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 XXXVII.....No. 8

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

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.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—HOUSE DOG—THE WAIFS OF NEW YORK.

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

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

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th av. and 23d st.—NO THOROUGHFARE.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 30th st.—Performances afternoon and evening.—BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

ST. JAMES' THEATRE, Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—MONALDI.

STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—OPERA BOUFFE—LA GRANDE DUCHESSE.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—MONTE CRISTO.

PARK THEATRE, opposite City Hall, Brooklyn.—TRUMPS; OR, HIGH, LOW JACK AND THE GAME.

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth st.—THEODORE THOMAS' GRAND CONCERT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEAVITT ART ROOMS, No. 817 Broadway.—EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Monday, January 8, 1872.

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CESPEDES, the President of what is called "The Cuban Republic," has, according to the Havana despatch which we publish this morning, made his escape from Cuba to Curacoa, where he is now said to be lying ill.

ERIE STOCK AND FISK'S DEATH.—Erie stock on Saturday afternoon was quoted 35¾. After the shooting of Fisk it rose to 37. Yesterday morning, in the *sotto voce* market at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, it fluctuated between 37 and 38, until Fisk's death was announced, when the shares rose to 39½ a 40. Last night the market fell off again, the closing dealings being at 38. Although the Stock Exchange has been closed since the shooting occurred, not less than five thousand shares changed hands during Saturday night and Sunday.

HOW TO SETTLE OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH SPAIN—Demand an immediate apology and reparation for the numerous offences of Spanish provincial and naval authorities against the rights and dignity of our flag, and the rights of our citizens, with the alternative annexed of the armed occupation of the island of Cuba, and we shall have a fight and a decisive settlement. The people are ready for it; and surely we have had enough of Spanish outrages and Spanish insolence, and diplomatic tomfoolery with the Spanish government.

MEXICAN WARFARE is as uncertain and unaccountable as the whirlwind. The tactics of the Mexican generals would puzzle a Moltke. But a short time ago it was announced, with a great flourish of trumpets, that Saltillo and Mier had been captured by the revolutionists. It now appears, by our latest special despatch from Matamoros, that both places have been abandoned by the insurgents, and are to be reoccupied by Juarez's troops. As an off-set against this reported triumph of the government, it is announced that a formidable force of revolutionists is going to attack Matamoros, the fall of which city would place an important part of the frontier along the Rio Grande in the hands of the latter. Victories in Mexico, whether in favor of the government or in favor of the insurgents, seem to be alike barren in result.

The Tragedy and Its Meaning—What It Teaches and What It Should Teach.

Is this really the age of romance? What a page these last days have added to our strange history! When we spoke recently of "Chaos Triumphant," which the metropolis was acting, we little dreamed that to-day would develop a tragedy more wonderful than was ever seen on the mimic stage. What is it that Edgar Poe wrote about the play called, "The Tragedy Man," and its hero the "Conqueror Worm?" We think of it with a shiver as we read the weird rhymes, yet now record its parallel. Let us note the plot and apply the lesson.

On Saturday a citizen of New York, well known in this and other lands, quietly rode down Broadway and stopped at a hotel. His purpose was to call on the family of one who had been his friend and benefactor in the days of need. Behind him was a rapidly-driven carriage, containing one who had known him for many years, shared his confidence and his friendship, but between whom madness and discord had risen. The pursuer reached the hotel before the pursued, and quietly stationed himself at the head of the stairway. In time the victim arrived. Unconscious, unattended—with bowed head, as in thought, or, perhaps, oppressed with the weariness of the day's work—he slowly ascended the stairs. He was, as it were, in a pit. There was no retreat, no refuge, no possible evasion or defence. So, when a pistol was aimed down the stairway, it covered every inch of it. The one in concealment fired, the victim fell, and the weapon was fired again and again at the pleading and stricken visitor. This done, the satisfied assailant went his way—the way being to the adjoining prison. There was no attack, no word of warning, no apparent impulse towards the deed. The slayer and the slain were both young men, with gifts, opportunities and friendships. Before them life opened with the brightness and beauty of morning. In a moment, as by a flash, it vanished. The morning became night—the night of the prison and the grave.

It is not for us to sit in judgment upon the heroes of this tragedy. Of the man who is dead we may speak—of the one by whose hand he died we must be silent in presence of the law. For what he has done he must answer to his God and his country, and may he have speedy and unbending justice. No journal has a right to anticipate a jury's verdict or to prejudice the case of one who is to answer for his life. When the trial is over and the verdict is given we may speak. Now let us repress all passion. We remember of the dead man that he filled a large space in the mind of the people; that he commanded vast interests; that he had risen from poverty to wealth with a swiftness that recall the tales of the "Arabian Nights;" that he was of daring, boundless ambition; that he surrounded his life with a gaudy splendor that dazzled the multitude even if the wiser and graver ones mocked. No one of this generation has so suddenly swept into fame—or, perhaps, what is better, that phase of fame which we call notoriety—than the young man who was stealthily shot to death in the ambuscaded stairway of a hotel. His vivacity; his comeliness; his incessant, effervescing good humor; the railways he owned; the steamboats he commanded, his bands of music and flocks of canary birds; his decorations; his seeking after luxury and pleasure; his wild struggle with the government of the United States; his boyish love of show, of colors and gems and golden braid; that reckless frankness, which made the world the confidant of his business, his dreams and his affections; his insatiable thirst for applause; the world to him a stage, and his whole life, even those phases of life which decorum veils, an acted comedy—no more striking phenomenon of human nature has been seen in our time. True, there was scandal in his life, and stern moralists will find retribution in his death. It is not for us to speak of retribution. And oh, friends think that the poor always swarmed around his gates and never went hungry away, and that those who knew him best shed tears over his death bed! This we must say of him—and the best of us will die a blessed death, indeed, if such memories attend our closing hours.

So much, then, to the manes of one who yesterday was so powerful, so great, so envied—wielding princely power with the recklessness of the revolutionary Duke of Orleans, but who to-day will be slowly borne to an untimely grave. Generations will read with varied feelings of the strange, romantic life of "the Prince of Erie," and, in closing the chapter which records it, we have this thought:—"What shall we say of the society which developed 'the Prince of Erie—what of the generation which made his death possible?' Every age and every people find themselves reflected in the men they give and the deeds they do. We speak of the revolutionary Duke of Orleans; but he was the offspring of his time, its luxury, its extravagance, its defiance of law and religion and God's ordinances. What was George Prince of Wales, the first gentleman of Europe, but the concentrated dandyism and extravagance of an era of folly and fashion? Aaron Burr was the outgrowth of that loose morality which came with the social upheaval that succeeded our Revolution. Robespierre was the man of his time and his race. He was possible to a maddened people, wild with thirsting for the blood of kings. He was impossible to the calmer and more practical men, whose leader was Bonaparte. Degenerate France expressed itself in Louis Napoleon and his gang of adventurers—De Morny and Fleury and St. Arnaud; and the reckless gamblers with the wealth and glory of the richest and most renowned nation of Europe. Regenerate Germany is seen in the manly genius of Bismarck, the honesty and valor of Kaiser William.

The Prince of Erie was representative. Do we know what we have been doing, and whither we have been drifting these later years? This is a volcanic period, and the lava still rolls over us. The war was a great upheaval. The work of a century has been undone in a day. Old customs, traditions, constitutional rights, respect for property and law have been overthrown as easily as Pompeii and Herculaneum. The slave power, which was imperial ten years ago, is now despised and offensive. King Cotton has been dethroned and his kingdom given to serfs. The invincible Tammany has been dashed in pieces, as with a potter's sherd. The democratic party which made Jackson irresistible is now as helpless as Napoleon's army retreating before the Cossacks. The Pontiff of the venerable Catholic Church has been driven from the Quirinal, and a usurping King sits in the palace of the successors of St. Peter and the Vicegerent of Christ. Napoleon, whose frown made Europe tremble, is a harmless exile among the trees and garden walks of Chiselhurst. Still the volcano burns. Kings sit upon rocking thrones. Society is like the mass of molten fire. Men war upon the Church and State—nay, even upon sacraments sanctified by centuries of reverence. We are told that there is no God; that Christ is a fiction; that marriage is a bondage; that none shall live in marriage, and that in the general overthrow the hearth and home and the family itself must perish.

In this age of chaos—this heaving, tumbling age—all things are possible. The life of this Prince of Erie—his sad, tragic, sudden death—whatever we may call it—are natural phenomena. Let us look to it and apply the lesson which is written upon this day's chronicle in such terrible, bloody letters. Society needs a general purification. The war did its share, but more remains to be done. The Pyramids spoke to Napoleon with the lessons of forty centuries. Shall this republic hope to have "forty centuries" of existence? See what Rome did in her three hundred years of republican life. The memory of that epoch is ever present. It gave us Brutus. We are about to close the first century of our nation's life. What have we given to the world? What lesson have we taught? How much have we contributed to the comfort and happiness of mankind? In our pride we may say that if Rome gave the world Brutus, America has given it Washington. It is only our pride that speaks. Rome passed from Brutus to Heliogabulus and Nero in four centuries. We have passed from Washington to this poor Prince of Erie. But Rome did more. She developed Cæsar and made Christ's teachings possible. Even kings pay tribute to that splendor, when Russia crowns her Czar and Germany her Kaiser, and adore the humble Jew who paid tribute to Tiberias. America has not reached such a consummation, nor are we on the way to it.

Let us therefore bury this dead man with all honor to the good that was in him. "Why," said Mrs. Stowe, "did you love this horrible Lord Byron, when you knew of his follies and crimes?" 'Because, my dear," said Lady Byron, "there was the angel in him." There was this in the Prince of Erie; but his life, his death and the social chaos which found expression in their impress upon all were grave and immediate responsibilities. Chaos seems to have triumphed, but is it not time the triumph should end? Is it not time that government and order and tradition and religion and moral law should begin to reign?

The O'Hara-Stack Difficulty—The Canon Law.

The gist of the matter between Bishop O'Hara and Father Stack, the late pastor of Williamsport, Pa., appears really to lie in the fact that the Roman canon law has no application in this country. To state this briefly, it means that America, in Catholic parlance, is what is called a "mission," in contradistinction to a country with a regular hierarchy. This embryo state is, of course, parallel to colonizing in the political sense, and is as natural as necessary. The absence of the canon law means, in its application to the present difficulty, that the Bishop is competent to remove a parish priest without showing cause. The suit in the Pennsylvania Courts is brought with the intention of compelling the Bishop to do so. It seems a hardship that a priest may be turned abroad without cause stated, but the necessities of discipline are things which concern priests more than laymen, and things to which they voluntarily subscribe at the time of their ordination. The puzzle to everybody seems to be how the civil Courts can help the matter at all; for as "all the kings' horses and all the kings' men" could not put the yolk back in the cracked egg, it is just as difficult to civilly rehabilitate an unfrocked priest. The Roman College will perhaps, at some early day, find it in their province to erect America into a country with a regular hierarchy, and so cut the present Gordian knot between bishop and priest.

HOW TO BUILD A NAVY—Let Mr. Boutwell drop a million or two every month in his reduction of the national debt statement and appropriate the amount to the reconstruction of our naval marine. The ambition of securing a rapid reduction of the public debt should give way to the immediate and imperative necessity of building a navy worthy of the nation.

SENATOR SHERMAN has secured a nomination for another Senatorial term from the republican caucus of the Ohio Legislature, and will doubtless be re-elected to-morrow, as the republicans have a good majority on joint ballot. Sherman was the Grant candidate against numerous anti-Grant candidates, and his success is an important victory for General Grant over the Ohio republican malcontents—a victory, in fact, of the same character as that of Smith over Alvord for Speaker at Albany.

THE LATEST INTERNAL REVENUE DEFAULTER—A Georgia supervisor, to the extent of twenty-six thousand dollars, one General Kryzamanowski, originally from Petropaulovski, or peradventure from "the fair land of Poland." What hope, then, can there be for Poland, when even Kryzamanowski proves faithless, and for the pitiful haul of twenty-six thousand? For this miserable experiment, if guilty, let no mercy be shown to Kryzamanowski.

SUPERFLUOUS ANXIETY.—The anxious philosopher of the *Times* says of the bewildered philosopher of the *Tribune*, that "it becomes a question whether Mr. Greeley will support the principles and candidate of the republican party in the next Presidential election." But suppose you count him among the bolters, what does it signify? Has he not proclaimed the fact that neither he nor Mr. Fenton can do anything against the spoils of the Custom House?

Mr. Boutwell's Treasury Operations and the Syndicate Job.

Perhaps there is no department of the government where administrative mismanagement can be covered up so well as in the Treasury. Few people know much about financial matters on such a scale as those pertaining to the government. To most the subject of the national finances is as great a mystery as the Sibylline oracles could be. Not many, consequently, pay much attention to it. Then, Treasury figures are capable of being so arranged as to deceive the public. Mr. Boutwell, for example, has had his financial operations laid before the country in most flattering exhibits, apparently, and his friends and partisans have sung praises to him for the ability they think he has shown, yet there never was in this country, probably, a more incompetent Secretary of the Treasury.

Our Washington correspondence, published to-day in another part of the paper, shows that Mr. Boutwell has been inconsistent and has no determined financial policy, except, indeed, that he has been consistent since he entered the Treasury in keeping up burdensome and unnecessary taxation and making jobs for rings of friends and speculators. Just before he became Secretary, and while a member of the House of Representatives, he introduced a bill which provided that no percentage, deduction, commission or compensation of any amount or kind should be allowed to any person for the sale, negotiation, or exchange of any bonds or securities of the United States, or of any coin or bullion disposed of at the Treasury Department or elsewhere on account of the United States. By the same bill all acts authorizing or permitting, by construction or otherwise, the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint any agent, other than some proper officer of his department, to make such sale or negotiation of bonds and securities were to be repealed. It provided also that all exchanges, purchases or sales of bonds should be made by inviting competition through advertising for proposals, and then the awards to be given to be best bidders. It was to be the same with the sales of gold. No agents were to be employed, all was to be done through the proper officers of the Treasury Department, and there was to be the most free competition and publicity. The bill did not pass, and Mr. Boutwell has done much, no doubt, to prevent such a measure being passed since he has been Secretary. His policy as Secretary of the Treasury is not the same as when he was in the House of Representatives. The very jobs he appeared intent on preventing while a member of the House he has since favored.

In the syndicate job, which gives to agents unconnected with the Treasury—to a few favored bankers and speculators—near two millions of dollars for negotiating a hundred and thirty millions of the new loan. If the whole of the fifteen hundred millions authorized by the funding act of Congress to be funded should be negotiated at the same rate of cost the loss to the Treasury and country would be about twenty-three millions. What new light had flashed upon the mind of Mr. Boutwell since 1869 when he was so intent on having no outside agencies to negotiate government securities, and no commissions allowed for doing so? To say the least the whole syndicate transaction looks suspicious. The profits allowed to the agents for placing the hundred and thirty millions of the loan, as the negotiation of the new five per cents, or barter of securities has been called, are without parallel in the financial operations of this country, or, perhaps, of any great country in these times. Mr. Boutwell has acted in this matter contrary to the spirit and intention of the funding act of Congress, if not in direct violation of law. One-half of one per cent, or six hundred and fifty thousand dollars, was the total amount allowed and not to be exceeded for all expenses in the sale or conversion of a hundred and thirty millions of securities. This is explicit and there is no way of evading the law directly, yet the Secretary evades it indirectly. He gives the Syndicate the interest on the bonds for a certain time, which is tantamount to paying a commission of about two millions of dollars. No amount of special pleading can overcome this plain and damaging fact.

In his gold sales as well as in his bond purchases and operations Mr. Boutwell has overstepped the duty of his position. He has entered the market as the bulls and bears of Wall street do, to affect prices, and thus to benefit those who are in the Treasury Ring or in the secret of Treasury operations. He goes beyond the limit of his duty when he interferes with the market. Such conduct is an injury to the solid business men of the country and the public, and is only beneficial to the stock and gold gamblers and the Treasury Ring. See the list of commercial firms and names we publish in our Washington correspondence of those who petitioned for a cessation of those bull and bear operations of the Treasury Department. Mr. Boutwell should have all sales or purchases in the gold and stock market public, at fixed periods, and after timely notice has been given. There would be no favoritism in this, and it would tend more than any other course to prevent gold gambling and to keep the market steady, all of which would prove advantageous to merchants and business men generally.

One of the causes for Mr. Boutwell's extravagant syndicate scheme, apart from the desire to benefit a certain class of Treasury favorites, was the dilemma the Secretary found he had placed himself in with regard to funding the debt. He had made Congress and the people believe he could fund the whole fifteen hundred millions provided for in the bill he recommended, and which Congress passed. Month after month passed away and little was accomplished. His policy, in fact, was a failure. At last he saw it was necessary to make a desperate effort to save his credit with the public, and then devised the syndicate scheme. Even then, with the enormous profits given to those agents, and after hawking our securities about Europe, only a very small portion of the fifteen hundred millions to be funded was placed. After putting the screws to the national banks by threatening them, trying all the money centres of the world by perambulating Treasury officials and the syndicate agency, and paying dear, at last he has succeeded merely in converting two hundred millions of the five-twenties. It was really humiliating to this great and rich country to have its securities hawked about in such a manner. We consider the Secretary has failed in his funding scheme, notwithstanding the conversion under pressure and at great cost of two hundred millions of securities. He felt this himself, no doubt, when he resorted to the questionable means we have spoken of in funding a small portion of the debt.

Moneyed institutions, capitalists and the people, both in this country and abroad, will take our securities when they want them, and find it profitable to do so, without the aid of syndicates. The press and its advertising columns prove to be the best agency in these days. A great nation is not like an insurance company or a dry goods house, needing drummers to improve its business. Put the whole debt into long time or interminable consols, abolish a hundred millions of taxation a year, let strict economy be observed in the expenditures of government, let a moderate sinking fund be kept in operation, and measures be taken at once to return to specie payments, and we venture to say the credit of the country would rise and our national securities at a lower rate of interest would soon be absorbed. The debt would be extinguished through a sinking fund or by applying surplus revenues, if it be desirable to extinguish it entirely, just as soon as the bonds were made interminable, or had to run forty or fifty years, as if they had only ten years to run. The whole funding scheme and our financial policy need remodelling. The first step, however, is to find a competent man for Secretary of the Treasury.

The Sermons—Hepworth's New Departure in Theology.

The great feature of our pulpit budget this morning is the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Hepworth from the pastorate of the Church of the Messiah and the incidents which accompanied his farewell sermon. Manlier, truer or more independent Christian words have been rarely uttered in the pulpits of this city than were spoken yesterday by this eloquent preacher. And the applause with which his words were greeted, and the hisses which met the utterances and actions of a few persons who were unchristian enough to insult him gratuitously, showed unmistakably in what direction the sympathies of the people lie. It is not often that a minister is found bold enough to say of his own denomination that it had of late admitted to its fold men who would not be received into any other Christian body in the world. Should Mr. Hepworth seek to build up a church organization here he will undoubtedly have the sympathy and support of very many who now worship in the Church of the Messiah. This church seems to be fatal to heterodoxy. First, Dr. Osgood left it and became an Episcopalian minister, and now Mr. Hepworth takes a new departure, probably for Congregationalism. Our readers will find his sermon in to-day's HERALD interesting and instructive.

Dr. Chapin entertained his church yesterday with a New Year's sermon illustrative and suggestive of progress in life—not merely for this life, but for that which is to come. Of all wretched men the Doctor deems him the most wretched who leads an aimless life, and such a life every man leads who neglects religion—his highest good, the salvation of the soul. The Rev. Mr. Longacre encouraged his Methodist congregation to hold fast to the words of truth, and to educate their children in the truths of the Bible if they would have them firmly fixed upon a rock against which the gates of hell cannot prevail. Dr. Richardson preached a New Year's sermon also, and directed the attention of his hearers toward fruit-bearing and the pruning and care that is needed thereto. The only reason he knew why any man should ask to be spared another year is that he may bear fruit. This is the object of creation and of redemption. The Rev. Mr. Evans wished his congregation, like the great Apostle Paul, to "forget the things that are behind and to press forth to those that are yet before" in this year 1872. He gave them many good and sufficient reasons for so doing, which our readers will find out for themselves.

Mr. Beecher seems to be boiling over with love, if we may judge from the frequency with which he makes it the theme of his discourses. Yesterday he contrasted God's love with man's, and pictured also the manifestation of God in nature and in grace. In the former power, order, arrangement are seen; in the latter goodness, tenderness, love and pity are manifested. We fear, however, that many weak souls would stumble at such theology as this. "If," said Mr. Beecher, as reported, "we have the products of the temperate zone from our lukewarm nature, God is tropical and intense in love. We are at liberty, then, in framing God, to take what is best in man." This, without further elucidation and explanation, we should consider rather a loose way to frame a conception of God, but Mr. Beecher throws out a few broad and qualifying sentences, which give assurance that he is still true to truth. Dr. Chapman demonstrated to St. John's Methodist Episcopal church, Brooklyn, the importance of human instrumentality in conversion and the characteristics necessary in every man to insure success in any and every effort and the means whereby such success is to be wrought out. The one end and aim of every Christian, he deemed, should be not to build up a sect, but to save souls for Christ.

THE LABOR TROUBLES IN BELGIUM, from month to month, are becoming more and more threatening and alarming. The great difficulty with poor Belgium is that her population is more than she can support. Her only relief, therefore, is emigration, and this is the remedy to which her government should now direct its attention—a grand and liberal system of compensating emigration to government and people.

PERFECTLY AWFUL—The condition of things in Cuba, and the anarchy that prevails in Mexico, especially in view of the fact that one word from General Grant to Congress on Cuba and Mexico, or in reference to either, would open the way of their salvation.

VICE PRESIDENT COLFAX, after all, is inclined to be merciful. He has half made up his mind to run for and to serve as Vice President for another term, if the people will have it so. In short, Mr. Colfax smiled again upon General Grant, and Mr. Greeley ought to "go out West and buy a farm."

WASHINGTON.

The Work Before Congress To-Day in Bills and Jobs.

"America's Difficulty is Buncombe's Opportunity."

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7, 1872.

The Business Before Congress—Bills on the Docket—Private Jobs in Shoals.

The present session of Congress was assembled only twenty days, of which but fourteen were used for business purposes, yet during that time there were presented to the House 336 bills, while the number on the Senate docket is not quite two hundred. The total number of bills presented to both Senate and House since Congress convened on the 4th of March last is over twelve hundred. Of these only the Ku Klux act and three appropriation bills have become law. It is probable that to-morrow, being the day for call on States, there will be an avalanche of propositions, as members have had two weeks in which to mature their several measures. So far few bills of an important character have been introduced, especially those in which the lobby are interested. The two most important propositions of this character are a bill granting the use of one-half of Goat Island, in the Bay of San Francisco, to the California Central Pacific, and one materially modifying the regulations for protection of life and property made by the Treasury Board of Steamboat Inspectors. There is a huge delegation here favoring this latter, representing a Western river and lake interest aggregating at least $500,000,000 of capital.

The bills now on the House docket have been referred as follows:—Ways and Means, 20; Appropriations, 9; Judiciary, 64 (of which about one-third are for the removal of disabilities); Public Lands, 35 (of which the fraction are railroad land grant bills, and as many more call for grants to construct irrigating canals); Commerce has 27, Military Affairs 38 (most of which are of the private claim nature), Claims has 24, Public Buildings and Grounds 24, Invalid Pensions 26, and the balance are distributed among sixteen other committees. The greater number of the bills referred to the above named committees are of but little significance—mainly local jobs, like those for construction of public buildings in various cities, or private claims or pensions. The committees to which go the most important details of legislation are not yet encumbered with business, except four or five of them.

The Spanish Difficulty in Congress—Buncombe Expected—The Washington Treaty Provisions.

It is anticipated that there will be an attempt made to-morrow in the House to bring on a discussion over the Spanish difficulties. Resolutions can be presented under the call of States, and from some of the States earlier called an attempt will be made to force a vote on some such resolution. Should it be a concerted effort on the part of a special clique the probability will be that most of the time allotted for the call will be consumed in an attempt to secure its passage. As such a move is most likely to come from the opposition side, it will be resisted by the majority and of course defeated. It is reported that the democrats will demand vigorous action with Spain, and aim to make all the party capital out of the present state of public feeling. The three bills for carrying out various provisions of the Washington Treaty now before General Banks' committee are the first measures of importance to be considered in the House. The first relates to the fishery articles, and General Butler is loaded with every legislative means of opposition. He will receive a larger support than has generally been expected. In the Senate the Amnesty bill is the pending measure. It is understood Mr. Sumner will withdraw his supplementary Civil Rights bill, which he has attached as an amendment to the amnesty measure. Senator Schurz will move to strike out all the exceptions and make the amnesty general. The Committee on Elections and Privileges will make a report on the Vance-Abbott case which may give rise at once to a discussion likely to postpone the amnesty debate for some time to come.

The jealousy between the leaders of the House and the party leader of the democracy was curiously illustrated yesterday. On being asked by an antediluvian whether Mr. Fernando Wood was still in the House Mr. Dawes said, with some asperity, "Wood is in the House, but not still."

The District Board of Health have declared war upon the cars of the Pennsylvania Avenue Street Railway, which is chiefly owned by Sylvanus Riker, Henry Hart, of Chatham street, and other magnates of the Third Avenue Road in New York. The Board intend to condemn the dirty cars as a public nuisance, dangerous to health, and remove them from the road. It is hardly probable that this good intention will be carried out, as the road professes to own Congressmen enough to control the District authorities, all purchased at the low price of an annual pass. A bill for the construction and operation of street railways by the local government, for the benefit of the people, is to be introduced into the Legislative Assembly, and in anticipation of this piece of communal legislation the members of the Legislature have all been furnished with deadhead tickets.

Alleged Abuses in the Post Office Department—The Contract Combination.

For some time past parties interested in bringing to light some of the irregularities in public affairs have been investigating the management of the Post Office Department by Mr. Creswell. They claim to have fastened upon him in the clearest manner a series of conspiracies to reject responsible proposals for heavy mail contracts on the ground that they were "straw bids" and otherwise irresponsible or informal, and to award the contracts to favored bidders with whom previous arrangements had been made at higher rates. It is also alleged that contractors in the actual performance of mail service, under their contracts, have been induced to make default, with assurances that their sureties would be held harmless, thus affording a pretext of emergency for the reletting of the routes without contracts based on public advertisement, as the law requires. The sum drawn from the Treasury in pursuance of these arrangements is named at about two million dollars. Messrs. George Earle, of Maryland, and Giles A. Smith, of Illinois, both of whom have filled the position of Assistant Postmaster General under Mr. Creswell and resigned it to attend to the prosecution of claims and the settlement of accounts before the Department, are charged as the active agents between the Postmaster General and the other beneficiaries of the transactions. And it is further charged that the Auditor of the Department, a reconstruction loyalist from Alabama, cannot keep his skirt clear when the coming revelations are made. Members of the Democratic Congressional Committee have been in consultation upon the subject, and a resolution of inquiry, embodying in specific and definite terms the accusation against the Postmaster General, will probably be introduced in both houses of Congress to-morrow. Names of persons and dates and other particulars of the transactions are, it is stated, to be introduced into the resolutions, to forestall objections from the majority side of the House that the resolutions are intended as political manœuvres and campaign documents merely.

Washington Notables in Thespian Charity.

Washington is promised a sensation in an amateur theatrical performance on Thursday next for St. John's church charities. The National Theatre, the largest in the city, has been engaged. The amateurs are of the best and most known families. The President and the Cabinet have been invited and are expected to attend. The demand for tickets among the *élite* is unprecedented, some having been telegraphed for from New York and Philadelphia.

THE HERALD AND DR. LIVINGSTONE.

(From the Boston Post, Jan. 4.)

The NEW YORK HERALD has carried the newspaper war of enterprise into Africa.