

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the year, four cents per copy. Annual subscription price \$18.

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.

LONDON OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD—NO. 46 FLEET STREET.

Subscriptions and Advertisements will be received and forwarded on the same terms as in New York.

Volume XXXIX. No. 24

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING

BOWERY THEATRE. BOWERY, OR WAY DOWN SOUTH, at 3 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE. No. 235 BROADWAY.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

NIBLO'S GARDEN. Third street, between Broadway and Nassau streets.—THE BELLES OF THE BENCH; MORE BLUNDERS THAN ONE. Begins at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

WOODS MUSEUM. Third street, LEAST SIX, at 3 P. M.; closes at 4:30 P. M. CLARINETTE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE. Broadway, between Broadway and Broadway, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE. Eighth street and Broadway.—HUMPTY DUMPTY AT RAILROADS.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

THEATRE COMIQUE. No. 214 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

ROBERTS THEATRE. Sixth street and Broadway.—ELENE, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

WALLACE'S THEATRE. Broadway and Third street.—MONEY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

OLYMPIC THEATRE. Broadway, between Houston and Bleeker streets.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

GERMANIA THEATRE. Broadway, between Houston and Bleeker streets.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE. Brooklyn City Hall, Brooklyn.—MARIANA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11:45 P. M.

MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE. Washington street, Brooklyn.—LIZABETH, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

STEINWAY HALL. Fourteenth street.—CONCERT of Caroline Richings Musical Union, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE. No. 201 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE. Twenty-third street, corner of Sixth avenue.—CINDERELLA IN BLACK, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

COLOSSEUM. Broadway, corner of Third street.—PARIS BY NIGHT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

BAIN HALL. Great Jones street, corner of the place.—THE PILGRIM, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, Feb. 13, 1874.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

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ALBANY MATTERS! THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND MORE SPECIAL LEGISLATION.—TENTH PAGE.

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THE SIMMONS-DERYEA MURDER TRIAL TO COMMENCE THIS MORNING! PROCEEDINGS IN THE VARIOUS COURTS.—ELEVENTH PAGE.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY! CONGRESS AND THE LEGAL TENDER QUESTION—THE MARKETS.—NINTH PAGE.

ECONOMY.—Mr. Dawes yesterday argued elaborately for reduction of our national expenditures, and made some good propositions. One of these was for the abolition of thirty custom houses, which could not be improved unless he had said sixty. Another was for the abolition of pension agencies and the payment of all pensions from Washington through the Post Office.

BREAKFAST FOR TWO CENTS.—Boston is still ahead. One of its many sages has made a discovery which will enable the Bostonians to make a hearty meal for two cents. We would urge the sending of a number of our poor down to the Hub in order that we may profit by the discovery. Two cents for a breakfast is decidedly cheap.

Condition of the Poor—How to Relieve the Hungry.

Foremost in the number of topics of public interest now before the people of this city is the condition of the poor. Many thousands of persons ordinarily employed are idle, and as they mostly lived only "from hand to mouth" while in the regular receipt of wages it is to be presumed they are now in want. It needs little imagination to conceive the misery that results from any considerable loss of employment with those whose labor is their only support, for unfortunately the subject is but too familiar in every great city; but loss of employment as it commonly occurs is a small evil by comparison with that now upon us. Our whole population below those actually independent has felt the weight of the monetary calamity, and many of those who are generally well-to-do are now in straitened circumstances. In a crisis that cramps people of these classes the less fortunate find themselves at the verge of starvation. Twenty thousand is a very small computation for the number of men now idle who usually support themselves and families by their labor; yet this number supposes not less than sixty thousand persons—men, women and children, the workmen and their families—without means and dependent upon charity. And there are probably more workingmen idle than workingmen, for the occupations in which women are engaged are those that are more strictly related to luxurious tastes—occupations, therefore, which are discontinued in times when scarcely any one feels "flush," simply because there is no sale for the products of these industries. It is not assumed that the obligation to care for the poor is any more binding upon us because especially of the greater number now in want; but there are apparently some persons who are so ignorant of the condition of the city as not to be aware of the present distress, or so heedless and heartless as not to care for it, and it is in reference to their doubts that we outline the clear facts of the misery of a portion of our people.

For the credit of journalism it is to be regretted that any member of the fraternity in this city should be so ignorant of the condition of the people as to suppose our accounts of distress were chimerical, or, if not ignorant, should regard the distress with such heartless indifference as to treat the endeavor to attract attention to the subject as a "news-paper sensation." For our part, we make no pretense to especial virtue, and we believe if there are journalistic Pharisees we are hardly in that category; but we act thoroughly in the spirit of that good line of Terence which the Spectator made famous as a principle for newspapers—"Nothing human is indifferent to us." We chronicle the distress as it exists in the city because it is our function to give the news, and the condition of the people seems to us an important part of the news, particularly when, within the limits of the city, very great numbers are living on the charity gathered from day to day. Starvation is not so common a fact in this city that its possibility on any large scale can be contemplated in a trivial spirit by every one. It is certain that, though there have been other times when there was great distress here, there has never been any season so severe upon the poor as the present, and we have endeavored to lay before the public a true picture of the trouble, believing the simple facts in such cases to constitute the most effective appeal to the affluent. If this is denounced as creating a "news-paper sensation" we do not believe the denunciation will weigh so heavily upon us as upon those who have the bad taste to make it.

Some definite objections are made to the proposition for the establishment of soup kitchens. This proposition has been urged by us, though certainly none of our readers are so poorly informed that they need to be told the idea is one that has been often acted on in many cities. It was urged by us as a practical and immediate means of relieving a larger number of poor persons than can be relieved in any other way. It is objected that it "does not reach the most deserving poor—the silent sufferers, who are ashamed to beg and truly need assistance." No one pretends that any single means of assistance can reach all the classes of the poor. But is it an argument against a certain plan that it only relieves nine out of ten who are hungry and leaves the tenth man to be assisted by some other means? As for the "silent sufferers," we regard them with due respect, but only with due respect; and we do not believe that in the wretched homes of the city poor there is a father or a mother who will see their little ones starve when he or she knows that just down the street a dish of good soup can be obtained. Other objections are that the establishment of soup kitchens will "pauperize the poor;" that they will support persons on strike as well as the more legitimately needy; that they will draw to this city all the vagrants of adjoining States, and that they will prevent the revival of business by taking from the laboring classes the inducement to resume their occupations. Our opinion of the press is better than to suppose such arguments give the staple of its intelligence. In the last point it will be seen there is a gratuitous insult to the poor generally. It is gravely argued there that they will not accept employment while they can live at public expense. There must be great ignorance of the American character when it is supposed that any class of our people will depend on charity if they can help themselves. As for the attraction the soup kitchens will have for the vagrants of the country at large, it is a pity we are not informed who intends to furnish them with their railway tickets to come hither. Some tramps will come in, no doubt, from the smaller towns near us; but shall we let our own poor starve lest we give food to those who may scarcely deserve it? It is held on the highest authority to be better that many guilty should escape punishment rather than that one righteous man should be lost; and it must equally be preferred that much should be wasted on those that defraud charity rather than that food should be wanting to one who might in humble honesty starve without it.

The name of Mr. C. I. Brace appears in queer relation with the objection to the system urged by us for feeding the poor. Mr. Brace's name is well known to the contributing public through his labors in connection with the Children's Aid Society. All that he can do to assist the poor in the present crisis is surely desirable that he should do, and

we shall be very glad to hear that he has done a great deal. From his letter published yesterday, however, we should judge that his philanthropy does not come within the sphere of what is most needed at present. He says:—"We do not help children if they refuse to go to school." Perhaps it is only original sin in us that makes this sentence sound wonderfully like the "fannel shirt and moral tract" of the Rev. Amiadab Sleek; but, however that may be, what the present occasion requires is not so much the charitable alphabet as food for the hungry. If the children are to be taught we should like to send them to the public schools, which the people pay for and which are better than the schools that are sustained for no other purpose than that Mr. Brace may administer them; and if Mr. Brace is the only medium by which assistance is to be given to the poor we are afraid so much will be lost by the way that hunger will not be appeased. In twenty years Mr. Brace has collected one million and a half dollars, and in the last year alone seventy-five thousand dollars was spent in his society for salaries—fifteen thousand dollars of which, if we are not greatly mistaken, was paid to persons named Brace, members of his family. His charity, therefore, seems to us exactly the kind of charity not wanted in this crisis. Charity collected in order that the collectors may be kept for life in well-salaried places is the sort that tends to defeat rather than to aid philanthropic purposes. Just now the need is for unsalaried benevolence that feeds the hungry.

THE THEATRES AND THE POOR.—The New York theatres are all prosperous, and they owe their prosperity to the people who patronize them so liberally. It is very proper that the theatrical proprietors who depend so entirely upon the public should share in the work of relieving the unemployed poor in a season of unusual distress. Several entertainments, the proceeds of which have been devoted to charity, have already taken place, most of them amateur performances, or performances arranged by persons outside the theatrical profession. The members of the several companies have displayed a praiseworthy readiness to give their services gratis on such occasions, often at no little expense and trouble to themselves. The managers have now a good opportunity to aid in the good work, and a series of nights set apart at the different houses for charitable performances, each theatre taking a different night, would no doubt realize a handsome sum for the destitute, and would not in the end prove any loss to the proprietors. We suggest to our theatrical managers that they meet and arrange such a programme. There are about twenty places of amusement in the city, including minstrels, and these might furnish about three weeks' performances—one every night—each one of which would no doubt be peculiarly a success.

THE CENTENNIAL QUESTION AT ALBANY.—The concurrent resolution of our State Legislature of 1871 appointing a commission to the Centennial celebration was yesterday annulled in the Assembly, as was also the legislative action on this subject of the day previous. It appears, however, that the annulling resolution was adopted because the names of W. M. Tweed and Thomas C. Fields were enrolled as members of the commission. We do not understand from this action of the Legislature that no other commission will be appointed or that nothing will be done to promote the Centennial. To refuse any official participation in that celebration would be mean, churlish and unpatriotic and unworthy of the Empire State. Whatever can be done without jobbery or a lavish appropriation of money by the government of this State to make the Centennial a grand affair should not be left undone. But as regards the money necessary to carry out the project, that should be raised by the voluntary subscriptions of the American people, and it could be so raised under proper management.

THE FORT ST. PHILIP CANAL.—The New Orleans journals have a singular way of conducting their controversies with the Herald. We printed a few words of warning the other day against Congress undertaking any comprehensive plan of river improvements, whereupon the Times declares that the national government is as much bound to open a channel at the mouth of the Mississippi as to blow out the rocky barriers at Hell Gate, and the Picayune jumps at the conclusion that our article was aimed at the Fort St. Philip Canal. Our contemporaries have arrived at mistaken conclusions. We fully recognize the necessity of a commercial city like New Orleans having an outlet to the sea, but like our own rapid transit projects, the feasibility of the plans suggested is a question of greater difficulty than the realization after the feasibility is ascertained. It is impossible to keep a ship channel open from year to year at the mouth of the Mississippi, and in spite of the opinions of Major Howell and the promised recommendations of General Humphreys we are not sure a ship canal can be constructed through the marshes between the city and the sea.

THE CITY PRISON JOB.—The bill to repeal the law authorizing the location and building of a new City Prison in place of the Tombs passed the Assembly yesterday by a unanimous vote. It should pass the Senate in the same manner. The law had the unsavory odor of a job. The Tombs will answer well enough for the present, and, indeed, if we can secure such legislation as will facilitate the trial of prisoners, its accommodations will be ample for some years to come. There are other public improvements of far greater importance to the people than the building of a new prison. We should have rapid transit before anything else, and should husband our resources for that. The persons who managed to get the building of the new prison into their hands can afford to await more prosperous times for so promising a job.

THE INDIANS.—Another murder by the Indians is reported and a consequent demand for protection which will involve the movement of troops. Murders of this sort prove expensive.

TRICHINOSIS.—Just at present the sale of pork out West is "killed," for people have no disposition to eat meat that may contain certain death. Possibly this disease may effect a prohibition on pork as decided as the law of Moses.

SCARCITY OF THIEVES.—They have offered a reward over in Jersey City for Hamilton, the defaulter.

International Weather Science inaugurated.

The long proposed system of international weather reports has at last been inaugurated. The Signal Office has just received the first bulletin from M. Quelet, the distinguished meteorologist of Utrecht. The British, Russian, Norwegian, Danish and Austrian governmental weather bureaus have entered into an arrangement for the exchange of international weather observations. The Meteorological Congress, convened at Vienna last September, unanimously recommended to all the powers there represented the exchange of at least one uniform observation that would enable the scientist to construct daily synoptic charts. These are designed to show, at a glance, the atmospheric conditions, with their undulations and cyclonic depressions, as they overspread the whole hemisphere at a given moment. The readings of the barometer, and all the other meteoric observations which go to make up the daily international report, are, therefore, all taken synchronously, at twenty-five minutes to eight o'clock A. M. of Washington time. In addition to the nationalities now co-operating in this vast scheme of international science Turkey and France will probably soon be enlisted, and their observations be interchanged with ours. Efforts, too, it is understood, are in promising progress for the further extension of the system to India and China, where meteorological investigations have engaged popular interest. When this is accomplished (and it is obviously a mere question of time) the whole Northern Hemisphere will be belted with a network of meteorological stations co-operating in the grand international science enterprise.

Into the vast volume of official research which will then flow numerous scientific societies, associations and individuals will pour their contributing streams and rills. The only gaps in the zone of stations will be the oceans. But evidently this very fact shows the necessity for speedy provision for supplying, by marine observations, the felt deficiency. The Herald has earnestly urged the systematic collection and utilization of the invaluable log books and storm data brought into port by every steamer and almost every sailor. Thus, besides amassing material for the meteorologist, from which he might wrest many secrets from the Storm King, and learn the mysteries of the oceanic climate and circulation, the mariner would himself be greatly enlightened in his responsible profession.

The inauguration of this cosmopolitan system marks a new and significant era in scientific inquiry. Meteorology is not an isolated science, and must be studied over a wide and varied field of atmospheric evolutions. Its deductions intimately concern the interests of agriculture, inland and foreign commerce, navigation and sanitary economy, the march of epidemics, the changes of local climates and countless other interests of mankind. The interchange of ideas can be no less advantageous than the interchange of physical observations, as provided for in this new system, while the immediate and tangible benefits must soon follow.

There remains little more to be desired now but the perfection of some system which may convert our large fleets of ocean steamers and the mercantile marine into so many floating observatories—countless co-operators in advancing a science in which every sailor naturally takes the deepest interest.

Russia and Austria.

On the evening of the 11th the Emperor Francis Joseph left Vienna on a visit to the Czar at St. Petersburg. This visit may be one of courtesy only; but it is rather uncommon, in times of peace, for such visits to be made at this season of the year. The marriage which was recently celebrated at St. Petersburg, and which brought into such close alliance the royal families of Great Britain and Russia, may have something to do with the matter. Russia and Austria have not been sufficiently en rapport since the Czar so suddenly left Vienna and the World's Fair last summer. A little too much attention was paid by the Emperor Francis Joseph to the son and heir of King George, late of Hanover. The Czar, pro-Prussian as he is, did not like it, and so left the Austrian capital hurriedly and somewhat in a pet. Austria cannot afford to have the German Empire against her on the one hand and the Russian Empire against her on the other, both having the sympathy of England. Let us hope that the imperial visit and the mutual congratulations incident thereto will have the effect of making an end of the little unpleasantness. At present there is no special need of a European war. It may yet be found out, too, that Austria has some sort of mission to accomplish in the European community of nations.

COAL FOR THE POOR.—New York begins to be fully alive to the suffering which exists among its poor. There is something noble and soul inspiring in the present outflow of charity. It is another proof that if great cities are the chief seats of wickedness they are also the centres in which the higher forms of Christian excellence find their fullest development. It now seems as if fair provision were about to be made for the wants of the hungry. On no account must the poor be allowed to starve. But fuel at this season of the year is almost as necessary as food. A few thousand tons of coal wisely distributed would largely relieve the distress of the situation. We offer this suggestion to the coal masters and to the railroad companies. Let them think of the blessings which it is in their power to dispense, and let them dispense the blessings at once.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN GREAT BRITAIN is still of such a character as to create uncertainty and to encourage a large amount of speculation. The defeat of the liberals is now conceded, although Mr. Gladstone, no doubt for reasons justifiable to himself, still clings to office. A few days ago the Herald suggested that a conservative-liberal government, with Lord Derby at its head, would command extensive approval throughout the three kingdoms. Mr. Gladstone, it is now manifest, is, in the opinion of British electors, too adventurous and somewhat dangerously radical. Mr. Disraeli, with all his unquestioned ability, is too tricky and fertile in expedient ever to command the confidence of all ranks and classes in the community. Earl Derby is conservative and cautious, yet a man of high culture, of sound judgment and of advanced

liberal opinions. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that there is considerable speculation as to whether Mr. Disraeli or Lord Derby will be the next Prime Minister of England.

THE END OF THE ASHANTEE WAR.—The return of the British army from Coomassie is announced in despatches from the Gold Coast. The war has been an almost bloodless one, and reflects great credit on the coolness, energy and foresight of the British General. There is little doubt that the policy adopted by General Wolsey of refusing to waste the lives of his men in useless skirmishing with a savage foe was a wise one, and the direct march on Coomassie, though criticised at first, has shown by its results that the British Commander correctly estimated the enemy to whom he was opposed.

FINANCE.—The internationalists have petitioned Congress to "call in its bonds." No answer yet received from Congress.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Postmaster J. F. Smyth, of Albany, is staying at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Major Walker McKelvan, United States Army, is quartered at the Glen Head Hotel. Assistant Attorney General G. H. Hill arrived last evening at the Brevoort House. Judge William F. Allen, of the Court of Appeals, has apartments at the Hotel Brunswick. Comptroller Nelson K. Hopkins is among the recent arrivals at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Ex-Congressman Milo Goodrich, of Dryden, N. Y., is stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Charles Parrish, the Pennsylvania coal king, occupies his old quarters at the Gulbey House. The widow, son and daughter of G. P. R. James, the novelist, are residing at San Claire, Wis. Karl von Schotter, the German Minister, has arrived at the Brevoort House from Washington. Hon. Zebulon B. Vance, of North Carolina, will deliver a lecture in Baltimore on the 13th inst. Asa Packer, of Mauch Chunk, Pa., began life as a canal boat driver and is now worth \$25,000,000. The genuine old original John Smith is dead. He gave out at the age of 100 years in Merriweather, Ga. Miss Mary Charlton has been elected Third Assistant Clerk of the Illinois House of Representatives. Dr. Francis Hoyt, who was born in Bavaria in 1771, died in Columbus, Ohio, on the 7th inst., aged 108 years.

Congressman William J. Albert, of Maryland, has received news of the death of his daughter at Berlin, Germany. Rev. Dr. DeKoven, a high churchman, is the most prominent of the candidates for the bishopric of Wisconsin. A converted Indian chief, who calls himself Sunrise, is preaching in the Methodist churches of New Jersey. Mrs. Maxwell is engraving clerk, Mrs. Elliott is Postmaster and Mrs. Quilson is paper folder for the Iowa Legislature. Messrs. William B. Ogden and William C. Sheldon, of this city, are at the Grand National Hotel, in Jacksonville, Fla. J. Hegermann Lindencrone, Chargé d'Affaires of Denmark at Washington, is temporarily residing at the Brevoort House.

The De Young Brothers, of the San Francisco Chronicle, have been put under bonds to keep the peace toward E. F. Naphaly, of the Sun, of the same city. The amenities of California journalism were several days ago illustrated by some ill-directed shooting between these writers. Calcraft, the celebrated English hangman, having become anxious, being very old, to give up his trade, a number of persons show a desire to succeed him. Among these is Mr. Anderson, a physician, and a man of independent property. He has for years been an intimate of Calcraft, and has assisted him in several executions. At the triple execution in Gloucester, England, Anderson acted alone for Calcraft, to whom he sent the fees, retaining for himself only the allowance for personal expenses.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

Transfers of Officers. WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1874. Lieutenant E. W. Verry is ordered to the Washington Navy Yard; Pay Director Caspar J. Schenck, to the Mare Island Navy Yard; Lieutenant Joseph J. Jones is detached from the Mahopac and ordered to the Gettysburg; First Assistant Engineer E. T. Phillips is detached from the naval station at League Island and ordered to the Kansas.

THE FLEET MANOEUVRES.

Fair Weather at Florida Bay Yesterday.—The Monitors at Target Practice at Key West. FLORIDA BAY, Feb. 12, 1874. The fleet exercises were continued to-day under sail. The men were drilled aloft in the preparing and manipulation of the rigging for battle. The weather is delightful. At Key West the monitors Saugus, Mahopac and Manhattan had target practice to-day.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION IN WISCONSIN.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 12, 1874. The Episcopal Convention reassembled at nine o'clock this morning. The greater part of the forenoon was occupied in the discussion of the charges made against Dr. De Koven by the Nashville professors, especially the pamphlet by Dr. Eager, of Nashville, entitled "Principles, Not Men," and which was aimed at the principles of Dr. De Koven. A frebrand was thrown into the Convention in the shape of a document, signed by four young students at Nashville, declaring that Dr. Eager had stated that the pamphlet was written for political effect. To end the discussion and personalities, which had laid to rest the Convention for several days, Mr. Moses Strong moved that the debate terminate at nine P. M., and the business of electing a bishop be proceeded with. Dr. De Koven rose and asked the privilege of the floor for the last hour, between eight and nine P. M. to define his position. This was objected to on the ground that it would be unfair to the Honorable party to proceed to the election of a bishop under the spell of the Professor's eloquence. Dr. De Koven declined making any statement under any other conditions. Pending the argument on this point the Convention adjourned until two P. M. The action opposing the extreme ritualists or Dr. De Koven party was conservative and quiet. There are said to be only a few of the Cummins party in this diocese. The excitement runs very high, and the step is being contested, with very bitter feelings on both sides.

THE NEW CHURCH MOVEMENT.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 12, 1874. Bishop Cummins, founder of the Reformed Episcopal Church, delivered an address to-night in the Tabernacle Presbyterian church on the subject of the new Church movement. He recited the labors of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church which met in Philadelphia in 1785, and said if the Prayer Book as it was then revised had remained with the Church the latter would have by this time overspread the land. He charged upon Bishop Seabury, of Connecticut, the work of restoring, in 1789, the errors originally from the polluted sources of Charles the Second, in whose days it had been revised, A. D. 1664. He justified the withdrawal from the Protestant Episcopal Church on the ground that its Prayer Book is corrupting. That reform must be begun outside the Church, and not within its pale, he strongly contended, and quoted in support of this position the action of Luther, John Wesley and the Old Catholics.

ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN'S BIRTH.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1874. The anniversary of Lincoln's birth, was celebrated here by exercises in the various public schools this morning, and appropriate exercises by the citizens at St. James' Hall this evening.

THE STRACUSE MATRIMONY.

STRACUSE, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1874. The democrats have nominated Nathan F. Graves for Mayor. The republican nominee is James J. Bolden. The election takes place on Tuesday next.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

To-morrow, by common consent, has been set apart as sacred to Love. It is Cupid's carnival, and though we write it with the name of a holy bishop and martyr it still preserves, through every change, a tinge of its pagan origin. Why the name of St. Valentine has been associated with a love festival is unknown, and no extant history furnishes any clue by which the mystery might be satisfactorily solved. Little is known about St. Valentine, save that some time in the third century of the Christian era he was beheaded with a sickle and his head cut off, but whether he had anything to do with his killing there remains no evidence to show. The association of St. Valentine with the lovefest is as unaccountable as love itself. It is strongly suspected, however, that the good man had nothing whatever to do with the ceremonies of the day, which are supposed to have sprung from feelings and desires old as the world. Some of the learned, who dive into old books in search of the origin of things, throw St. Valentine overboard as an interloper, and assure us that Valentine Day is but the continuation of the Lupercalia, festivals established in pagan Rome in honor of the god Pan. They began on the 15th of February. According to Pincus they were instituted by the Romans in honor of the she wolf that suckled Romulus and Remus. But the opinion of even this respectable authority is questioned, and both Livy and Dionysius of Halicarnassus attribute the introduction of the Lupercalia into Italy to Evander, and seek to connect them with the Lycæan festivals observed in Arcadia. Whether St. Valentine's Day can justly lay claim to so remote an origin or not, it seems certain that the ceremonies connected with it are much older than the saint with whose name they have become interwoven. The modern festival probably grew out of some deeply rooted pagan rite, just as we owe the bonfire on St. John's Eve to the fires lighted in Christian times by the worshippers of Baal. The early Christians found it necessary in order to eradicate paganism to adopt many of the principal pagan feasts, and convert them into festivals in honor of saints, and it is probable that this course was pursued with the Lupercalia as strengthened by a coincidence in the ceremonies observed in the pagan festival as well as the occurrence of St. Valentine's Day on the eve of the Lupercalia. During the feasts in honor of Pan and Juno the names of a number of young women were put into a box and drawn by men as chance directed, and this custom, which was always an important part of the proper celebration of St. Valentine's Day, seems to be the first record we possess of the origin of choosing valentines. In time the practice of choosing mates became reciprocal, and all persons so drawn or chosen were called valentines.

So late as the early part of last century it was customary for an equal number of bachelors and maids to get together, and each one having written a real or feigned name on a piece of paper, rolled it up and placed it in a box, whence it was drawn by lot. The girls drew men's billets and the men the girls', so that each one had two valentines. The bachelors were supposed to pay many more attentions to the ladies who fell to them by lot than to those who had drawn them. Fortune thus divided the company into couples. The valentines were expected to give balls and treats to their mistresses, whose billets they were accustomed to wear for several days on their bosom or sleeve. This was, however, the lightest part of the duty of the valentine, for, by custom, the bachelor remained bound for a whole year in the service of his valentine, somewhat after the fashion of a medieval knight. It, of course, often happened that these imaginary engagements became real. Sometimes it occurred that the couples were not selected by fortune just as they could have wished, but this circumstance rather increased the frequency of the amusement. About the middle of the century the celebration of Valentine's Day was very general among the upper classes and in the royal courts in Great Britain and in many parts of the European Continent, especially in Lorraine and Mainz in France. During the reign of Charles II. of England more importance was attached to the celebration of Valentine's Day than at any other period in England. The festival suited the manners of the merry monarch, and under the auspices of his courtiers took unlooked for expansion. Married people became liable to be chosen as valentines, and the habit of giving costly presents as a release or ransom was also introduced. Peppy, in his chatty diary, tells us that the Duke of York, on one occasion, presented valentine to Miss Stewart, afterwards the Duchess of Richmond, gave her a jewel worth \$4,000 to obtain a release from the obligation of being her valentine. Lord Mandeville presented the same fortunate young lady with a ring worth \$1,500, under similar circumstances. The custom of making valentine presents seems to have died out with the Merrie Monarch. Notwithstanding the custom of releasing it was believed that those who fell to each other in St. Valentine's lottery were likely to become associated in wedlock.

Valentine's Day in Great Britain is no longer celebrated with the old *debut*, and has almost ceased to possess the symbolic meaning which in past times gave the day its greatest charm. It is now almost wholly abandoned to practical jokes and low buffoonery. Its approach is heralded, as among ourselves, by the appearance in shop windows of numberless mistresses, mostly vulgar caricatures, which are sent through the post by people of bad taste under the impression that they are playing off delicate jokes. In the not distant past letter writing on Valentine's Day was almost unknown, or confined to the exchange of courteous notes, breathing affection and devotion. The caricature valentine is wholly an outgrowth of low modern ideas of burlesque. The more refined manners of the older generations did not permit indulgence in the coarse buffoonery or stupid caricature. Their fault was an exaggeration of sentiment bordering on the ridiculous. It is among the people that the poetry of the day's observance has been best preserved. While the book worms have hunted in vain among dusty and moth eaten archives for the origin of Love's Day the poet has, with truer instinct, have interrogated nature with better success. As the nations of antiquity lived more in communion with nature than we do many of their social and religious customs are directly traceable to the influence of some natural law, or some supposed law, which they evolved from their rich poetic imaginations. February sees the winter depart, and the dawn of spring brings joy to all animated creatures. The little birds once more make vocal the trees about the peasant's hut, and the simple dweller in the fields attributes the bird song to awakening love. Hence the belief that on St. Valentine's Day the birds choose their mates by an unwritten law. Man follows the example of the feathered songsters, and to this superstition we probably owe St. Valentine's Day and all its attendant ceremonies. This explanation goes back to the world's dawn, to that golden age when man lived in converse with creation and knew and obeyed the law of life. The idea that there is an influence inherent in the day which binds together in some sort the destinies of those who are united on the opposite sex on St. Valentine's Day is still popularly entertained among the people of many countries, and there is an almost religious belief that the first unmarried person encountered of either sex on the morning of that day is a destined bride or husband.

THE VIRGINIA DEFAULTER, COLEMAN.

RICHMOND, Feb. 12, 1874. The case of W. D. Coleman, defaulting clerk in the Board of Public Works and of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, was called in the Police Court this morning; but, his physician reporting him unfit to appear, a further postponement was ordered. A joint committee of the Legislature was appointed to investigate the malfeasance in the office of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund and all matters connected therewith. The committee have been given power to send for persons and papers.