

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING

THEATRE COMIQUE. No. 51 Broadway.—ON HAND, and VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

WALLACK'S THEATRE. Broadway and Third street.—WOODCOCK'S GAME and THE NERVE MAN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallack, Miss Belle Germain.

OLYMPIC THEATRE. Broadway, between Houston and Eleventh streets.—AUNTIE, and VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

BOTH'S THEATRE. Sixth avenue, corner of Twenty-third street.—KING JOHN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. John McCullough.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE. No. 58 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

WOOD'S MUSEUM. Broadway, corner of Third street.—THE ORANGE GIRL, at 2 P. M.; closes at 4:30 P. M. MARKED FOR LIFE, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Louisa C. France.

DALY'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE. Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—OLIVER TWIST, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Miss Fanny Davenport, Miss Henry, Mr. Louis James.

MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE. WYDE'S BUILDING, at 8 P. M. Mr. Frank Roche, Miss Jane Conroy.

NIBLO'S GARDEN. Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—THE LADY OF THE LAKE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Joseph Whitlock and Miss Jane Burke.

LYCEUM THEATRE. Fourteenth street.—LA SUIE D'OUTOURE, at 8 P. M.

TERRACE GARDEN THEATRE. Fifty-eighth street, between Third and Lexington avenues.—HOLIE GARDEN, at 8 P. M.

NEW PARK THEATRE, BROOKLYN. CHRIS AND LENA, at 8 P. M. Baker and Faxon.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE. No. 201 Bowery.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 2:30 P. M.; closes at 5:30 P. M.; also at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

BRVANT'S OPERA HOUSE. Twenty-third street, near Sixth avenue.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

CENTRAL PARK GARDEN. Fifty-ninth street and Sixth avenue.—THOMAS' CONCERT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

ASSOCIATION HALL. Twenty-third street.—HARLEM MENDELSSOHN UNION, at 8 P. M.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN. Fourth avenue and Twenty-third street.—ANNUAL EXHIBITION. Open day and evening.

COLISEUM. Broadway, corner of Thirty-fifth street.—LONDON IN 1874, at 2 P. M.; closes at 5 P. M. Same at 7 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

ROMAN HIPPODROME. Madison avenue and Twenty-sixth street.—GRAND FAUCON—CONGRESS OF NATIONS, at 2:30 P. M. and 7 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, May 26, 1874.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be clearing.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Gold opened at 112½ and closed at 112½. Stocks were firmer.

YESTERDAY WAS THE SECOND DAY of the Pentecostal season. It was Whit-Monday and it was the Queen's birthday. Over a large portion of the world it was a day of joy and rejoicing. In New York the fates were evidently angry. All was gloom. In place of the sweet May sunshine clouds and darkness gathered over us.

MORMONS RUNNING INTO COMMUNISM.—Our interesting correspondence from Salt Lake City, published to-day, throws light upon a new movement of Brigham Young, or rather the revival of an old one, calculated to give this "prophetic" man more power and wealth. A grand conference had been held, lasting four days, in the Tabernacle, to consider the "Order of Enoch," an organization purporting to have all temporal things in common—a system of Communism pure and simple—but which will, of course, give the head of the Mormon Church, Brigham Young, absolute power over the property and labor of his deluded followers.

MORE DISASTROUS FIRES.—We learn by telegram of a destructive fire at St. John, N. B., on Sunday night. It was mostly among the frame houses of working people, and spread rapidly. The loss is not stated, but there was little insurance, it appears, upon the buildings. The sufferers are chiefly the poor residents. Several people were injured bodily, and one brave fireman lost his life in doing his duty. A despatch from Chicago says there was a fire also at Independence, Iowa, and that the place was burned down. The particulars are not given. These disasters should make people careful.

THE INQUEST ON THE MILL RIVER DISASTER is going on, as will be seen by our correspondence elsewhere. The testimony so far changes in no respect the information given by our special correspondent immediately after the sad catastrophe as to the insecure condition of the dam and the culpable indifference of the mill owners. They ought to have known, if they did not know, that there was danger of a break. The investigation, if thorough, may take some time. We hope the gentlemen on the inquest will do their duty to the public and speak plainly of the condition of the dam and of the conduct of those who were responsible.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE INDIANS.—While the Deficiency bill was up in the Senate yesterday several appropriations for the Indians were proposed and discussed. Large sums were voted. In the course of the debate, and while the amendment to increase the appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars to half a million for the Apache Indians in Arizona and New Mexico was pending, Mr. Sargent remarked that the government must either feed or fight these Indians, and that it was much cheaper to feed them. Some years ago, he said, there was a war with the Sioux Indians, when forty-five of these people were killed, at a cost of forty-five millions of dollars. At that rate it is decidedly cheaper to feed them if feeding will keep them from the warpath. The disposition of the Senate seemed to be favorable to the feeding policy.

Our Political Sphinxes and What They Mean.

The political situation is unusually unsettled. Events may be read now in the same spirit in which we read our weather reports—"variable winds, with tendencies to light rains and cloudy skies." The horizon hangs like one of the mists which we see hanging over the Scottish lakes. Gloom, darkness, damp, the trailing fogs, and now and then strange shadows coming out of the fancies of the rain and the mist-burdened atmosphere. We look towards the South and see volcanic influences, Arkansas and Louisiana throwing out smoke and fire, darkening the heavens with the lurid gleams of civil war. We look towards the East, and over that terrified community Butlerism hangs like the Afrite in the fable, and no one knows whom the monster will next devour. In Connecticut a sudden democratic victory is followed by the election of a Bourbon democrat to the Senate, a statesman whose principal qualifications are that he once resided in South Carolina and still believes in John C. Calhoun. We look to the West, and the clash of contest between the "grangers" and the railways fills the air, threatening to be the most serious problem submitted to the people since the downfall of slavery. All is confusion, anxiety, uproar, uncertainty; and the ambitious politician aspiring to lead events is in the position of one of our intrepid Arctic navigators who finds himself in northern latitudes, where there is no day, who sails on and on, through icebergs and fogs and snow and unpeppery cold, and no guide but what comes from the illusive auroral light flushing the sombre heavens.

What, for instance, do we see in the metropolis? Mainly what is seen in every part of the country. Chaos and doubt everywhere. The leaders of Tammany have vanished; a new ring has taken their place; a ring of venerable statesmen, and at the head our time-honored Mayor, whose radiant Dutch face, with the white mass of silver hair, remind us of what Holmes calls "a rose in the snow." We fancy that the spirit of Van Twiller or Stuyvesant has returned in the old Mayor; and we half believe that he wears a pigtail and a wooden leg, like old Peter the Governor, as we see his likeness presiding over insurance companies and benevolent associations. If anything could increase our perplexity it would be the Mayor. The politicians turn him over and over again as a curious formation. What is he? Can anybody tell what function he performs in nature? Upon what theory can we account for him? There was never so much perplexity among the experienced politicians. Sometimes he looks like a weasel and then like a camel, and, again, like a whale. One day we are told he is run by the Custom House ring, the next day we discover that he runs the ring, only the next day to run away from it and appear with a ring of his own, and Disbecker as a solitary diamond setting. Peter Bismarck Sweeny (may he find peace in his Boulevard exile!) was wont to be a mystery in his ruling days, but no such mystery as this contemporary and representative of Stuyvesant and Van Twiller.

We have often thought that most things, for instance the reading of the Rosetta stone and Runic inscriptions, were only difficult because we made a merit of doing them in the most difficult manner. We think the same about Havemeyer. He is only difficult because we will not see how simple and plain and transparent is his honest old Dutch soul. Did it ever occur to our political wisacres, as they studied over his actions and tried to find a place for him in the geology of political formations, that what he wanted to be was really Mayor, and Mayor in his own way, and Mayor again by the vote of the people? We can understand how he might be Mayor to please John Kelly or Thomas Murphy or A. H. Green or twenty other eminent metropolitan statesmen who would like to be pleased. If he adopted any of these policies his course would be simple and plain. But he chooses to be Mayor to please William F. Havemeyer, and this the politicians can never comprehend, and so the wise men of all parties sit in endless counsel over him, and weary the public mind with their discussions and controversies. When we consider, however, that the Mayor is now in the second tenure of his power, that he returns to its possession after the lapse of a new generation, that he is like an old widower who has wedded a young wife or a merchant who has found again the fortune he lost in earlier years, we can understand the deep, sweeping current of his passion. The passion for power, like love and avarice, when it returns takes possession of its victim, and ambition burns in the soul like mines of sulphur. So our venerable Chief Magistrate who puzzles everybody by his course is simply a politician newly wedded to power, and so much in love with his bride that, to use the tremendous metaphor of Richard III., he would undertake the death of all the world to live one more term in sweet and undisturbed possession.

But if we are puzzled by the stolid old Knickerbocker, who smokes his pipe and sits in contented, silent bliss, over in the City Hall, watching the swarming politicians with half closed eyes, what shall we say of the silent Ulysses in Washington, "the sashed and girded sphinx," who presides over the destinies of this happy land? Surely, if we listen to the experienced statesmen who live in Washington without any visible means of support and give their lives to the people's welfare, or of those Christian statesmen who beam upon us in a holy way and preach about the increase of suspicion and scandal, we shall say that there never was in history or fable so extraordinary a problem as this President of our free and independent States. How they clatter about him! He likes horses and field sports, smokes, drives a four-in-hand with white reins, will not read the newspapers, and disdains journalists as an unnecessary class in any civilized society. He will not consult the trained statesman, and finds a Cabinet in Horie and Akerman and Belknap, ignoring ten thousand other patriots who have given the party infinitely more service. But so quiet—how exactly how the politicians cannot tell us, and so we must even regard it as a genuine blundering in the right direction—this imperious, urbane problem, who is as much a mystery to-day as when he entered the White House, who never had an enthusiasm in his whole life and would

seem to have no followers in politics, has succeeded in defeating before the people the two men, Seymour and Greeley, who, ten years ago, led the two great parties of the country, and in inspiring a degree of confidence in his character and conservative intentions for the good of the country that no President has received since Washington.

Only look for a moment at his strange chances! He made a mistake in St. Domingo, but he retrieved the mistake as soon as he saw it, and in doing so destroyed the men who had thwarted him in that darling dream of tropical empire. He was confronted by the Alabama problem, which even Seward could not solve, and he solved it. He found himself in the Niagara whirls of a war with Spain, and he steered out of them. He was tempted to regain his popularity with the West on the inflation question. Those who knew him best knew that he would sign the bill. He vetoed it in a message remarkable for its thought, and in an hour from being one of the most unpopular he became one of the most popular men in the country. He is so strong in this strength that no one in his party dares to cross his path. The Mortons and the Logans would gladly do it, but they see the political ghosts of Sumner and Schurz. Surely there never was such fortune, and the politicians clatter over it as a phenomenon of destiny without parallel in history, romance or even in legend. What does he mean? What will he do? What does he want? Who advises him? Who possesses his confidence? Who is his choice for the Presidency? What will he do with his Cabinet? Where did he ever find such a Cabinet? Why does he not remove Richardson? These are the questions that all Washington constantly asks, and we do not hear them answered. We only see the sphinx solemnly meditating over his horses and his cigars—silent, incomprehensible, alone.

And there is one other question which is in every Washington mind but which no one yet has dared to ask of the Sphinx. Who will dare to ask it?

The Omnibus Strike.

The interruption of stage travel on Broadway is an event in our municipal life, and many elderly gentlemen who yesterday afternoon found themselves beleaguered at Trinity church, without their slow, easy-going, comfortable omnibuses, must have regretted that they had not gone into pedestrian training earlier in life. The drivers could not have taken a less convenient time, for the day was unusually bleak and wretched, with rain and thunder and a continuance of our dreadful spring weather.

As we understand the case, it is this: Under the old omnibus system, when there was no check upon the collection of fares, the owners did not earn within forty per cent of what they earn now. For now there is a new system—a mysterious machine with traps and pulleys enough to alarm timid old ladies, which makes every passenger his own fare collector and general auditor of the accounts of the company. The result is that the forty per cent which was wont to swell the revenues of the drivers no longer goes to them. Consequently they demanded higher wages. They say, virtually, that before they were paid small wages with the knowledge that they taxed the general receipts of the company. In other words, the owners condoned and approved their act, and virtually became partners in it by paying insufficient and absurd salaries. Now that there is no longer any chance to add to their wages from the common till they demand an increase from the company.

The first point that arises is this: If the company have had an addition of forty per cent to their receipts they can afford to increase the wages of the drivers and to reduce the stage fare to the same price charged by the horse cars. Another point is that in all business the payment of small wages is simply a premium upon dishonesty. All labor is worth its price and is sure to obtain its price. Poor pay means poor work. We do not discuss the honesty of the drivers who helped themselves out of the till. Bad as that proceeding was, it was practically what the stage owners expected. Now that there is no longer the temptation or the opportunity to do this wrong let the owners promptly pay the drivers what their labor is worth. Their demand is just and it should be conceded.

The Board of Education and City Taxation.

The Board of Education have agreed to respond to the application of the Board of Apportionment for a reduction of the expenses of the several departments of the city government by cutting down their former estimates one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The saving is effected by suspending the "purchasing of sites and erection of new school buildings," which dispenses this year with an expenditure of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, and by reducing the appropriation for "alteration and repairs to school houses" to the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars more. The work is needed. The interests of the public schools demand that it shall be done. But, in view of the necessity of "curtailing every expense" that can possibly be postponed, the Board of Education come to the conclusion that they will do as well as they can with their present accommodations until "the public treasury is in a more favorable condition."

It is to be hoped that the example of the Board of Education will be followed by other departments. Wherever work that can afford to await "a more favorable condition of the public treasury" is in progress or in contemplation it should be dispensed with as the building and repair of school houses are dispensed with. The large outlays on tunnels, bridges, museums and other buildings in Central Park can be better suspended than the expenditures on the public schools. It would be better that the Dock Department should be abolished altogether and its duties transferred to some other department than that a single school district should be left without sufficient accommodation. Every member of the Board of Apportionment should bear these facts in mind in voting on the new "final estimate" for the current year's taxation.

WILL ONLY HAVE GOLD FOR DUTIES.—Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, offered a bill in the House of Representatives yesterday to make the payment of one-third of customs duties in legal tenders or national bank notes. He moved the previous question, but the House, by a large majority, refused to accept the bill.

Italian Opera in New York.

The history of music in New York, in spite of many failures, is a story of well sustained effort and rapid growth. The taste for classical music has been developed with the increase of skill in its performance, and Italian opera, long discouraged, is now a living, growing taste, and successful in its artistic and financial aspects. This gratifying fact is due to the application of correct principles to the production of operatic works. It had long been the practice with managers to present operas badly mounted and with a weak chorus and discordant orchestra, the prima donna being thought sufficient to carry through the season. That failure followed every attempt of this kind was not surprising, and the HERALD steadily and earnestly opposed a policy so short-sighted until a manager was found bold enough to cast it aside for a more liberal system. We demanded not only a prima donna and a tenor, but a well selected company, a full chorus and a trained orchestra—in a word, a perfect ensemble and a fresh mise en scene, with the production of a fair proportion of new works to supplement the old favorites. At the beginning of the last season the Brothers Strakosch came here with a company which seemed to fulfil what we conceived to be the first requisites of a season of Italian opera in New York, the promises of the management including everything that the HERALD had so often recommended as certain to insure success. Their promises were redeemed to the letter, and the result has been not only to verify our predictions, but to make a return to less perfect methods of presenting Italian opera in New York impossible.

In looking back over the season which so recently closed we are not more gratified at its complete triumph than surprised that the result should have been attained in spite of great obstacles. When the season opened the panic fever was still burning in the public pulse. Many of the best patrons of the opera were suffering from the disasters in Wall street and people generally felt that it was a time to dispense with luxuries. Every theatre in the city was suffering and the managers felt that no season for years had begun under gloomier auspices. The first nights of the opera showed that the Academy of Music was included in the general bad fortune. But Nilsson had come back fresh voiced as ever, and her support was a surprise to everybody. Miss Cary, always a favorite, had greatly improved. Torriani was acceptable. Capoul held his old admirers, and Campanini at once became an admitted and welcome favorite. Maurel, Del Puente and Nannetti filled the parts for which they were cast so much better than we were accustomed to see them filled that the acknowledgment was freely made that Mr. Strakosch had indeed an excellent company. The chorus was large, and Signor Muzio held the baton over an orchestra such as had never been heard at the Academy. Excellence conquered, in spite of difficulties of every kind, and much of the victory was due to the intelligent direction of Muzio. At last Italian opera was given in New York as the HERALD had long demanded that it should be given, and the results which followed were overwhelming proof that worth is the only high road to fortune. We not only had a splendid season of Italian opera in every way, but we even surpassed Paris and St. Petersburg in the production of new works, Verdi's "Aida" and Wagner's "Lohengrin" being sung here before they were heard in any of the great capitals of Europe. It was a season of which we may well be proud and one that will be long remembered in the history of Italian opera in New York, for it was the year of departure from the older and feebler methods and of the adoption of a wise, a generous and a liberal policy.

Already we have the proofs of the achievements of the past season in the preparations which are making for the season of 1874-5. The announcements which we make this morning of the artists already engaged for the Strakosch company show that the next season is to be in no way inferior to the last. Mlle. Heilbron is a prima donna who has been very successful in Paris and London, and from the reports of her merits which reach us from time to time it is fair to assume that her triumphs in this country will not fall short of those of Lucca and Nilsson. In this connection it may be remarked that it is to be regretted that Mlle. Belocoe, who was the rival of Heilbron in Paris, and whom we expected to hear in New York next season, cannot be tempted to brave the dangers of the sea. Many of the old favorites have been re-engaged and the new engagements present a number of attractive names. Mlle. Donadio takes the place of Torriani, and in the places of the tenors Capoul and Campanini we are to have Davillier, Debassini and Bonfratelli. Best of all, we are to have Muzio back again with an increased orchestra and even greater control over the musical forces of the Academy. In addition to the favorite works of last season, a number of operas are promised which require the resources of a very strong company to present them properly, and we are assured they are to be properly presented. The experience of last season makes this assurance doubly sure, and encourages us to believe that Italian opera is at last a permanent institution in New York, independent of subventions and any extraneous aid whatever, except that which comes from the love of our people for good music. Another season of Italian opera like the last one—a season of which we are now assured by the arrangements already made—will solve the operatic problem and make the opera as safe a business as a well managed theatre. Mr. Lester Wallack has managed his theatre for years with absolute security by presenting what is best in the best way, and by doing the same thing Mr. Daly has accomplished like results. The same policy amply rewarded Mr. Strakosch, and so long as it is applied to operatic management it will have equally gratifying results.

RATHER DAMAGING FOR DELEGATE CANNON, OF UTAH.—The testimony of a daughter of Kimball, one of the great chiefs of the Mormon Church, before the investigating committee, to the effect that Cannon had four wives. If the Mormons can be brought to the point of telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, both Cannon and the remaining "twin relic of barbarism" are likely to get a shock before Congress has done with the investigation.

Proposed Army Reduction.

Under the pretence of economy middle-class politicians desire to further reduce the army. Not that there is any real intention of saving the people from taxation. But there exists a class of men in all free countries who seek to obtain a little cheap notoriety by "cutting down the army." If any doubt existed as to the motives which underlie the present attack on the army it would be set at rest by reading the proposed bill. The aim is not to correct any abuses that may have crept into the army administration, not to lessen the number of parasites that cling to arsenals and the civil posts, where the friends of Congressmen find pleasant sinocures; but it is levelled at the efficiency, at the very life of that gallant army which is ever ready to defend the interests of the country against the enemies of internal order as well as against the savage enemy which lines our extensive frontiers. Recent events have called attention to the inadequacy of the present small army to properly cover the immense territory exposed to the raids of the Indian tribes, and were the force that holds them in check to be perceptibly weakened the savages would unquestionably become unmanageable. When we glance at the cost of the Modoc war and consider the many millions which were spent to subdue even a small band of desperate warriors, we are encouraged to protest against any pretended system of economy which might deprive the frontiers of protection and expose us to the expense and annoyance of Indian wars. The attempt to effect a little saving at the expense of the safety of the Western settlers is unworthy of any one having any claims to intelligent statesmanship. The proposition to send a number of these gentlemen away with one year's pay as a compensation for having devoted the most valuable years of their life to the public service is unappealing mean, and argues a thorough want of appreciation of the relations which exist between an army officer and the public. In the present state of warfare it is absolutely necessary that army officers should be highly educated, not alone in all the subjects with which well educated civilians are familiar, but still more in technical knowledge which has little value and no application outside the ranks of the army. In order to induce gentlemen to follow these studies and devote themselves to a profession which is beset with inconveniences and dangers it is necessary that full security shall be felt by the aspirant for army honors that the country will faithfully perform its duty to the well-deserving. The officer devotes his life to the public service on the understanding that so long as he fulfills his duties to the State he shall continue to enjoy the rank he may acquire and just promotion. In exchange he devotes his talents and life to the service of his country. It is of the greatest importance to all well regulated States that the soldiers to whom the safety of the nation is intrusted in the hour of trial and danger should be men of the highest attainments and the strictest honor. Wherever a high civilization exists the officer is treated with the greatest consideration, and the mere wearing of a shoulder knot is a social guarantee which unlocks all doors. But in States where insecurity exists in the military profession and the army is made the plaything of politicians disorder and insecurity threaten not alone the public well being, but even the national life. Mexico and Spain furnish examples of States deprived of national armies, and the value of a self-contained and thoroughly reliable force has very lately been shown in the Arkansas conflict. But if there were no other reason than the insufficiency of the present military force to protect the border from the incursions of savages and marauders, we should be opposed to any reduction of the army. There is no need for such a measure. The proposed reduction would scarcely be perceptible on the budget, and might cause the loss of more millions in one year than could be saved in twenty.

The Consolidation Act.

The Board of Supervisors yesterday received two legal opinions on the act to consolidate the New York city and county governments; one from ex-Judge John K. Porter and Mr. John H. Strahan, covering the constitutional point and defining the effect of the provisions of the new law; the other from the Corporation Counsel as to the right of the Aldermen to continue to draw their extra pay as Supervisors in addition to their salaries as Aldermen. The act is declared to be constitutional, since both in the original law and the explanatory act the continuance of the Board of Supervisors for the purposes of the county organization contemplated in the constitution is expressly recognized. The effect of the new law is to consolidate all the property and liabilities of the city and county, to impose upon and transfer to the city all contracts to which the county is a party, to put an end to the double machinery of administration which has heretofore necessitated separate accounts, books and clerical labor in the Finance Department, and by so doing to secure greater simplicity, efficiency and economy in that department. The control over the public buildings heretofore exercised by the Supervisors, the counsel say, is transferred to the Department of Public Works; the Aldermen are charged with regulating the use of the property formerly belonging to the county and specifying the purposes to which it is to be applied; while the Supervisors retain only such powers as under the State constitution cannot be exercised by any other body. The Corporation Counsel concurs in the opinions expressed by Judge Porter and Mr. Strahan on these points, and in his separate opinion he decides that as the provisions of the city charter cannot apply to county affairs the Aldermen are still entitled to draw the extra salary they receive as Supervisors. These opinions dispose of the absurd pretence of Comptroller Green that the new law vests the control and patronage of the County Court House in the Commissioners appointed by Mayor Havemeyer, on very doubtful authority, to complete the building. It is therefore scarcely probable that Mr. Green will persist in his efforts to embarrass the consolidation act by further intermeddling with this portion of its provisions. While, through the blunders and incapacity of its authors, the law does not accomplish all that was promised for it, there is some satisfaction in the fact that it will abolish our past double-headed, complicated and expensive method of keeping the public accounts, and will effect a material saving in the cost of the Finance Department, which will no doubt make itself apparent in the revised estimates soon to be considered by the Board of Apportionment. It is to be regretted that it does not cut off the extra pay of the Supervisors, which is so much money thrown away. Whether the rumor that the omission to abolish the extra salary by direct provision in the act was the result of a friendly bargain between the Aldermen and the sponsors for the law be true or false it is certain that the blunder was an inexcusable one. Mr. Van Schaick patriotically offered a resolution in the Board declaring that the Aldermen will not draw pay as Supervisors after June 1; but this was "laid over." If adopted it would only affect the present Board; but the chances are in favor of its laying over until next year.

Witch Burning in Mexico. Our enterprising neighbors across the Rio Grande have, from time to time, given many astonishing evidences of their peculiar civilization, but of late years there has been little to chronicle of a startling nature except an occasional foray on a stage coach or some trifling insurrection in a remote province. Even the outrages on United States citizens, which at one time were so disagreeably frequent, seem to have become a subject of the past. In the State of Sinaloa, however, the enlightened citizens have got up a real sensation, in the shape of an auto da fe, the victims being two suspected sorcerers, man and wife, accused of having bewitched a poor fellow named Zachary. The Alcalde of the town in which this terrible example of superstition took place not only superintended and approved of the barbarous execution in question, but actually had the audacity to make an official report of it to the Prefect of his district. He cites, as an argument against the sorcerers, that, in order to test the truth of the bewitchment of Zachary, they forced him to swallow some blessed water, which had the effect of bringing up from the depths of his inner consciousness portions of a blanket and bunches of hair. The only inference to be drawn from such an occurrence is that some poor Indian must have been missing in that district. The terrible official finally informs his superior that he has his eyes on two other sorcerers. In fact, it is said that two others have since suffered death. It is almost incredible to read of the ignorance and superstition of the days of the Inquisition and the Salem witchcraft in the nineteenth century, and by persons calling themselves Christians. It is gratifying to learn that the general government of Mexico has shown a disposition to interfere in the cause of humanity and to check further outrages by the people of Sinaloa. No nation of the present day can expect to be classed among civilized communities that will permit this astounding brutality.

STRIKES AND EMIGRATION.—The miners' strikes in England have thrown thousands of industrious and hard working men out of employment. Neither the men nor the employers are inclined to surrender, and the workers are turning their eyes Westward. It is said to be their intention to organize emigration on a large scale, and so deprive the masters permanently of help in the working of the mines. If the working classes of Europe cannot obtain in their own countries fair remuneration for their toil the best thing they can do is to come here. We want lusty arms to develop the immense riches of the soil, and we shall welcome all who are willing to labor.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE. Sir Alexander T. Galt, of Montreal, is at the City House. Mrs. Caroline A. Soule is the name of a new preacher in Cincinnati. They have a John Gilpin in Lockport, but he is not the renowned rider. Congressman W. H. Barnum, of Connecticut, is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Jay F. Howard, United States Consul at Leghorn, is at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Major H. C. Smith, of the British Army, is quartered at the Brevoort House. State Senator D. P. Wood, of Syracuse, is residing at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Ex-Congressman John F. Farnsworth, of Illinois, has arrived at the Windsor Hotel. Mr. Jonas, the Governor of Newgate Jail, in London, for fifty years, has just retired. Ex-Rent Commissioner David A. Wells, has apartments at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. "Our Native Young Scrum" is what the Georgetown (S. C.) Times calls Governor Moses. Captain Glover's great services in the Ashantee war have been rewarded with a present of £2,000. Assemblyman Smith M. Weed, of Plattsburg, is among the recent arrivals at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Major Augustus S. Nicholson, of the United States Marine Corps, has quarters at the Olerendon Hotel. Lieutenant Governor John C. Robinson arrived at the St. Denis Hotel yesterday from his home in Birmingham. The Patrons of Husbandry have made one point in Wilmington, N. C. J. B. Granger has been chosen Mayor. Colonel E. P. C. Lewis, of Virginia, is in Paris, having returned there with his family after a tour in Italy and Egypt. M. and Mme. de Lesseps have recently been in Jerusalem, the motive of their visit being a religious vow made by the latter. Miss Collins, a missionary among the California Indians, counts up 800 converts among the various tribes from her ministrations. Senator George F. Verry and Messrs. Merrill, Phillips and Morrissey, of the Massachusetts Legislature, are at the Windsor Hotel. Professor Montague Bernard has definitely resigned the chair of international law and diplomacy at Oxford, which he has held since 1859. M. Frocoud du Merlan, for a number of years a government employe under the Empire and the Republic, has been arrested in Paris on a charge of forgery. An eccentric person named Johnson has just died in England who spent the whole of his fortune, estimated at £100,000, in trying to demolish the Malvern Hills. Aristides Welch, of Philadelphia, whose name is associated with the names of Horace Greeley and Gerrit Smith, on the ball bond of Jefferson Davis, yesterday arrived at the Hoffman House. The Springfield (Mass.) Republican says:—"The gentleman who has made the largest individual subscription for the sufferers is Mr. George Bliss, of Morton, Bliss & Co., of New York, who is a native of Northampton, where a sister still resides." M. Mendes Leal, the new Portuguese Minister to Paris, is a gentleman with a number of years of his country, a fine dramatic writer, an eminent journalist and an orator whose speeches are models of eloquence.

THE EXAMINATIONS AT WEST POINT. POUCHKEEPER, MAY 25, 1874. The examination of applicants for admission to West Point Academy commences at that post to-day. Out of the 110 registered applicants only fifty-six have arrived, but every train brings others, and all are expected by noon to-morrow. The regular summer visitors have already commenced to arrive at the post.