamous Coal Conspiracy.

The successful combination of the coal operators of Pennsylvania and the railroad companies is bringing the city of New York and its poor almost to a coal famine. The price of coal yesterday went up to twenty dollars a ton. How much higher it will go depends entirely upon the dictum of the coal monopolists. We can imagine how terribly this advance must be felt by the poor who are compelled to supply their households in small quantities, by the bushel or sometimes even a smaller measure. The price of fuel, which at this season is almost the price of life to the poor, has been run up to a price as unprecedented as it is exorbitant. The cause of this advance is no mystery. It is the result of a conspiracy between the coal operators and the railroads; their object probably being to operate on the strikers in the coal mining districts. This is partially avowed by the Pennsylvania papers. But whatever the cause we are the principal sufferers here in New York, and we very naturally are wakened up upon a question which affects every interest in the community. The stubborn fact before us just now is, that the avarice of the coal monopolists of Pennsylvania has almost brought a coal famine upon New York. In the midst of a severe winter the poor of this city are brought face to face with a terrible misery. These are facts which we have to consider. We must be protected against Pennsylvania monopolies. How can this be done? The remedy must be immediate if we would extend relief to our poor. Would it not, then, be wise for Congress to remove at once the duty on coal imported from the British provinces as the speediest mode of relief. It could

be done by legislation in a few days if Congress would take the matter earnestly in hand. The news that the import duty on coal was abolished would reach Nova Scotia and all the coal regions in British America almost instantly by telegraph, and within two weeks we should have a million tons of coal delivered here by every available vessel that could be employed for transportation in all the ports from which coal is shipped.

This, we say, would be an immediate remedy for the pressing evil of a coal famine. But more permanent measures should be taken by Congress to render the recurrence of this present fraud impossible. Congress should enact such laws as would place the railroads and the telegraphs under the control of the government, and regulate them so that the public should not be always placed at their mercy. Congress ought to see from this action of the railroads in Pennsylvania how easily a combination of monopolies can reduce the poor of the city of New York almost to a state of pauperism; how its commercial and manufacturing interests can be crippled by cutting off the supplies of coal. And coal is only one article out of many the transportation of which these railroad monopolies can control. As a mode of immediate relief, then, suppose we try the abolition of duty on foreign coal. As a permanent preventive of such a condition of things as now exists on this coal question, of course, the only effective way to reach it is by the government taking the control of the railroads into its own hands. Then, it is to be hoped, we should have less extortion to complain of and possibly fewer railroad disasters to lament over. Meantime something should be done, and promptly, too, to save our poor people from the suffering attendant upon the high cost of fuel in this cold season.

ANOTHER DISASTER FOR SPECULATORS.—About a week since a British steamer called the *Zoe* sailed from this port with a cargo of provisions for France on private account, and a night or two ago she was totally wrecked near the entrance to Halifax harbor. Here we have another sensation story told, wrecked. No British ship named the *Zoe* sailed from Boston for France with a cargo of provisions contributed by Americans for the relief of suffering Frenchmen, consequently France has not suffered another disaster; but a steamship of the same name did leave this port for France with a cargo of beef, by the sale of which some speculators hoped to pocket a handsome profit, and she has been lost, thereby causing a loss to the underwriters, probably, and a serious disaster to those who expected to profit by the wants of hungry Frenchmen. We repeat—don't be deceived by sensational matter.

AN ABSURD RUMOR ABOUT THE POPE.—One of the latest and certainly not the least absurd of the rumors now afloat regarding the Pope is that negotiations are pending between the Court of Rome and the Catholic party for the transfer of the Holy See from Rome to Belgium. If the Pope will not content himself in Rome let him make some sensible change. Let him come to New York. We extend to him our ancient invitation.

Personal Intelligence.

The High Commissioners of England, consisting of Earl de Grey, Lord Tenterden, Viscount Godefrich, Professor Bernard and Secretaries Howard and Cromer, arrived last evening by the steamer Cuba and are now sojourning at the Brevoort House.

BRITISH ROYALISM.

Queen Victoria's Court—American Presentations

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Feb. 22, 1871. Her Majesty Queen Victoria held a court yesterday at Buckingham Palace.

Among the persons presented by Mr. Moran, the United States Chargé d'Affaires, were Mrs. Nicholas Fish, Mrs. Wickham Hoffman, Mrs. Augusta Hamilton, and a daughter of Commodore Rodgers.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. The Queen has approved of the appointment of Mr. Livermore as United States Consul at London.

THE BRITISH MERCHANT MARINE.

Premier Gladstone's Commercial Naval Reform Bill—Its Provisions, Debate and Rejection.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Feb. 22, 1871.

A very powerful interest—the Commercial Marine and Shipping Capitalists—has been legislatively arrayed against the Cabinet, and successfully. In the House of Commons to-day the Merchant Shipping bill of the government, which has been framed with the assistance of various Chambers of Commerce, was read.

The measure requires the reinspection and classification of merchantmen, the determination of the maximum load line of every vessel and the limitation of the number of passengers which each may carry.

Mr. Rathbone, member for Liverpool, and other gentlemen denounced the bill "as being likely to aggravate the evil it was intended to remedy, and as untimely and deceptive." Mr. Fortescue said it would be impossible to fix the maximum line of loading for all vessels. Other objections were made, and the result was that the bill was withdrawn.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

Increase in the Cabinet Estimates for the Service.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Feb. 22, 1871.

My report of the proceedings of Parliament, so far as the legislative business relates to the cost of the public service, goes to confirm the special exhibit of the national condition of the United Kingdom which was recently published in the HERALD.

I have to announce to-day that the navy estimates about to be presented to the House of Commons show an increase of £388,000 as compared with those of 1870.

The increase is mainly in the items of steam machinery and in ships built by contract.

DEATH OF "TELL."—The famous Mount St. Bernard dog "Tell," who has won every first prize at English exhibitions since his importation in 1864, is dead. He belonged to the splendid kennel of the Rev. J. Cuming Macdonald, and was well known throughout England, France, Germany and America as the finest type of the rough-haired St. Bernard bred in the world. His age at the time of his death was only seven years.