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. 361

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 35th st.—Performances afternoon and evening.—BENEDICT ARNOLD, &c.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—THE NEW DRAMA OF DIVORCE.

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

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—BLACK CROOK.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN OPERA—LA TRAVIATA.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—EAGLE EYE—TWO FOLTS—HAUNTED CHAMBER.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE BALLET PANTOMIME OF HUMPTY DUMPTY. Matinee at 2½.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third st., corner Sixth av.—JULIUS CÆSAR.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th av. and 23d st.—TICKET OF LEAVE MAN.

STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—GRAND OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE.

AIMEE'S OPERA BOUFFE, 720 Broadway.—LES PONT DES SOUPIRS.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCALISMS, NEGRO ACTS, &c. Matinee at 2½.

UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Fourteenth st. and Broadway.—NEGRO ACTS—BURLESQUE, BALLET, &c. Matinee.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.—NEGRO ECCENTRICITIES, BURLESQUES, &c.

BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 23d st., between 6th and 7th avs.—BRYANT'S MINSTRELS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREL HALL, 585 Broadway.—THE SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.

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

NIXON'S GREAT SOUTHERN CIRCUS, 728 Broadway.—SCENES IN THE RING, &c.

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

New York, Wednesday, December 27, 1871.

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8—The Coming Legislature: The New Charter and What is Said About It; The Republican Members Will Not be Dictated to; The Speaker of the House—The Democratic Reformers—Brooklyn Reform—Our Police Courts: How Justice is Dispensed by the Police Solons of New York—The Prisoners' Pew—Shipping Intelligence—Advertisements.

HINT TO HOME REFORMERS.—The Colombian government, finding itself in monetary difficulties, has reduced its army to a thousand men and the salaries of its officials ten per cent.

FLY NOT YET.—General Bristow has consented to remain Solicitor General a little longer. Did not General Grant become a solicitor general himself, in asking Bristow to do so?

A NEW CHAMPION FOR REFORM IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES—Mr. Sargent, the United States Senator elect from California. In a recent speech in San Francisco he pronounced decidedly in favor of retrenchment—and, also, of the re-election of General Grant.

SQUELCHED—The terrible negro insurrection in Arkansas. The "insurgents" have disbanded, and those who have not gone to their hovels are in charge of the Sheriff of Chicot county, a county that numbers about seven thousand souls—black and white—mostly niggers—all told.

THE VIADUCT RAILWAY.—The latest idea of the Viaduct Railway Company is an elevated road, with two tracks, making a circuit of the city, near the water edge. A road of this character has been the HERALD idea for many years. We shall not charge the company anything for it.

THE TICHBORNE CASE, after rolling round the world in sailing vessels and beating about the Australian bush, has turned up in the Treasury Department, in some queries respecting the whereabouts of any vessels named Osprey belonging to our mercantile marine. There should be no difficulty in finding that out in the present wofully contracted state of our merchant navy.

SPAIN AND CUBA.—The Madrid press has of late been discussing the Cuban question. The brutal executions of the unfortunate students in Havana have had the effect of creating quite a stir in the Spanish capital, and dread of the indignation which such brutality will evoke from civilized nations compels some decided action to be taken relative to the management of Cuba. The rebellion has now dragged on for over three years, and it is again proposed to send "more troops" to stamp out the remaining rebels. This proposition of "more troops for Cuba" surprises no one. That has been the cry ever since the revolution broke out in Yara. The Spanish government may blame itself for the disorderly manifestations which have ever distinguished its management of the affairs of the island. Cuba has been notoriously the paradise of penniless adventurers from Spain, who have always found in the Antilles opportunities, whether honorable or otherwise it matters not, to repair their broken fortunes; and if the sins which the mother country has been guilty of to her colonies are now bearing bitter fruit there are few nations or people who sympathise with her in her afflictions.

What Should Be Done with New York—A New City and a New Charter—Let Us Really Have a Metropolis.

The war against Tammany will not have been fought in vain if it brings us a sound, logical charter. For a generation or two the worst thing about New York has been our local government. A metropolis mightier than Rome, the pride and boast of every American, as the great example of the republic's enterprise and progress, full of noble impulses, its history a history of generous, princely deeds, ever leading in any work of industry, charity or patriotism; the first to draw the sword when Sumter fell and to open its purse when Chicago was destroyed—her government has been a scandal and a shame. Good men have governed the city and have done their best to serve the people; but the scandal has always been in the system of government.

The great city has been a kind of foraging ground for adventurous politicians. When Rob Roy, in his Highland fastnesses, desired a little excitement or recreation or booty he simply rode into the lowlands and robbed a village or a township. Every year when our legislative Rob Roys arrived at Albany the first thing in order was to plan a raid on the metropolis. Here was all the money; here were precious franchises to be stolen; here were mighty railway corporations ready to bleed or surrender at the first pressure, and all that was necessary was a bill. Then we had the vast machinery of municipal government, with its enormous sums of money. The way to reach that was by "a charter," or, sometimes, a tax levy. So every year we had the charter amended or extended, or abolished or recreated, to meet the exigencies of the needy and ambitious men who happened to be in Albany. Look at the long line of valiant clansmen whose horse hoofs have ridden over our furrows. There was the old Regency tribe; and what a tribe they were, and how gayly they dashed upon us season after season! Then we had the illustrious veteran, Thurlow Weed, whose boys "went through" us (to use a phrase from the Bowery) annually for a dozen years. Thurlow, however, has gone into dignified and interesting retirement, and sits by the camp fires telling stories to the squaws and the children, while the young bucks are on the warpath. Then we had Boss Tweed and his tribe, whose achievements have filled the world. What a gorgeous, gorging time he and his clansmen have had in the great city! What booty they have gathered! Diamonds, yachts, club houses, bonds, mortgages, fine raiment, linen and purples, and goodly sums of gold and silver! They were splendid raiders after their fashion, and scattered their largess in Highland fashion, little caring where it fell. Let that be remembered to their honor—if they robbed us they sent their money back through the gamblers and tavern keepers and other odd, unmentionable channels.

So from bad to worse; from worse to what really seems to have been the worst! And we have had a reaction, and citizens assembling to "devise remedies" and get themselves into office. Well, we respect these most respectable people, but we have been dreading lest even they would turn out to be Highlanders after all. Remember that old Rob Roy himself was fond of going down into the low countries, dressed as an honest cattle drover, just before making a raid. If we are not mistaken, many of the faces we see in this reform movement we have seen before—riding after Boss Tweed, or Thurlow Weed, or Dean Richmond, keen for plunder and eager to harry the poor city. It would not surprise us to have this Committee of Seventy turn on us booted and spurred, and deal with us after the old fashion. Such things have been known, and it is memorable and significant that the committee have never risen above a condition of drowsiness except when an office was to be won. Let them do all the good they can while they are in the humor. They are for a day. We want something that will last for all time.

We want a charter worthy of the greatness of New York. What is New York? Geographically speaking a community settled upon Manhattan Island to the number of eight hundred thousand souls. Speaking from the facts it is a community of two millions, dwelling within a circumference of a dozen miles from City Hall. Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Hoboken, Jersey City, Staten Island, Newark, and even Westchester county are all practically New York. Here they do business. Here most of their active life is spent. Here they buy and sell and make money, and find amusement and instruction. There are probably two millions of souls who are as much citizens and residents of New York as dwellers in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea are citizens of London. London is nothing more than an aggregation of towns. The city proper bears as much proportion to the city of politics and fame as New York below Wall street bears to Manhattan Island. Yet the English, with a wisdom which we should emulate, as soon as the spreading city threw its web over a village or an independent municipality, embodied it. It was no longer Southwark or Hampstead or Bayswater, or any of the twenty local names that linger in the traditions and enable cabmen to find their way, but London. So should it be with New York.

Everything is ripe for the work. We had such a work on a smaller scale—to take an illustration as near home as Philadelphia. Until 1854 that pleasant, pastoral, invigorating city was simply a collection of villages. There was Kensington, Southwark, the Northern Liberties and a half dozen more, independent of each other, and with distinct municipal government and authority. Philadelphia saw how absurd and expensive this was, and the villages were united, together with many square miles of farming land, until, as we are frequently reminded in the harmless newspapers of that mild and tepid city, it is now among "the largest cities in the world." Now, we do not propose to imitate Philadelphia by going up to the Highlands and making West Point and Peekskill wards of New York. But Philadelphia did a good thing in her consolidation. She followed the example of London; she made herself a city, and had a more effective and economical government. This we should have in New York. So long as the Tammany Ring was in power, and public plunder became so rampant that property lacked security and taxation was really confiscation, we could understand why our suburban cities would shrink from any alliance with New York. But Tammany is dead. Its bones have gone to moulder with the bones of Judas Iscariot. We question if even the Prophet could move them into new life. Good men now hold the city. These Greeley republicans in the new Board of Aldermen have, to be sure, a hungry and anxious look; but we have trust in the Legislature. To prevent the growth of another Tammany Ring we must have the aid of these suburban cities. They are free from those large and peculiar classes of population which weigh upon the industry and good name of New York. Their citizens would naturally support good government. There would be no machine majorities, no chance for organized repeating and frauds upon the ballot box. The conservative influence of the suburban vote would purify the democratic party and enable men like Mr. O'Conor and Tilden to remain in control of its destinies.

In giving us a new charter let the Legislature give us a new city. Let us organize New York as Paris and London have been organized. Let a line be drawn along the lower part of Westchester, including Yonkers, and, crossing the East River, embrace Brooklyn, Williamsburg and the country seven or eight miles beyond. This is really New York, and let it be called New York. There would be some difficulty, no doubt, in obtaining the concessions from New Jersey; but if we could take in Jersey City and the surrounding towns as far as Newark, then New York would be complete. But our concern is with our own. We have the power to make these changes; to form a comprehensive, judicious, liberal charter, based as the law and the constitutional rights of the people; to make a city that might well be called The Metropolis, and to establish a form of government that would honor the republic. Let all local jealousies, all the aspirations and noisy clamor of hungry politicians who want office be overlooked. Now is the time to make New York worthy of itself; to make the recurrence of any Tammany *régime* impossible; to have a municipal government "of the people, for the people and by the people;" to dissolve all the little rings and boards and contrivances that overrun our suburban friends like a murrain. If we fail to do this at the present Legislature the work will be undone for another generation, and the campaign that has just been won by the reformers will only be a prelude to a still fiercer campaign within the next ten years.

The Roumanian Railroad Question.

The Sublime Porte, backed by Russia and Austria, is sharply pressing the government of the Danubian Principalities for a settlement of its railway obligations. Such is one of the cable despatches which we print this morning. The Roumanian Railroad question is not new. Some months ago it seemed to be growing rapidly into a *casus belli;* and there were many, not ill informed, who were of opinion that Prince Bismarck was not unwilling to take advantage of the opportunity to precipitate a final settlement of the Eastern question. It is well known that the whole trouble arises from the fact that the Roumanian government, which owns the railroads, the money for the construction of which was furnished by subjects of the German empire and of Great Britain, has actually, and in opposition to the wishes of the Hospodar, Prince Charles, gone in for repudiation. After the close of the Franco-German war Prince Bismarck came at once to the rescue of his German brethren. No time was lost to make Austria understand that in the settlement of this question she too was deeply and seriously interested; and one of the results of the conferences held at Gastein and at Salzburg was the adhesion of Austria to the policy which Germany had decided to pursue towards the Principalities. For a time it did seem as if the alliance of Austria and Germany meant war with Russia; for it was a matter of common belief that Russia was encouraging Roumania in her policy of resistance. From causes not yet fully explained Russia has found it necessary to reconsider her position; and now we learn that Russia equally with Germany and Austria insists that the government of the Principalities must pay its debt. It is a fact not undeserving of notice that in this case, as in the case when Prince Bismarck spoke out to Roumania, the suzerainty of the Sultan is fully recognized. There does now seem to be something in the *entente cordiale*, and the prospect of a coming realization of England's grand project of a daily through mail to India.

Civil Service Reform—The Indignity of Examination.

A despatch from Washington states that much anxiety exists among the old bureau officers concerning the operation of the Civil Service rules, and many of them declare their determination not to submit to the "indignity of an examination," should the system be applied to incumbents as well as to new applicants for office. The object of the reform is to secure competency in all the employés of the government, and it would certainly fail if it did not reach the army of incapables at present quartered upon the national Treasury. Indeed the great aim of the proposed rules is to clean out the several departments and bureaus of the government, which have become choked with drones and blockheads who could not find employment in any ordinary business. It is a notorious fact that many government employés are unable even to make out the most simple returns, and have to trust to others in their several departments to do the trifling duties imposed upon them. It is refreshing to hear of the government pensioners at Washington and elsewhere protesting against the indignity of an examination into their competency. It would be a safe rule for President Grant to adopt, if he would take the pains to ascertain the names of these insulted incumbents, and turn them all out of office, neck and crop. No person would object to an examination under the Civil Service rules unless he felt that the test would prove his incapacity and unfitness for the position he holds. The people desire to see this promised reform properly carried out, and should the administration prove unfaithful to its pledges they will look elsewhere for its consummation. If President Grant desires to avail himself of the popular feeling in favor of a reformation in the character and capacity of public officers he will at once enforce the Civil Service rules and commence with the very men who indignantly protest against their application to their own cases.

City Reform—Nothing Gained by Unjust Accusations.

In an editorial paragraph in the *Times* of yesterday on "Judge Bedford's Grand Jury" these facts are frankly admitted, viz.:—that "already this body of gentlemen has accomplished more than the public dared to hope from it," and that "it has done its work in the face of many obstacles;" that "it has had some excellent business men upon it," and that "they have devoted a very large portion of their valuable time to its duties;" that "we (of the *Times*) are informed, and are glad to believe, that Judge Bedford has co-operated cordially with it;" that "it will also probably appear that Samuel J. Tilden has rendered it valuable assistance," and that "altogether the public has much cause to be grateful to this Grand Jury." We (of the HERALD) think so, too, and are glad to believe that our zealous contemporary in the great cause of municipal reform has, from a simple sense of justice to the parties mentioned, deemed it proper to make these acknowledgments.

But on the same editorial page of the same paper in which this simple measure of justice to deserving men is so gracefully discharged we are sorry to find an allusion to another public-spirited citizen, of a totally different character and wholly without justification or a shadow of justification, as we believe. The *Times*, from a historical discourse on the late extinguishment of the gas in a large section of the city, from Thirty-fourth street upward, proceeds to sketch the picture of "a clean and honestly governed city," "a happy combination of Paris and London."

We undertake to say, however, that when all the facts in connection with this great reform movement in our city shall have come to light, and when the good men and true identified with it shall have been fairly separated from the false and the noisy pretenders, Mr. Belmont will appear, and somewhat prominently, too, among the good and true men of the metropolis. We dare say that, when all the facts in the history of this reform movement are made known, this fact, among others, will appear, that to Mr. Belmont, as a patriotic citizen, as much as to any other man, belongs the credit of saving the city in its late financial crisis from bankruptcy. Meantime as no facts or direct charges have been raised against him in regard to his financial transactions with the city, or in reference to his general honesty which afford any ground of justification for the blackening insinuations and denunciations of the *Times*, we have only to submit that this sort of personal warfare brings discredit only upon the party indulging in it, whatever may be his claims as an honest man and a reformer. We have only, in a word, to admonish our contemporary that even a reformer, in permitting his zeal to outrun his discretion, is liable to great mistakes, and that in persisting in a mistake involving great injustice to other parties the accuser mostly upon his own head aggravates the evil consequences of his blunder.

That Coroner's Jury Again.

The great and the quaint types of men are said to be perpetuated from generation to generation, and we are gratified to think that the Welsh Coroner's jury which pronounced over the body of Winifred Price the solemn verdict of "served her right" has reappeared in New Jersey. William Healey, bent on "flat burglary," essayed to enter George E. Parker's brass foundry, in Newark, on Saturday night last, and was shot dead by a trap gun. In his pocket was found an "honorable discharge" from the New Jersey State Prison. The jury sat on Christmas Day and "found" that the deceased came to his untimely end as above described. But full of the importance of the occasion, they could not refrain from a piece of seer-like warning, which we transcribe for the benefit of posterity:—"And we warn all honorably discharged prisoners and burglars from attempting any act of a similar nature. While we think Mr. Parker should have taken the precaution of notifying our Police and Fire Department, we exonerate him from all blame in causing the death of said William Healey." The honorably discharged prisoner or obtuse burglar who will persist in self destruction on the Healey model after this will deserve his fate. Their generous exoneration of Parker shows that they had the great original jury's example well in view; but he should have notified the Police and Fire Department—of what it is not clear. As they have the safety of the burglars and discharged honorables so feelingly at heart, they should have called on him to notify these worthies also.

ANOTHER TRUNK HORROR.

The Body of a Woman Found in a Railroad Station in Quebec—Worse Than the Bowlby Case—The Arms, Legs, Head and Flesh Hacked Off for Close Packing—Great Excitement Over the Discovery.

QUEBEC, CANADA, Dec. 26, 1871.

Quebec to-night is in a perfect ferment. The excitement is caused by the discovery of another "trunk horror," which bids fair to outdo for brutality, &c., that which startled New York a short time ago.

On Saturday last the station master and the officers engaged at the Grand Trunk Railroad depot experienced a horrible smell, which seemed to proceed from a trunk left behind by a passenger who had crossed over to Levi's in the ferryboat.

The box was immediately opened by the officers in the station, and soon the form of a woman was revealed to their view, and the smell was then fearful.

The body was in a shockingly mutilated condition. The arms and legs had been cut off, the flesh was hacked off in all directions, for, it is presumed, convenience in packing, and the head was cut off and wrapped in rags in one corner of the box. The whole sight was horrible and sickening.

The Coroner and police authorities were at once notified, and an inquest is now going on.

Foul play is apparent, of course, and the matter will be thoroughly and promptly sifted.

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY.

In the Catholic and Episcopal churches yesterday services were held in honor of St. Stephen, the proto-martyr. As the early records state, St. Stephen was one of the seventy-two disciples of our Lord, and was stoned to death even before the Saviour's death. Hence he holds a leading place in the Church calendars. At St. Stephen's Roman Catholic church yesterday a solemn high mass was celebrated at the usual hour, and the Rev. Dr. McGlynn delivered an eloquent panegyric on St. Stephen. At Trinity church also a morning service was held, without sermon, in which the Rev. Dr. Ogilby, the Rev. Mr. Ferguson and the Rev. Mr. Kenbar officiated. In the "old country" St. Stephen's Day is devoted to a continuation of the Christmas festivities, and several peculiar sports are indulged in in honor of the saint and in accordance with the usage of centuries.

Personal Intelligence.

State Comptroller Asher P. Nichols is at the Hoffman House.

Secretary of State Homer A. Nelson is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

United States Senator A. H. Cragin, of New Hampshire, is stopping at the Westmoreland Hotel.

Colonel T. R. B. Eldridge, of Albany, is quartered at the Sturtevant House.

General E. A. Merritt, of Potsdam, N. Y., has quarters at the Astor House.

Lieutenant Governor John L. Marye, of Virginia, is sojourning at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

General G. H. Giddings, of Texas, has arrived at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Professor H. G. Eastman, of Poughkeepsie, is among the sojourners at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Lieutenant Commander D. P. Woodrow, of the United States Navy, has taken quarters at the Hoffman House.

Colonel Townsend, of New Orleans, is domiciled at the Clarendon Hotel.

General E. W. Leavenworth, of Syracuse, is registered at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Major T. J. Eckerson, of the United States Army, is staying at the Grand Central Hotel.

General James McQuade, of Utica, Inspector General on Governor Hoffman's staff, is at his usual residence when in this city, the Gilsey House.

Colonel W. H. Owen, of the United States Army, has taken quarters at the Glenham Hotel.

Sir Alexander T. Galt, ex-Premier of Canada, yesterday arrived at the Gilsey House.

Colonel Julius P. Gage, of Cambridge, Mass., is stopping at the Grand Central Hotel.

General James S. Negley, M. C., from Pittsburg, is among the most recent arrivals at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Henry B. Samuelson, M. P., H. A. Lawrence and C. J. E. Smith, of England, are sojourning at the Gilsey House.

Ex-Governor Lewis E. Parsons, of Alabama, is among the latest arrivals at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

THE HERALD AND DR. LIVINGSTONE.

[From the Buffalo Express, Dec. 25.]

The most extraordinary newspaper enterprise ever dreamed of is that which the NEW YORK HERALD has undertaken in fitting out an expedition to penetrate the interior regions of Africa, where Dr. Livingstone is supposed to be detained by the natives, either to rescue the great explorer, if possible, or to clear up the mystery of his fate. The expedition was organized in Zanzibar a year ago, by a correspondent sent out for the purpose, and the first accounts of it, since it struck into the country, from the coast, appeared in the HERALD of Friday last. A long and most interesting letter has arrived from the leader of the expedition, dated on the 4th of July, at Kwihara, District of Unyanyembe, about five hundred and twenty-five miles from its starting point. The party had made this distance in eighty-two days, which is claimed to be extraordinary speed. * * * If the expedition should succeed in bringing back Dr. Livingstone, or in determining the fact of his death, if he has perished, the tremendous celebrity that it would give to the HERALD would, no doubt, be worth all the cost.

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer, Dec. 24.]

The New York HERALD publishes a five column report from the African expedition fitted out over a year ago, to proceed in search of Dr. Livingstone. The expedition at the beginning of July last, was at Kwihara, an Arab village, 525 miles from Zanzibar. The first tidings of Dr. Livingstone was obtained at this point, and, though not conclusive, seem to justify the belief that he is still alive, though suffering from the desertion of his men and the want of proper supplies. The expedition, which is certainly one of the most remarkable journalistic enterprises the world has known, will continue its march until the explorer is found or a definite and final conclusion is reached as to his fate.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Italian Opera—Nilsson's Leonora.

"Il Trovatore" was repeated last night before a crowded and unusually brilliant audience, which was exceedingly enthusiastic in its appreciation of one of the Swedish Nightingales best roles. Nilsson has the rare faculty of presenting an operatic character in a new light that even the hackneyed, threadbare *rôle* of Leonora becomes actually fresh and full of new interest in her hands. Since the commencement of the present season of opera there have been occasions when, in consequence of the great strain on Miss Nilsson's powers, the result of having to bear the sole responsibility of the success of the season on her shoulders, her voice betrayed signs of fatigue and hoarseness; but last evening it was bell-like in its clearness, broad and brilliant in its tone, as became an interpretor of Verdi, and full of passion, dramatic fire and the kaleidoscopic sentiment that the heroine of "Trovatore" is accredited with. The cabaletta of "Tacea la notte" was never given with more telling effect, and in the "Miserere" and the prison scene her acting was superb in the extreme. Brignoli made another hit in his well-known *rôle* of Manrico and sang with his old fire and brilliancy. Miss Cary again appeared as the revengeful gypsy mother and Signor Bartolini as di Luna. "La Traviata" will be presented this evening for the last time, "Martha" on Friday, and on Saturday afternoon the Diva will bid a temporary goodby to New York in "Mignon."

In the Provinces.

John Owens is holding forth at the New Orleans Varieties.

Lucille Western is at the St. Charles in the Crescent City.

Lydia Thompson is shaking her blond tresses at the St. Louis Olympic.

Chanfrau made nearly twenty-five hundred dollars by his last engagement at Virginia City.

"Divorce" has been taken in hand by Messrs. Furbish & Wilton, and will be presented to the delighted New Englanders after New Year's.

Miss Kellogg and Miss Phillipps will charm the Bostonians on Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Moulton will enjoy New Year's at Wilmington, N. C.

The following is the country route of the Nilsson Italian Opera Troupe:—Pittsburg, January 5 and 6; Cincinnati, 8th; St. Louis, 15th; Louisville, 22d; Cincinnati, 29th; Columbus, February 5 and 6; thence to Cleveland, Pittsburg, Toledo, Buffalo, Albany and Boston, to reopen 19th.

A joke reported by William Warren, the Boston comedian, is that on hearing that his house in Chicago was burned, he said, "My house is gone, and I am now bewailing my unhappy lot!"

Mr. Charles Fechter has gone to England to secure talent for his company. He hopes to be able to open his theatre in Fourteenth street in the latter part of February.

The Parepa-Rosa English Opera Company have met with the most flattering success everywhere on their Western tour. The route is as follows:—Buffalo this week until December 28; Rochester, 29th and 30th; Syracuse, 1st and 2d January; Utica, 3d; Albany, 4th and 5th; Springfield, 6th; Boston 8th; Providence, 28th, 29th and 30th; Hartford, 1st and 2d February; New Haven, 3d; New York (two weeks, 5th, when "La Gazza Ladra," "The Water Carrier" and "Ballo in Maschera" (first time in English) will be produced. A Buffalo paper speaks thus about the performance of "Martha":—"To say the least it is a mooted question whether any voice ever given to woman could more superbly express the exquisite music of the leading *rôle*, that of Martha, than the divine organ of Parepa. Mrs. Seguin, as Nancy, ranks first among all who have essayed the part, her arch manners, no less than her rich contralto voice, contributing to her pre-eminence."

Drifting Abroad.

The artists announced for the four Monday Popular Concerts in Liverpool are Mesdames Schumann, Néruda and Carreno; Messrs. Joachim, Strauss, Ries, Zerbini, Piatti and Hallé.

The Vienna Grand Opera gave Gluck's "Armida" on the 15th of November, the anniversary of the composer's death. This work was performed for the first time at Vienna in the year 1777.

Mr. Saker has produced Mr. Halliday's "Notre Dame" at the Alexandra Theatre, Liverpool, with the same completeness as given in London, and crowded houses are sure to be the result. Miss Louie Woodie plays Esmeralda and Mr. E. H. Brooke Claude Frollo. Miss Desborough and Mr. Wainwright also render good service.

John S. Clarke, the distinguished American comedian, is performing at the Strand Theatre, London. Not long since he appeared as Dr. Pangloss for the one hundred and fiftieth time. This is one of the most extraordinary successes on the stage. Dr. Pangloss is one of the classical characters of comedy, and requires a high order of talent to make a true representation. The success of Mr. Clarke, especially in the critical metropolis of London, confirms the estimate in which he is held at home, as one of the first of living comedians.

WON AT LAST.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., Dec. 26, 1871.

At a third trial to-day Chicopee voted 446 to 182 to subscribe $100,000 to the stock of the Springfield and Athol Railroad. At the two previous meetings the proposition received a majority vote, but lacked the necessary two-third vote which is now secured.

THE RUSSIAN TOURIST.

How the Grand Duke Spent Christmas.

A Present to Parepa-Rosa—The Imperial Visitor at the Grain Elevators, Watching the Contrivance Invented by the Yankee Grain Merchants—Hearty Demonstrations on His Departure from Buffalo and on His Arrival at Cleveland—The Programme at This Place.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 26, 1871.

The Russian Duke has had a very lively and entertaining time of it to-day. In fact, since he struck the Western country the demonstrations of welcome have become somewhat tinted with Americanism, and have reminded him of the glorious and spontaneous ovations in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and other Eastern cities. In Canada the illness of the Prince of Wales was a barrier to all public demonstrations, or otherwise the history of his whole tour of the American continent would have been one chapter of hearty welcome. His reception in Buffalo was one of universal enthusiasm. Neither the Sabbath nor the time-honored festival of Christmas served to restrain the cordial feeling of the people, and they did everything in their power to extend a right good American welcome. Christmas Day was spent very quietly by the ducal party, and not until evening did the imperial visitor venture forth, and then only to attend one of Parepa Rosa's operatic entertainments at the Academy of Music. The theatre was most elaborately decorated on the occasion. The auditorium was crowded from pit to dome by the best citizens of Buffalo, and Parepa and the whole company almost excelled themselves.

THE DUKE'S PRESENT TO PAREPA-ROSA.

That the Duke was agreeably entertained was not only manifested by his close attention and frequent applause during the performance, but this morning he called Parepa into the parlor and personally expressed his gratification and left with her a costly diamond studded bracelet, bearing an appropriate inscription.

His whole visit to Buffalo, in fact, was one of rare pleasure, and before leaving he made special efforts to personally express his thanks to the Mayor and city authorities, and also to Mr. Hodges and Mr. Hamlin, of the Tuft House, for the attention shown and the gratification afforded him.

WATCHING THE ELEVATION OF GRAIN.

The party left the hotel at about ten o'clock and spent the intermediate time until noon witnessing the practical operation of the Niagara grain elevator, the largest in the city, and the one which furnished a model for several now being erected in Russia. Very extensive preparations were made to show his Imperial Highness the great usefulness and wonderful workings of one of these American mercantile or commercial inventions. The ice was cut away for a considerable distance around the dock and a large boat loaded with corn was brought up through the opened channel. As soon as the guest and his friends arrived the machinery was set in motion, and the whole operation of unloading from boats and reloading into cars was gone through with. Everything worked to a charm, and not only the Duke, but many Buffalonians engaged in the grain trade and elevator business, were delighted, beyond their most sanguine expectations. The visitors lingered for considerable time beyond the period originally intended for witnessing the experiment, and when they departed it was with an intelligent and clear comprehension of the construction and workings of one of the principal grain elevators in the whole country. There was of course a large crowd of people on the heels of the Duke wherever he went, but it was composed of the very best citizens and they were enthusiastic in their demonstrations of welcome wherever the imperial visitor appeared in sight.

DEMONSTRATIONS ON HIS LEAVING FOR CLEVELAND.

At the depot, when the train left, there were thousands assembled to see him off, and if it had not been for very special preparations on the part of the Chief of Police, the Russian naval lieutenant would have had a sorry time, indeed, gaining access to his train. As he marched down through the open space kept clear for him there was a grand chorus of applause from thousands and thousands of voices, and the Bedlam-like cheering did not cease until the cars had disappeared from view. The train was the special Pullman one provided exclusively for the imperial party, with the addition of a special drawing room car for the accommodation of the officers of the Lake Shore Road, who accompanied the party through to this city. Mr. Rice, the steward, furnished an elegant breakfast, which was partaken while the cars were going through the country at the rate of forty miles an hour. The only stops made were at Dunkirk and Erie, and at both these cities the people were assembled by thousands to welcome the distinguished visitor, and at the latter city the spectacle was rendered very enlivening by a band of music, which played a medley of American and Russian airs during the delay of the train.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION IN CLEVELAND.

The reception on the arrival of the party in Cleveland was one of the most enthusiastic since the Duke first trod American soil. It seemed as if the whole population of the city had left their homes and assembled in the neighborhood of the Union depot to extend a welcome to the Russian guest. The depot and the whole vicinity were one swaying mass of humanity, and as the train came in the cheers and hurrahs were almost deafening. An arched and carpeted promenade had been prepared for the Duke, and this was kept clear by a military escort, consisting of the Cleveland Greys. A band, composed of the musicians of Northern Ohio, played the Russian hymn and Alexis marched out before the admiring audience, bowing his acknowledgements in the most polite and smiling manner imaginable. The party was met by the Mayor and a committee of the City Council, who escorted them to their carriages in convenient waiting. They drove immediately to the Kennard House, where most superb apartments were prepared, and after an elegant dinner the balance of the evening was spent in a informal interviews with city officials and other leading citizens.

The streets between the depot were crowded with people, who applauded loud and hearty as the distinguished visitor appeared. Complimentary allusions to his personal appearance and gentlemanly deportment were as numerous here as elsewhere, and probably the same feminine enthusiasm will be created by his presence among the Western as among the Eastern ladies.

To-morrow the Russians will, by their own direction, be unmolested until half-past twelve o'clock, when a committee will escort the party around town in carriages. The route of the drive will be from the Kennard to Water street, to Superior, to Euclid, to the Euclid avenue station, arriving at one P. M. and embarking on a special train for Newburg, to visit Bessimer street and other iron manufactories. Returning at three P. M., the party will drive down Prospect street to Erie, to Woodland, to Ontario street, and arrive at the square at four o'clock. The Fire Department will be reviewed, and at a quarter past four o'clock the party will make the grand *entree* to the Skating Rink, to see the inventors' exhibition. After remaining an hour in the Rink the visitors will go to the Kennard for dinner.

The Imperial Visit to Chicago—The Invitation.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26, 1871.

The following correspondence passed between the Mayor of this city and the Grand Duke Alexis in reference to the latter's intended visit:—

MAYOR MEDILL TO THE GRAND DUKE.

Allow me the honor of extending to Your Imperial Highness and suite a cordial invitation to visit Chicago during your American tour. I am obliged to apologize in advance for the inadequate reception we shall be able to give your Imperial Highness. We have but little to exhibit but the ruins and debris of a great and beautiful city and an undaunted people struggling with adversity to relieve their overwhelming misfortunes. But as the son and representative of our natural great friend, Russia, you will be warmly welcomed in Chicago, as in all America. I hereby tender your Imperial Highness the freedom of the city during the period that you may be pleased to honor it with your presence. I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOSEPH MEDILL, Mayor of Chicago.

THE GRAND DUKE'S REPLY AND ACCEPTANCE.

TORONTO, Dec. 21, 1871.

SIR—His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis has instructed me to express his thanks for the kind feelings you entertain towards his Majesty the Emperor, as well as for your cordial invitation to visit the City of Chicago, which he has great pleasure in accepting. His Imperial Highness regrets extremely the great misfortune which has befallen your city, but he has been glad to hear that the energy of the men of Chicago is rapidly removing all traces of distress. I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

POLHEMET.

JOSEPH MEDILL, Esq., Mayor of Chicago.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27—7 P. M.

Synopsis for the Past Twenty-four Hours.

Cloudy weather has continued to prevail, with but little intermission, in the Middle and Eastern States, since Monday night. The barometer has fallen slowly on the Lower Lakes, where it is now lowest. An area of high pressure, with clear and cold weather, continues west of the Mississippi, moving steadily southeastwardly. The barometer has fallen steadily, with cloudy weather, at San Francisco. Partially cloudy and pleasant weather is reported from the Eastern and Gulf States, and threatening weather from Tennessee to Ohio.

Probabilities.

Cloudy weather will probably continue with light rain or snow on Wednesday in the Middle and Eastern States, in advance of an area of high barometer and cold weather, which will extend eastward into Michigan and southward into Mississippi. The lowest barometer continues in Pennsylvania and New England, and clear cold weather on the upper lakes and the lower Missouri. Dangerous winds are not anticipated for to-night.