# 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.

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Volume XXXVIII.....No. 359


AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—THE WICKED WORLD. Matinee at 2.

THEATRE COMIQUE, No. 514 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston sts.—CHILDREN IN THE WOOD. Matinee at 1½.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street.—A MAN OF HONOR.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—ST. MARC. Afternoon and evening.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, 14th street and Irving place.—ITALIAN OPERA—AIDA.

BROADWAY THEATRE, 728 and 730 Broadway.—THE WOMAN IN WHITE. Matinee at 1½.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Eighth av. and Twenty-third st.—HUMPTY DUMPTY ABROAD. Matinee at 1½.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, 28th st. and Broadway.—PARRICIDE. Matinee at 1½.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, Sixth av. and Twenty-third st.—KIT; OR THE ARKANSAS TRAVELLER. Matinee at 1½.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker sts.—GABRIEL GRUB. Matinee at 2.

GERMANIA THEATRE, 14th street and 3d avenue.—OPERA BOUFFE—LES GEORGIENNES. Matinee at 2.

PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn, opposite City Hall.—ENOCH ARDEN. Matinee at 2.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE, 585 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2.

STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—GERMAN OPERA—DIE LEUTSIGEN WEIBER.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—MOTHER GOOSE—IRISH TUTOR. Matinee at 2.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st., corner Sixth av.—NEGRO MINSTRELSY, &c. Matinee at 2.

STEINWAY HALL, 14th st., between 4th av. and Irving place.—Matinee at 1½—GRAND CONCERT.

BAIN HALL, Great Jones street, between Broadway and Bowery.—THE PILGRIM. Matinee at 2½.

THE RINK, 3d avenue and 64th street.—MENAGERIE AND MUSEUM. Afternoon and evening.

ROBINSON HALL, Sixteenth street.—MAGICAL ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, No. 618 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM, No. 688 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

New York, Thursday, Dec. 25, 1873.

## THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

### To-Day's Contents of the Herald.


"CHRISTMAS! ITS HUMAN AND ITS NATIONAL CHARACTER"—LEADING EDITORIAL ARTICLE—FOURTH PAGE.

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THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS IN WALL STREET! BUT LITTLE DOING IN ANYTHING BUT MERRYMAKING! PRICES STEADY! GOLD WEAK—PIGEON SHOOTING—SEVENTH PAGE.

AMERICA'S GENEROUS REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICAR AT THE VATICAN—THE ITALIAN ENVOY TO FRANCE CORDIALLY RECEIVED—FIFTH PAGE.

A NEW DIFFICULTY WITH SPAIN SAID TO BE ON THE TAPIS! THE PINTA AT SEA FOR CUBA, UNDER SEALED ORDERS—FIFTH PAGE.

THE UNPLEASANTNESS BETWEEN MINISTER SICKLES AND THE MADRID OFFICIALS! THE GENERAL SAYS POSITIVELY THAT THE INTRANSIGENTES INTENDED A HOSTILE MOVE AGAINST US! PRESS DENIAL—FIFTH PAGE.

MARSHAL BAZAINE STILL A PRISONER—IMPORTANT GENERAL NEWS—FIFTH PAGE.

BAZAINE'S GUILT AND THE MEANS USED TO ESTABLISH IT! THE CAUSES OF THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR! ITS DISASTROUS PROGRESS AND CONCLUSION! THE LESSON OF THE TRIANON COURT MARTIAL—FIFTH PAGE.

THE CARLISTS TRAP 30,000 REPUBLICAN SOLDIERS! ATTEMPTS TO TRANSSHIP THE VICTIMS—FIFTH PAGE.

HUNTING FOR HARRY—NEWARK'S LIBEL CASES—EIGHTH PAGE.

MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE HEALTH OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR! HE IS WELL ENOUGH TO WALK ROUND—FIFTH PAGE.

SPECIAL ITEMS FROM THE FEDERAL CENTRE—A BANKRUPT "GONE WHERE THE WOODBINE TWINETH," WITH $70,000—FIFTH PAGE.

EX-MAYOR HALL AT LAST VINDICATED BY A JURY! CLOSING OF THE TRIAL! NO WITNESSES CALLED BY THE DEFENCE! GENERAL LEGAL SUMMARIES—THIRD PAGE.


THE WILL OF THE PRESIDENT.—According to the Washington news General Grant remains inflexible as to his nomination of Mr. Williams for Chief Justice. He stated emphatically that the nomination would not be withdrawn, and that he had never contemplated such a thing. No President ever talked more about deferring to public opinion and to the representatives of the people in Congress, and none ever carried out his own will more obstinately. This is after the manner of Louis Napoleon proclaiming in favor of liberty, universal suffrage and freedom of the press, while nullifying these by the exercise of arbitrary power. Words amount to little when actions do not accord with them.

REWARDS AND PUNISHMENT.—Suppose Sheriff Brennan has offered a reward of five thousand dollars for the apprehension of Henry W. Genet, and the latter should happen to fall into the hands of some one who is prepared to return him to the custody of the Sheriff, could he not, in sporting parlance, "see" that five thousand dollars and "go something better" to be released? If money be the only incentive to the capture of the fugitive, it is not at all likely he will be arrested and delivered up within the ten days prescribed in the reward offered by Sheriff Brennan.

JAPAN AND CUBA.—From Japan we are informed, under date of Yokohama, November 20, that the Japanese government mission to Cuba had been checked in its preparation to start for the Antille by the interference of the Spanish Minister at the court of the Mikado. Wonderful, and apparently powerful, is the foreign diplomacy of modern Spain.

### Christmas—Its Human and Its National Character.

Christmas, though honored in all the limits of Christendom as a high festival, is also observed in every different land with peculiarly national characteristics—a fact that indicates its double character. As it teaches universal brotherhood in the name of Him who died for all—as it opens that limitless vista of intellectual speculation which leads us altogether out of our daily life and enables us, under the nfluence of purer aspirations, to grope a little toward some comprehension of the great example—in this light it is the common festival of humanity, observed with the same thoughts wherever men with human sorrows, weaknesses and hopes have heard and believe the beautiful story of that obscure incarnation before which the three wise ones, or wisdom in all its attributes, bowed down. And as the festival of humanity it is an evidence of the common recognition of the superior races of men that humanity is not sufficient for itself—a position disputed only once in all the Christian ages, and that by the commingled lunatics and idiots of the French Revolution—aside from whom all human creatures of the thinking races of men have acknowledged the need and the aid of a grander moral standard and a loftier ideal of moral excellence than any that merely human thought could originate. Side by side with this recognition of Christmas goes, in every country, its other recognition as a season of relaxation for the people, a time of indulgence in good cheer and merry making and social delight as national or even local tastes and fancies prompt and inspire.

With us, as with others, the day has its higher observance; but what is our national notion of its more popular aspect? It is scarcely possible to say for the average American just what is the central thought round which the twittering brood of his Christian fancies gather—that is, it is difficult to find a point of such wide coincidence that it may be called national. And this no doubt is because of our diversity; because our English ancestors in one direction, our Dutch ancestors in another and our many relatives of later advent, have so respectively and variously inspired and softened the spirit that animates our holiday activities. Christmas time comes in one circle hearty and boisterous with social cheer and Twelfth Night jollities, if not orgies. In another, one hears only of Kriss Kringle, combined from the Pelznichel and the Krist Kindlein of our German relatives with the quaint attributes that German downrightness in thought has given to either; and associated with him in the same circles generally we find the dainty fancy of the Christmas tree. And not far, perhaps, from this fancy we come upon that thorough model of a pigmy Dutchman, our dear old Santa Claus, operating on suspended stockings at the chimney corners, while "visions of sugar plums" traditionally dance in the little heads that are nestled near by. In some quarters there seems to be a notion that Christmastide is about the only time in the year when it is possible or permissible to raffle for fat geese—while at the same season by some inscrutable periodicity of the human intellect, all the rusty old shot guns in the country are brought out to shoot at turkeys, tough, perhaps, but guiltless, though tied to poles at twenty yards distance. And with these incongruous ideas there will go in every circle much of the mystic remembrance of the shepherds and the star, and that far away Bethlehem—

Over whose acres walked those blessed feet
That eighteen hundred years ago were nailed
For our redemption on the bitter cross.

Down East we had the ascetic Puritans, whose extravagant fancy it was to abate all the social delights and to suppress all demonstrative pleasures as parts of Vanity Fair and as sins they were themselves not inclined to; who moreover hated even the religious observance of Christmas as a piece of ecclesiastical mummery. In the presence of these wise fellows there was as little as possible of the lofty lesson and not a particle of the popular enjoyment. Enjoyment was an abomination, and their lofty ideal was to preach hypocrisy through the nose. Down South we had our settlers of the same ancestry with different principles, and who, like wanderers generally, carried to a further extreme the characteristic usages of the country from which they came; so that the season was, in the South, one of social relaxation in the superlative degree, and the very slaves were practically free from Christmas Eve till the end of the year. In our own neighborhood we had the substantial Dutchmen—a humorsome people, without ostentation, who crammed their round paunches with the domestic doughnut and plied industriously their deep cans, relinquishing other considerations of the season to the children, to whom it was a time of especial importance, because just before Christmas came the festival of Santa Claus, their especial patron, who, as such, was sure to visit them, and might leave some rewards for good conduct. In those days we had not the Christmas tree which later German comers brought with them, but which we have well nigh made our own, since we far surpass the Germans themselves in the success with which we cultivate this scrap of household glory; so that the Christmas tree, like other trees, is all the thriftier for a new soil.

In all our Christmas jollities there is no especially national characteristic. We are English and jolly, or English and Puritanical, or we are Dutch or German. It is, however, national in us that we accept a rill from every source, and that for our fireside festival, our day for gathering if ever at the old home, we are willing to decorate the occasion with any wealth of fancy the world may afford. Christmas itself is less glorious in the land of its origin than in other lands. It is denied and rejected by the moral races amid whom it arose, and flourishes only amidst the intellectual races who had at first no share in it. It is not out of character, therefore, that a festival which the Old World drew from a still older world should, in the New World, borrow from the Old its range of peculiar devices in its lower sense as a popular holiday; but in its finer sense it may, perhaps, reach its ultimate glory only in a land where the divine aspirations of humanity are freer than elsewhere.

INSTEAD OF GOING "Where the woodbine twineth," is it not more likely Genet has gone where the Woodward pineth?

### The Acquittal of Ex-Mayor Hall.

Ex-Mayor Hall was yesterday acquitted of the charges of malefeasance in office contained in the bill of indictment found against him by a Grand Jury some time since. This result was reached after a full and patient trial, in which the highest ability at the command of the prosecution was employed to secure a conviction. It is one upon which the accused has always confidently reckoned; a result which he considered so certain that, at the commencement of the present trial, he declined to avail himself of the privilege of postponement, although the counsel whose aid he desired was unable to attend, while, at the close of the case for the prosecution, he waived all testimony for the defence and allowed the evidence on the part of the people to go to the jury uncontradicted, for what it was worth. The verdict will be approved by the people. It has never been believed that Mayor Hall was in any manner personally implicated in the frauds committed by the corrupt heads of departments who unfortunately held office during his administration. No such charge was ever seriously made against him by those citizens who were honestly engaged in an investigation of the municipal corruptions. Political organs, it is true, denounced him in the same coarse language which they used towards the real culprits; but this was only for party purposes, and it is just to say that their tone towards the ex-Mayor has recently undergone a marked change. The most that was laid to Mayor Hall's charge was a failure to exercise proper care and vigilance in the discharge of his official duties, and of this offence an intelligent jury has now acquitted him. The only hesitation that appears to have been felt by the jury was as to whether they could mark their disapproval of the looseness which had gradually crept into all official action by a verdict of simple neglect; but not finding this within their province, they promptly declared the accused "Not guilty."

The verdict is gratifying to the city. It shows that notwithstanding the extent and boldness of the conspiracy by which the people were robbed of millions, the chief magistrate of the city had no part in the crime. It would have been a public humiliation if Mayor Hall had been convicted of the offences charged against him, although they implied only technical guilt and not moral guilt. As it is we have the satisfaction of knowing that although we have been plundered by bold and reckless men, our chief magistrate has not been faithless to his high trust. There is another view in which the verdict may be regarded as gratifying to the people. It shows that the jury box may yet be relied upon for honesty, fearlessness and justice. The conviction of Tweed and Genet gave evidence that an incorruptible jury can be obtained who will find a verdict of guilty against a wealthy and influential criminal. The acquittal of Mayor Hall at a period of excited public sentiment proves that a jury can be found ready to do full and impartial justice to an accused party without regard to popular clamor.

### Where Are They? Oh, Where? And Echo Answers, "Where?"

Where is Citizen Genet? Where is Alderman Coman? Where is Walsh? Where is Norton? Where is Miller? Where is Woodward? Where shall we find them? Oh, where? And echo answers, "Where?" They are wanted and they are missing, and neither the Chief of Police nor his detectives know where to look for them or any one of them. The general opinion is that "they have gone where the woodbine twineth;" but the woodbine twineth in so many places that this general opinion signifies nothing. Mme. Rumor informs us that the missing convict, Genet, by means of a line of coaches and boats from Manhattanville, crossed over on Sunday night to Long Island, and that by the Long Island Railroad he moved eastward and thence northward, and that he will probably take his Christmas dinner among Her Britannic Majesty's loyal subjects of the New Dominion.

But rumor says again that a mysterious steamer, stealing along the seacoast below "the Hook," is suspected as having been engaged to pick up some mysterious passengers, who were suspiciously moving about

On the beach at Long Branch

at the time of the mysterious steamer's strange movements near that deserted village. And again it is rumored that there had been a beautiful yacht in the Hudson, near Manhattanville, but that it had disappeared on the morning of the discovery of the flight of Senator Genet. He may, therefore, be on the high seas this blessed Christmas morning or in the New Dominion, or *en route* to Mexico. When found our police authorities, of course, according to the advice of Captain Cuttle, will take a note of it. Meantime, we concur in the opinion of Chief Matsell, that in a philosophical consideration of the case the conclusion must be admitted that it was perfectly natural that Genet should avail himself of the first opportunity offered him to "vamose the ranch." Chief Matsell is a man of experience in his vocation, and that his philosophy is correct we know from the escape of the prisoner Genet.

As for Senator Norton, the Thunderbolt of the regions around Jefferson Market, and in regard to ex-Alderman Coman, the invincible, and Walsh, the incorruptible, and Miller, the inflexible, there is no clew to their whereabouts. The "glorious Mike," when called for in Court, was reported by his counsel to be in Washington for the benefit of his health; but he has probably gone by this time

Away down South, in Dixie,

or beyond Dixie. Coman, Walsh and Miller, for all that we know, may have gone to explore a new route near the Isthmus of Darien for an interoceanic ship canal, or they may have gone to St. Domingo to assist Baez and his "ring" against the revolutionists of the Dominican Republic, or they may have left, each under a convenient alias, to spend "a happy new year" with "Slippery Dick" in his distant "cottage by the sea." Woodward, it is said, after trying to hide away in different holes and corners, has given it up as a bad job, and is here in the city, or somewhere convenient, subject to the call of the District Attorney, as State's evidence against his fellows of the New Court House pool. The way of the transgressor is hard; but the way of these aforesaid fugitives from justice is a mystery which still remains to be solved.

### American Amateur and Professional Rowing in 1873.

The frosts, which have been shutting up the canals and hardening the ground during the past few days, have probably given the quietus to rowing, both amateur and professional, throughout the country for the year now rapidly closing, and hundreds, and even thousands, of outriggers and lapstreaks have been slung upon shelves and davits, not to come down until, in ninety days from now, the great university race on the other side of the water has been trained for, rowed and won.

Among the professionals the year was a very quiet one, there having been no event which drew out the champion crew at all, and nothing which added any especial lustre to the name of our best single sculler, while, possibly excepting Scharf, of Pittsburg, no second or third rate man has obtained any particular prominence. Indeed, the year has helped to make it plain that we have no first rate single sculler, John Biglin's walk over with Ellis Ward at Springfield atoning not at all for his defeat by two oarsmen of the British provinces, but one of whom had before more than a local reputation at the sculls. Should Sadler (the English champion), Kelley and Chambers, Bagnall and Bright, conclude to come again among us, with Fulton and Brown to fill up the quota, there is small reason to hope that Biglin would show at all well up among these master oarsmen, unless he does a power of work this winter at the rowing weights and on the road. We take no very deep interest in professional rowing; but so long as these Britishers continue to make inroads on our shores and challenge our countrymen to a trial of their mettle we hope that they who represent us with the sculls will do as well, or, at least, nearly as well, as four renowned sons of one old man at Cornwall have done at the oar; and when this is actually possible, if only abundant downright hard work be done during the next few months, it is too bad that it should not be. The face of Renforth, and even of the obsolete Hamill, told of almost vast reserved power and stay, while both were known to be prodigious workers. To row as fast as they one must work as hard.

But from among the amateurs comes no such sorry story, and the Potomac and Schuylkill, the Hudson, Saratoga Lake and the Connecticut, and even the Monongahela and the lakes, have all sent good reports. At the muster on the Connecticut, where but two colleges used to meet, eleven this year responded to the call, and well nigh clogged the broad, shad-bearing river with their long, frail craft and projecting oars, as they darted swiftly about or lay at the start drawn up in line of battle; and even outside of the colleges there has been unprecedented life, thirteen and even fourteen scullers entering the lists where there was formerly difficulty in getting more than two or three; while six and seven four-oars at a time have, more than once, met each other in the friendly strife.

One noticeable feature in the work of each—and nowhere was it more apparent than at the college race—is that there is still no recognized standard of rowing which all, or most, admit to be the proper or the only way. Boats have assimilated naturally enough, a few favorite builders getting most of the orders; oars differ but little; sliding seats are numerous. Men are using their common sense a little more as to the kind and quantity of food and work and rest, two out of the three leading crews at Springfield, for instance, being among the most liberal and rational livers. It is being seen that the variance in height and weight and strength is much less than was supposed, and a deal else has been learned that will well repay the knowing. But, out of all the styles of rowing exhibited by these many crews and scullers—for but few of them row alike—who shall say to-day, as they say in England, there is but one way to row, and no other has yet been discovered which is so effective and successful? One college sent a man over there purposely to bring back all the light he could gather from the first amateur oarsmen of the world—the London Rowing Club. He studied faithfully, came home and taught his secret to his men who proved apt pupils and did far better work than any of their predecessors. But up, almost alongside of them, to the very last inch of the homestretch, lay a crew that would not be shaken off, and yet, instead of doing clean and skilful work, their rowing was in some respects execrable. More power, perhaps a little, lay with them; but it was only a little. And a trifle further over on the river six more backs rose and fell as gracefully, as uniformly, as one could wish to see; and yet, undeniably swift as they were, their style differed from the imported one, their reach out to their work, for instance, being far less deliberate. Early in 1867 John Stuart Mill told the students of St. Andrew's that there is a right way to do everything, and a correct description of that way is the rule, and the only rule, that will, if followed, insure success—all else will fail. Who of all these oarsmen shall say we have found that rule in rowing? That it exists few doubt. But what is it?

Again, in these college contests, at any rate, if not universally, would it not be well, instead of the long, unwieldy, six-oared outriggers, to substitute fours? Even the casual observer could readily see here and there a weak man in every single crew on the Connecticut. The Agriculturals, for instance, could well have omitted the two who sat next stroke and bow. Both bow and the man next him in the Harvard boat lacked strength, and so it ran throughout, and so it always has, as any rowing man knows. Scarce as good rowers always are, four will be much easier to get than six; to keep together; to train; to match each other; to make close racing; their boat will turn quicker; be easier carried about; will be stronger and will cost less, while a match with Oxford or Cambridge, a thing sure to come, will be had the more readily, for six oars are unknown in England.

Finally, why do not the amateurs who assemble so numerously both at Philadelphia and Saratoga, and who at the latter place left the collegians immeasurably behind in one very important respect—the management of the preliminaries of a race, arrange to have their principal meeting of the year during the week of the college races and on the same water, of course clashing in no way with the students? Then they, too, would be well described beforehand; would cut down the cost; would show who were the fastest rowers, for the winners of each kind could meet on the last day, and would help make an aquatic gathering which would completely eclipse even that at Springfield, while, if foreigners came, our prospects would be bettered. A little reflection and action on the thoughts here thrown out may do much to show in the coming summer that the amateur rowing of America can be improved more than was supposed, and can take a long stride towards becoming what our unequalled water reaches will yet greatly help to make it—the finest in the world.

### Rainfall Produced by the Firing of Artillery—How the Waste Places of the Earth Can Be Reclaimed.

Professor Edward Powers, of Chicago, is engaged in endeavoring to demonstrate the practicability of controlling and distributing rainfall by means of concussions produced by the firing of artillery. This subject, if not entirely new, is of great importance, and should be thoroughly investigated by the government. Our Western domain, to say nothing of the vast desert wastes of other portions of the earth, demands irrigation. General Grant called attention to this necessity in his recent Message, and though we are at a loss to know exactly what he meant, it is clear that he recognizes the general truth we have proclaimed. Mr. Powers' theory is deduced from an examination of one hundred and thirty battles that were succeeded by copious rains. He claims that about sixty per cent of all battles or bombardments of importance are followed by rain within the first twenty-four hours from the commencement of the heavy firing. A calculation made from the observed average number of rainy days in the year when there are no battles shows that only thirty-two per cent would be so followed within that time if the battles had no influence in producing the rain. About ninety per cent of such battles are followed by rain within the first forty-eight hours after the commencement of the heavy firing. All great battles in which much artillery was used were followed by rain (so far as definite information can be obtained). The average length of time between the commencement of the heavy firing and the beginning of the rain is twenty-six and a half hours. Rain following great battles, in which much artillery is used, is almost always very heavy. Engagements other than great battles, in which much artillery is used, are also generally followed by heavy rain, but musketry firing does not bring much rain. Rains follow battles not only in the spring and summer, but also in autumn and winter. Rains follow battles not only in this country and in Europe, but in the dry season in Mexico. Heavy rains follow great battles fought in times of drought. The rains following battles are generally accompanied with thunder and lightning. The theory of rain generally accepted by philosophers is that it is produced by the union of two bodies of air, one of which is colder than the other, and both saturated with aqueous vapor. It has been proven by experiments that when two such bodies of air are mixed they cannot, when mixed, contain as much vapor as they did before, the reason for which is explained by the principle that warm air has a greater capacity for vapor than cold air, and that this capacity diminishes in a much greater ratio than the temperature. Now, the trade winds take up large quantities of vapor from the ocean, which vapor is carried north and south by the equatorial currents. Hence there are generally above us currents of warm air saturated with vapor. To explain how cannon firing produces rain, it is only necessary to explain how these currents are caused to mix with the colder currents above them. The explanation is that it does so by rarifying the humid current. It rarifies it by condensing a small portion of the vapor which it contains. It condenses this small amount of vapor by concussion, which is similar to sudden pressure, and we know that by pressure aqueous vapor is condensed and its latent heat is given out—that is, when cannon firing brings rain there is condensation of vapor in two ways; first, a little condensation by the pressure of the shocks of concussion, which causes an evolution of heat and a rarification of the air, and, second, a great condensation caused by the rise of the humid current and its mixing with the colder one above it. As it will naturally take a little time for an air current hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of feet in thickness to rise into the colder current after being rarified by the concussions, and as, in the meantime, the air so rarified will be carried along by the current, it follows that the rain will not commence at the place where the firing takes place. It will generally work back to that place in the path of the current, however, arriving, as before stated, in an average time of twenty-six and one-half hours from the commencement of the firing. Unless the firing is heavy and continued for two or three hours, so as to rarify a larger area and volume of the air current as it passes over, there will be no rain, or if there is rain somewhere on the path of the air current it will not reach the place where the firing takes place, as the equillibrium between the two currents will be restored before the rain reaches that point.

Battles followed by heavy rain are:—First Bull Run, Fair Oaks, Pittsburg Landing (or Shiloh), Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, Stone River, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spottsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, Nashville. During the second day of the battle of Buena Vista, Mexico, there were two violent showers, though this was in the dry season, and it had not rained before and did not rain after for several months. Would it not be a metamorphosis for which the world might be thankful if cannon could become implements of agriculture instead of remaining destroyers of life?

### The Bazaine Trial and the Late Franco-German War.

In the HERALD of this morning we print a communication from one of our correspondents in Paris bearing upon the late Franco-German war and on the question as to the innocence or guilt of the now disgraced Marshal Bazaine. Our correspondent in plain terms tells what he knows; and his knowledge in this matter, coming, as it does, from first sources, is entitled to much respect and to serious consideration. It is a most interesting and instructive chapter of the history of the late war. The Marshal has been tried and found guilty. It may be that he is sentenced to suffer the proper penalty of his crimes. It may be that he is comparatively innocent of the crimes for which he is condemned to suffer. However it may be, it is our duty to lay the facts of the case before the public and to give them the means of judging for themselves. One plain lesson the letter does read, and that is—that the late war was a blunder, so far as France was concerned, and mainly for the reason that the armies of France were not organized and guided by the genius of the First Napoleon. France requires to be led. Under proper leadership she is strong. Without such leadership she is weak. It is the misfortune of France that to her something like Cæsarism is a necessity. This necessity ought not to be allowed to continue.

## PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

General John M. Harlan, of Kentucky, is at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Congressman W. H. Stone, of Missouri, is staying at Barnum's Hotel.

General Silas Seymour, of Quebec, has arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Senator Henry Cooper, of Tennessee, has apartments at the Windsor Hotel.

Congressman Henry O. Pratt, of Iowa, is registered at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Colonel S. C. Lyford, United States Army, is quartered at the Glenham Hotel.

United States Senator Crozier, of Kansas, is staying at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Chief Engineer Wood, United States Navy, has quarters at the Union Square Hotel.

Sir Charles Hartley, the eminent English engineer, is again at the Hotel Brunswick.

Lieutenant Colonel Parnell, of the British Army, is among the recent arrivals at the Clarendon Hotel.

General F. T. Dent, the President's brother-in-law, was at the Astor House for a short time yesterday.

Senator George S. Boutwell arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday, on the way to his home in Massachutetts.

At the sale of the effects of the Hon. Charles E. De Long, in Yokohama, a pair of carriage horses were sold to an agent of His Majesty the Mikado for the sum of $3,500, Mexican.

Viscount San Januario, Governor of Macao, accredited to the Court of Japan as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the King of Portugal, has arrived in Japan.

Monday, the 3d of November, being the twenty-third anniversary of the birthday of the Mikado of Japan, was celebrated with the usual salutes, rejoicings and banquets. The foreign ministers were entertained at Hamagoten, and the Governor of Kanagawa presided over a dinner given to the foreign consuls at the Saibansho.

"When the late N. P. Willis wrote his fine hymn for the dedication of Rev. Dr. Beecher's church, in Hanover street, in 1826," remarks the Boston *Transcript*, "who thought it would be sung at the dedication of a new church for the Brattle street society in 1873, upon a spot then half a mile out in the water from the eastern shore of the Back Bay?

## OBITUARY.

### John O. Hopkins.

A telegram from Baltimore, under date of the 24th inst., reports as follows:—John O. Hopkins, who was reputed the wealthiest citizen of Baltimore, died this morning, at his residence, Saratoga street, in the seventy-ninth year of his age, after several weeks' illness. Since 1812 the deceased has been engaged in active business in this city up to his recent illness. He was prominently identified with all the leading industries—mercantile, commercial, banking and railroad—and amassed a large fortune. He was in all respects a most exemplary and useful citizen and benefactor of humanity, devoting his wealth to public and private charities. In March last he donated property valued at $4,000,000 to founding a free hospital in the city for the indigent sick and poor, without regard to sex, age or color, connected with which is a training school for nurses. Ample provision has also been made for the endowment of a home for colored orphans, capable of accommodating 300 or 400 children. Deceased also provided for founding a university on his valuable estate, Clifton, near the city, setting apart for that purpose, it is said, 15,000 shares of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad stock, valued at $2,000,000. His great public charities will place his name beside those of George Peabody, Peter Cooper and other public benefactors. He was unmarried.

### Mother Margaret J. Gallway.

This esteemed Christian lady, ex-Vicar Superior of the Western Province of the Order of the Sacred Heart and founder of the Chicago convent and its schools, died on Sunday last, 21st inst., aged 68 years. She was born at Cork, Ireland, February 22, 1805, and in 1825, having four years previously assumed the responsibilities of a religious order household, emigrated to Kentucky, settling, a year later, at New Orleans. In 1837 she entered the convent at St. Michael's as a novice; six years afterward she became its Superior. In 1848 she was transferred to St. Louis, and in 1858 to Chicago, where she established the novitiate of the order. In 1865, having just been made Vicar Superior of the Western district, including the States of Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, she visited Paris to assist in the election of a new Mother General to succeed the founder of the order, Mme. Barrat, who presided over it from 1805 to 1864. A year later she returned to the novitiate at St. Louis, where she arranged for the construction of the Maryville convent and seminary, at a cost of $200,000. She also built at Chicago, adjoining the convent, a large free school accommodating 700 scholars. The latter, like many of her building enterprises, was planned and carried out by herself, without any assistance from the authorities of the Church to whom she might have been expected to look for aid. Her health having been seriously impaired by her labors she was compelled to take rest, and her duties having been assigned to Mother Gauthreaux, (who died in 1872 and was succeeded by Mother Tucker) she came to New York, assuming charge of the seminary at Manhattanville. Proving physically unequal to her duties she removed to Kenwood, near Albany, and there remained till the fall of 1872, when she returned to Chicago to die.

### Kia-ih-chien, of China.

There has recently died at Soochow, China, a native magnate who had attained considerable celebrity among the Chinese and was at one time well known to many foreigners. This was Kia-ih-chien, whose latest official appointment was that of Provincial Criminal Judge. When he first came in contact with foreigners he was the Foo of Sungkiang, and was afterwards brought into very intimate relations with some of them as paymaster of the "ever-victorious" army. It was while he held this position, about the year 1864 that he became a member of the local branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, proposed by the then President of the Society, Sir Harry Parkes. His death occurred some time since, and after his remains had lain in state for some months they were removed to his ancestral tombs in Shense by his son, who was lately in office as an Imperial Censor. It appears that at one time Kia was the Magistrate of the Woo-kiang-hsien, in the Soochow prefecture, and during the interval that his body lay awaiting burial it is stated that the "shade" of the deceased magistrate appeared in a dream to the Foo of Soochow, and made several low bows in token of obeisance. The Foo, in consternation, asked how he, who had died months ago, managed to come back to the earth again. What did he want? The etherialized member of the Asiatic Society replied, that since his entrance into Hades he had been appointed the tutelary divinity (*Ching-wang*) of Woo-kiang, and he came to notify the Foo that he was to be worshipped accordingly. The Foo promptly informed the people of the district, and this being one of the few matters on which the people can act at once, without reference to the Board of Rites, they at once agreed to accept Kia on his own credentials, and he is now being worshipped as the *Ching-wang* of Woo-kiang.

### THE GREELEY ALBUM.

The Joint Committee of the Common Council yesterday decided to present the Greeley Album to Miss Ida Greeley on the 14th January, at the residence of John F. Cleveland, in Cottage Place. Mayor Havemeyer will make the presentation speech.

### THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 24, 1873.

The United States Senatorial Transportation Committee met at the Kimball House to-day. Colonel B. W. Frobel made the argument in favor of the Atlantic and Great Western Canal. Colonel McFarland, of the United States Engineers, made a report of the survey of the route. The committee leave to-morrow evening for Mobile.

### ARREST OF GAMBLERS IN OMAHA.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 24, 1873.

The Sheriff arrested another batch of gamblers to-day.