

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

All business or news letters and telegraphic despatches must be addressed New York Herald. Letters and packages should be properly sealed. Rejected communications will not be returned.

Volume XXXVII. No. 304

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirtieth street.—ROMA HOB.
TONTASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 20 Bowry.—JACK KENT—QUART HOUR.
BOWERY THEATRE, Bowry.—YACUP—THE KING AND DORIS.
WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—CHRIS AND LENA. Afternoon and Evening.
OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE WITCHES OF NEW YORK.—TRAPPEE PERFORMANCES.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE, 14th st. and Broadway.—THE VOKES FAMILY.—THE BELLIES OF THE KITCHEN, &c.
PARK THEATRE, coposite City Hall, Brooklyn.—STREETS OF NEW YORK.
STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—RUSSINIEN CONCERTS.
CENTRAL PARK GARDEN.—GARDEN INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT.
TERRACE GARDEN, 6th st., between 3d and Lexington av.—SCENIC EVENING CONCERTS.
BROOKLYN RINK.—GRAND CONCERT BY THE PAUSIAN BAND.
NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 63 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.
DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM, No. 74 Broadway.—ART AND SCIENCE.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

New York, Monday, July 22, 1872.

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THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ACTION against the would-be assassins of Amadeus and the Queen indicates that the almost deadly deed was performed as part of the work of an organized conspiracy. Twenty-seven persons charged with complicity, with the three principals, are already in custody. His Majesty had a very narrow escape from death, as it has been found that seven pistol bullets were lodged in the carcase of one of the horses attached to his carriage. Admiral Topete is out with a warning against dangerous demonstrations, so that good may come out of the great evil—eventually.

SAD ALARM FOR TOURISTS IN SWITZERLAND.—The correspondent of an English newspaper who has just been engaged in the discharge of his duty in Geneva, was robbed and murdered near that city on Saturday. A portion of the money, French coin, has been recovered, but the murderers are as yet unknown. There is little doubt that the gathering of an unusual number of rich and distinguished personages in the Swiss city during the present season has attracted thither also a large force of the dangerous classes of Europe. It may be found that some of the ticket-of-leave men regularly, despite the police precautions, to the scene of all large and brilliant assemblages both in the Old World and the New, have been the perpetrators of this most foul deed of crime.

AMONG THE ISLANDS.—It is reported that President Grant intends soon to make a trip down the St. Lawrence and to see the charms of its thousand islands and experience the excitement of passing through its rushing rapids. Judging by the reports from North Carolina it would appear that he might find enough of excitement and suspense in the tumultuous current of its near election. Wisdom should urge him to devote his present attention to the mighty flood of public sentiment which is now settling the question of his re-election in November, or such a defeat as will allow him plenty of leisure in the future to become acquainted with Canadian geography. Rocks and quicksands threaten the life of his political fortunes in the shape of improper and unfit cabinet ministers and officers in high station, in whom honest men have no confidence. Their removal should have more interest to the chief executive than a pleasure excursion. His first task should be to rescue himself from the hands of politicians and carpet-baggers and take his proper place as leader of the people.

The North Carolina Election and Its Effects—The Consolidation of the Negro Vote.

Secretary Boutwell has returned to Washington from North Carolina, and announces with confidence that the latter State will elect the republican ticket on the 1st of August by a majority of between six and eight thousand. The Secretary's political pilgrimage has been a short one; probably it was wisely curtailed by the President Grant. But some persons have the faculty of doing a great deal of mischief in a brief space of time, and if the republican majority, which ought to be over twelve thousand, shall actually be cut down nearly or quite one-half, we may attribute the falling off to the injudicious policy of Secretary Boutwell and to his inept attempt to excite the hatred and passions of the negroes against their white fellow citizens. So far as the result of the election is concerned we regard the prediction of the Secretary as entirely safe. Our Greensboro correspondence, published to-day, assumes that the democrats have a good chance of carrying the State, and talks about the apathy of the negroes and the energy of the democracy, but he evidently writes under the inspiration of democratic meetings. The republicans are doing all the useful work in the campaign, and the negroes vote as machines at the bidding of the republican leaders. Every colored vote will be polled, and they will all be cast one way. There has been nothing since the rehabilitation of a democratic victory in North Carolina. In 1867, when the State voted on convention or no convention, one hundred and seventy-four thousand voters were registered, of whom seventy-one thousand were blacks. The vote polled was about one hundred and thirty thousand, of which, in round numbers, sixty thousand were cast by negroes, and the majority for the Convention, or on the republican side, was forty-five thousand. In 1868 one hundred and ninety-six thousand voters were registered, of whom seventy-nine thousand were blacks, and a poll of one hundred and sixty-six thousand votes gave eighteen thousand six hundred majority for Holden, the republican Governor, and nineteen thousand majority for the republican constitution. In 1870, owing to dissensions in the republican ranks, the democrats managed to elect their candidate for Attorney General by a little over four thousand majority, but last year the State again gave a republican majority of over nine thousand, out of a total vote of one hundred and eighty-five thousand.

In the present canvass the republicans are laboring harder than they have labored in any election since the return of the State to her position in the Union, and the advantages are altogether on their side. They have a State ticket in the field nominated in opposition to a straight, uncompromising democratic ticket before the conclusion of the union between the liberal republicans and the democracy on the Presidential candidates, and hence in a great measure independent of the influence of such union. The issue made subsequently in the Presidential contest, however, has aroused the administration to unusual exertion in the State, and all the power of the federal government is used to secure a marked republican victory. As President Grant is the renounee of the regular republican party, any reverse to that party, under any circumstances, would be prejudicial to his chances of success in November. When it is remembered that North Carolina is held under military rule; that the federal office-holders, the federal soldiers and the carpet-baggers, with the solid vote of the negro population, are all for the republican ticket; that a large amount of federal money has just been thrown into the State, which, if not corruptly used, will beyond question be liberally employed until election time in the payment of doubtful voters for what are called legitimate services, and that the people of North Carolina have been kept so miserably poor under the Southern policy of the republican Congress as to make a few dollars a material object to many thousands of them, it will be readily understood that the republican Governor's election ought not only to be secured this year, but ought to be carried by a larger majority than was given to Governor Holden in 1868.

The success of the republican State ticket in North Carolina on the 1st of August may, then, be regarded as certain, the question being only one of majorities. This result will leave the aspect of the Presidential canvass unchanged; for while a republican defeat would be almost fatal to that party, a democratic defeat will have no corresponding effect on the Greeley ticket, although it may become important as indicating the probable concentration of the whole negro vote of the South in solid mass on the republican candidates. We shall probably have to wait for the October elections until we ascertain with anything like certainty the strength of the anti-administration combination in the States that are likely to determine the Presidential contest, unless, indeed, any unexpected reverse on the republican side in the States that ought to be carried by them with ease should scatter their forces before the time for the decisive battle arrives. The real interest the people have in the North Carolina election is in the evidence it will furnish of the progress of the attempt to array the Southern negroes as a race against the white citizens of the South, and to continue an unconstitutional and oppressive policy towards the Southern States. If President Grant had followed the dictates of his own heart towards the Southern people, and had restored them to their full constitutional rights, privileges and liberties during his four years' term of office, it would be a gratifying sight to see the colored population of the old slave States marching as one man to the polls to vote for the General who had led the army of liberation, notwithstanding his famous declaration that if he believed the war was to be a war waged for the abolition of slavery he would draw his sword for the South. If he had been permitted by the party that elected him in 1868 to extend universal amnesty to the ex-rebels, to restore their States to self-government, and to limit the federal interference in their domestic affairs to the preservation of the peace and the protection of the rights of all citizens, black and white, until the complete restoration of civil law, there would have been something grand and noble in the idea of the race liberated by the war rallying without exception to the standard of the Union general. But the republican politicians in Congress, overruling and overriding the President, have held the white citizens of the

South in political bondage for eight years, with laws of pains and penalties; with proscriptive test oaths, with reconstruction under negroes, scalawags and carpet-baggers; with suspension of habeas corpus and the enforcement of military despotism. They have taught the ignorant, suspicious and passionate blacks to vote the republican ticket, not from generous impulse, but out of hatred and revenge against their former masters. Secretary Boutwell, in his recent stump-speaking pilgrimage, cautioned his negro audience against trusting their white fellow citizens, and urged them never to suffer the hands of the two sections and of the two races to be clasped over the bloody chasm made by the war. The solid support of the republican candidates by the Southern negroes has in it, then, no praiseworthy and laudable feature, but is the result of teachings that have instilled into the hearts of the blacks of the South a deadly hatred of their white neighbors and a belief that there can never be peace between the two races. They were told by Secretary Boutwell that they can only preserve their liberty and their civil rights through federal aid, for that their former masters would re-enslave them; or, at least, strip them of the privileges of citizenship if they should ever get the opportunity to do so.

Under these circumstances we regard the consolidation of the negro vote on one side in the present election as an evil and a danger. The effect of such appeals as Boutwell's upon the negro mind can be seen in the outrages already committed by the North Carolina blacks upon such colored men as choose to support the democracy. If the colored vote should be divided as well as the white vote in the South, there would be a better prospect of a restoration of constitutional government in that section of the Union. As it is, the Southern negroes, who will probably support Grant with scarcely an exception, will demand of his administration new privileges and new advantages over the whites in the event of his re-election; while if Greeley should be chosen President they are very likely to plunge their States into riot and insubordination. In either case there is probably more trouble and suffering in store for the unhappy South unless President Grant should choose to avert the calamity by a bold and patriotic movement. He has evidently seen the mischief of Boutwell's incendiary harangues and ordered him back to his post at Washington. If he will now remove from the Southern States every federal soldier whose services are not actually necessary, issue a peremptory order to the federal office-holders to take no active part in the campaign, turn adrift the disreputable men who have been fastened on to the South through the influences at Washington, and leave the Southern States as free as the Northern States in the approaching election, he will not only avert the threatened evils, but may carry the South without revolting and incensing the North. It is certain that the country will demand a more liberal and constitutional treatment of the South from the next administration, whether headed by Grant or Greeley, and will not be content with the passage of an amnesty bill wrong from the majority of Congress in the last hours of the session through terror of the Cincinnati nominations. President Grant, if re-elected, will be in heart in favor of this liberal and just policy; but he will find it difficult to carry it out if he allows his supporters to raise a barrier of distrust and hatred between the blacks and whites of the Southern States, or if he wins the Southern vote through federal influence and military tyranny. Let him now follow out those generous and noble principles that dictated the terms he granted to Lee's army and that led him to denounce a policy of revenge against the ex-rebel States, and he will satisfy the North as well as the South that the interests of the whole Union will be safe in his keeping for the next four years.

West Point and Its Official Critics.

The report of the Board of Visitors to the West Point Academy, which we published recently, is an extraordinary one in many respects. Anybody who is at all familiar with the inner workings of the Academy, and the ways and means that be to determine the character of the Visitors' reports beforehand, need not be told that the report for 1872 is the only really independent one that has been made by official visitors for many years past. Heretofore the gentlemen selected by the government to enjoy themselves at the Point at public expense, and at the same time "look into" the way the institution is managed, with a view of giving the country some time afterward an insight into the educational qualifications of the place, have contented themselves with exhibiting simply the bright side of the picture and making such suggestions only as were considered "the correct thing" by the officers.

As an exception to a general rule the report of the Visitors this year must indeed be set down as a decided curiosity. The fact is that it takes hold of the management of the Academy as it has never been taken hold of before, and, despite the extreme sensitiveness of the institution, the regulations and systems within systems of the post which the Board does not approve are set down in black and white without a word of apology. To be sure, the general management of the institution is conceded to be good; but "general management" is a very indefinite term, and so the force of the Board's criticisms as to other matters is by no means lost by the "general" commendation. Nobody will deny that a student at West Point obtains a good military education at the Academy; but are matters so arranged there that, while a cadet is made a thorough disciplinarian as a soldier, he is not left pretty much to himself as to other branches which make an academic education something more than a name? It is just concerning this particular subject that the Board of Visitors are most emphatic. First and foremost, as to the cadet's "lack of ease and precision in the English language," they candidly declare that "the graduates of the Academy are only expected to know what is taught in primary schools or in the lower classes of grammar schools." The engineering branch of the studies, that has been heretofore sacred ground, which Visitors never dared to venture upon, comes in also for a heavy blow. After stating that the instruction in applied mechanics and engineering is necessarily elementary and incomplete, the report boldly asserts: "There are several scientific

and polytechnic schools in the country in which much ampler courses of instruction in applied mechanics and civil, topographical and mechanical engineering are provided than are given at West Point, or can be given there, so long as the starting point of the Academy remains what it is." The drawing department, too, does not escape the merciless critics. They say:—"For the majority of the cadets the time spent in free-hand drawing is wasted;" "with the greater number of the pupils neither the eye nor the hand can be trained;" "the execution of the mechanical drawings made by the first class was not very creditable." The study of chemistry comes in for its share of severe criticism, and the practice of committing to memory the facts of chemistry out of a manual is denounced as "an odious employment for the mind;" and in commenting upon the practice the Visitors quietly remark that "to commit a Latin Grammar to memory would be better training and more useful in every point of view."

There is one subject the report touches upon, however, which shows that the wire-pullers from Washington were not idle with the Board during their pleasant stay at West Point, and that in one very important respect the independence of the report was completely overridden. We refer to the suggestion of the Board to abolish the study of the Spanish language and to teach French only. The idea is so absurd that we do not think any army officer can read the suggestion without a smile of the supremest contempt. Here we are with our active army, such as it is, in constant intercourse on our borders with Spanish-speaking peoples, and yet it is proposed to throw out the study of the Spanish language in our training school for officers, and substitute French. We venture to say that there is not an officer in the army who has had any experience whatever on the borders but who will declare that the study of the Spanish language should be made one of the principal studies, of the graduating class especially, outside of the technical teachings of the military ratio studium. It is high time, we think, that the West Point intriguers at Washington, who have their own ends to serve in crushing out one study at the Academy to benefit another and their own interests, allowed at least one Board of Visitors, stupid and foolish as they generally are in their conclusions, to follow their own bent in deciding upon "suggestions" to be made to the War Department.

In conclusion, it must be said that the report of the Visitors, with the one exception in reference to the abolishment of the Spanish language as a study, although severe in its criticisms, ought not to be lost upon the authorities at Washington, who have the power to strengthen the institution where it is now weak, and to make perfect what the Board has pointed out as imperfect in the way the various branches are taught. While all the world is bent upon progress West Point should not lag in the rear.

The Influence of Forests on Rainfall and Climate.

The highly important meteorological question of the influence of forests upon the rainfall is just now exciting very general concern. Upon the authority of almost every scientist of note the impression prevails in the public mind that there exists a very imperious and marked connection between the vegetation of a country and the amount of water which it is capable of condensing upon itself from the overpassing rain clouds. Congressional and State legislation has recently intervened to protect the noble trees on the public domain and to encourage the planting of new groves. California has just employed, at great expense, a skilled arboriculturist to conduct an extensive system of "forestation." At a late meeting of the National Agricultural Society at St. Louis a report was read showing that, in less than twenty-five years, at the present rate of consumption, all our accessible timber will be destroyed, and greatly depreciating the unnecessary waste.

The only expression of opinion differing from that which is commonly received has lately appeared in Mayor Hall's report, based on the views of the Director of the Meteorological Observatory at Central Park. The investigations of this latter gentleman, purporting to be very comprehensive, lead him to the conclusion that "the clearing of land does not diminish the volume of rainfall." With all possible respect for the opinion of the Director, we cannot see how the conclusion he reaches can stand the test of historic and scientific records and researches. The banks of the Euphrates, the Ganges and the shores of the Mediterranean now present to us vast tracts of sterility, in lieu of the exuberant fertility of remote ages; and it seems far from unreasonable to attribute the change to the removal of the forests by the devastations of war and the march of civilization. The land of Canaan, so famed for its richness as to be the glory of all lauds, is now stripped of its beauteous vegetation and noble trees, and has become a land of extreme temperatures and excessive droughts. When the armies of Rome under Caesar cut their way through the forests of Germany and Western Europe they found a semi-Arctic climate and a land of incessant rains, and the vast climatic change that has since occurred has never been explained except by the absence now of that frigorific radiation which Humboldt assigned to wooded regions. The island of Madeira at the time of its discovery (1378) formed a continuous and impenetrable forest of majestic cedars, laurels and other trees of prodigious height, and was celebrated for its innumerable springs of limpid and salubrious water; but all this is now greatly modified by the clearing of the soil. The treeless island of Malta, one of the most important of Great Britain's possessions, on account of its position and harbor, since its deforesting is cursed with heat and sterility, and in summer is almost uninhabitable. The enormous floods of the Middle Ages in England—as in 1237, when Westminster Hall was sailed in with boats, and in 1573, when fishes were found in it—have no parallels in our later times. In Italy the clearing of the Apennines is thought by the people to have very seriously altered the climate of the Po valley, and now the African sirocco, unknown to the legions of Rome, breathes its hot, blighting breath over the right bank of the river in the territory of Parma. It is well known that since the planting of extensive forests in Egypt, which formerly had only about six rainy days every

year, the average number has already increased to twenty-four. It is much to be regretted that no exact observations, sufficiently extensive to settle so interesting a problem, have ever been taken. But it is very easy to see that as the forests and vegetation of the earth protect it from its own radiation and at the same time act as a shield to avert the solar rays, the temperature is much lower than that of the surrounding country; and the consequence is that when rain-bringing winds sweep over it they are chilled and their vapor condensed in refreshing showers. There cannot be much room for doubt, as a committee of the British Association but a few years ago reported that "in a country, to which the maintenance of its water supplies is of extreme importance, the indiscriminate clearing of forests is greatly to be deprecated." The investigations of Humboldt, Arago, Herschel, Buchan and the latest meteorological authors sustain this report, and, what is perhaps as authoritative upon the subject, it is sustained by almost universal popular observation.

It is certainly worth while in all the future settlements of this country, especially in the immense and valuable lands of the far Northwest and along the Pacific Territories, to give the matter of rainfall a fair experiment, and to preserve the forests as much as the wants of settlers will permit. Let the woodman spare the tree.

Yesterday's Pulpit Lessons.

The great feature of our sermon budget to-day, besides the truths or the fictions that have been uttered in the pulpits, is that a lady has led off and held forth to a patient and attentive Methodist congregation. Mrs. Smith, of Philadelphia, the same lady whose sermon at the Sea Cliff camp meeting a few days ago threw all the other pulpit productions in the shade, was the gentle yet fearless expounder of the four Gospels. As on the other occasion the lady took the first six books of the Bible, so also on this she chose the Gospels, and sought to demonstrate their unity of purpose and design and to present to her congregation the picture complete of Christ the temple, the Saviour, the King, the emancipator, the burden bearer. These characteristics of Jesus the man, the servant, the King, the God, were illustrated in a very simple and unaffected manner, and without any flourish or noise the truth was left to carry conviction by its own inherent power to every mind.

Mankind is ever searching for a smooth path—an easy way through life. But the old paths and the good way in which the soul finds rest are, according to Dr. Clark, rugged and thorny. They have none of the modern conveniences—no swift moving railroad trains, no time tables. The traveller who would reach the celestial city to-day must go by the same road that Moses, and Enoch, and Joseph, and Elijah and others walked. The faithful prayer of three thousand years ago is just as available and as potent to-day. These old paths run high above the ordinary course of worldly men. They are entered and travelled in only by faith. Philosophy and reason can never lead the soul thither nor keep it in the way.

The near approach of Christ's second coming was made a reason by Dr. Hodge for enforcing purity and affection and preparation by His bride, the Church, to receive Him. The Church is human now, and consequently imperfect. She has too much vain imagination at present, but by and by she will be cleansed and fitted for her Lord. She is like any other bride now—sick and faint and weary sometimes, and requires consolation and sympathy. There are divisions and misunderstandings in the Church which must be healed ere she can stand ready to greet her Head. But union with Christ and perfection in Him is an individual matter, and hence the Doctor urged his promiscuous congregation to seek those states for themselves.

Some of Dr. Dir's congregation yesterday must have been surprised, if they listened thoughtfully, to hear him—one of the leaders of ritualism in this city—say that "symbolic teachings are obscure, and worldly symbols are but the toys of childish minds." Why, then, make so much of them? Are we to infer that High Church congregations are but children mentally? It would seem so. "The Roman Church," says the Doctor, "professes to instruct her children in her dogmas and her doctrines without a semblance of error, yet do we not see many evidences of its imperfection, notwithstanding its alleged unchangeableness? Do we not see its dogmas change daily—a fact which attests change?" And, still recognizing the fallibility and imperfections of the Roman Catholic Church, the Doctor has given unmistakable evidences that he is steering Rome-ward as rapidly and as consistently as he can, and seeking to carry others along with him. And as he asserts that systems have arisen from age to age, and one has invariably contradicted the other, are we to gather that his theories and systems, too, are changeable and contradictory. After reading Professor Young's sketch and contrast of city and country life we do not think the latter has so much in its favor. It has less bad and less good than the city, and it has fewer criminals in proportion to its population; but we question if very much of our city crime is not fed and fostered by the vice and cupidity of our country cousins. The city is the necessary product of civilization, and as such, of course, it follows that this civilization reacts upon the country and makes country life what it is. And with our present facilities of travel city and country are becoming more and more assimilated every year.

A plain, practical discourse, good for every day practice, was delivered in the Cathedral yesterday by Father McNamee. The theme was Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, whose rejection of Him and His mission drew forth that fearful prophecy, which has been so literally fulfilled, that not one stone of it should be left upon another. If their retribution was so terrible what must ours be, who have the increasing light of centuries to walk by, if we neglect the salvation so freely offered to us? "God punishes the violation of his laws," said the preacher, "in proportion to the extent of the sinner's guilt;" and that being so he might very pertinently ask what should be the measure of a Christian's punishment for willful disobedience or violation of God's law? A stranger who may have heard the superb congregational singing in Mr. Beecher's church can hardly believe that an audience in Plymouth church are absolutely dependent upon their choir for their music, just as are ordinary congregations. Yet so it is. Yesterday they were evidently in a fearful plight, and although the organist of the church tried to help them out the want of harmony in their singing was so great that Dr. Beecher made it a subject of vocal prayer, and the HERALD representative vocal adds that that prayer must have been answered, because greater harmony followed. This encouraged the Doctor to preach a sermon on love to God and love to one another. Father McQuade, in St. Peter's church, Jersey City, delivered a touching sermon on the desolation of Jerusalem, and put a few pointed questions to his hearers, which they would do well to answer to themselves and to God. St. Peter's raised \$300 yesterday for the Pope. Rev. J. W. Horne, of Babylon, L. I., whose congregation have no need to go to the country, devoted part of the Sabbath to teaching them how to do the will of God on earth as it is done in heaven. It is a difficult thing to teach and much more so to do. But we hope Mr. Horne and his people and all other Christian people will succeed in teaching and in doing it. For in it is life eternal.

The Archives of the Late Rebel Confederacy—Interesting Documents.

Colonel John T. Pickett, formerly the so-called Confederate States diplomatic agent for the government of Mexico, has, it appears, published a statement showing his agency in the sale of the Confederate archives to the government of the United States for the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars—a snug little pile of greenbacks. These precious Confederate archives filled four trunks, and they were delivered at the White House on the 3d of this month. The documents embrace the entire archives of the State Department of the late government of Jeff Davis, without the abstraction of a single paper excepting the secret service vouchers of that government, which were honorably destroyed by Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, on the day of the rebel evacuation and burning of Richmond.

The archives sold to the United States and delivered at the White House had, it appears, been spirited off to Canada for safe keeping, and a government officer went over there with Colonel Pickett to procure them. The Colonel says:—"There is but one paper the perusal of which gave me any pain—the report of Hon. Jacob Thompson on the operations on the (Canadian) frontier, the existence of which was unknown to me" until the government officer found it. And what was this document? Colonel Pickett says that the publication of his (Thompson's) report will probably cause him and Jefferson Davis and J. P. Benjamin to feel uncomfortable for a little while; "but as I expect to go to neither of them when I die, my sympathy shall not be of a heartrending character." And he begs further to say, "as one still faithful to the lost cause, that I wholly repudiate the policy of attempting to burn Northern cities during the war, especially democratic cities, and that I always indignantly denied the allegation until I saw Thompson's report. So let these three worthless wince, not the noble people whose cause they butchered."

The precious document in question, then, is "Jacob Thompson's official report on the attempts and designs of those mysterious incendiaries, with their black carpet bags and phosphoric combustibles, to burn New York and other Northern cities during the war." These interesting archives, Colonel Pickett thinks, are historically and financially valuable, inasmuch as they may save money to the government by defeating the claims of parties for damages claiming to have been "truly loil" in the war, but "who threw up their caps for Jefferson Davis, and shouted 'Death to the Yankees.'" The Colonel himself does not pretend to have been "truly loil," and has no favors to ask of the party in power, but desires its overthrow, and yet he neglects to state the distribution of that snug little sum of seventy-five thousand dollars obtained for those aforesaid archives. We suppose it is all right; we dare say it is nobody's business; and yet people will be inquisitive in these little transactions where good money is given for the old papers of an exploded institution.

We presume, however, that upon those suggested consequential damages these archives will prove a good bargain to the government, and that to the future historian of our great rebellion they will be valuable as disclosing the intrigues and schemes of the government of Davis with foreign Powers, and over the Canadian border to weaken the cause of the Union in the war and to strengthen the Southern confederacy.

Defective Railway Signals.

The melancholy disaster which occurred on the New York Central Railroad on Friday, and by which many lives and limbs were sacrificed to the juggernaut of carelessness and defective signals, should be a warning to all railroad managers and employes. A more inexcusable and flagrant example of negligence can scarcely be imagined, and it is to be hoped that the Coroner's jury will take the same view of the case.

A passenger train arrives at a certain station, where, according to the time table, it should meet a coal train, the latter to switch off on a side track to allow the passenger train to pass. But the coal train did not put in an appearance, and the conductor on the other train, not wishing to be delayed, and expecting that the coal train would keep out of his way, pushed on. Probably the other conductor entertained a similar idea, and the consequence was a collision, a telescoped passenger car, loss of life and many persons injured. It is a significant point for the jury that at the next station from the place where the two trains should meet, and did not meet, there was no telegraph office, although in the vicinity was one of the most dangerous curves on the road. Such a state of things can only proceed from extreme recklessness, and can only lead to the same dire results. Had there been a telegraph office and proper signals at this part of the road, and had both conductors been a little more careful to find out the whereabouts of each other, it is scarcely probable that such a dreadful accident would have occurred. Again, railroad regulations are not always attended to, as may be seen in this case, and is frequently observed in this city, especially at the bridge across the Harlem River. There is a law compelling trains to come to a full stop at this point, but with many conductors this law is but a dead letter. Trains dash across the bridge as if there was no possibility of danger, and consequently the escapes from a frightful disaster