

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XL—NO. 10

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT

- BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE. FULTON AVENUE.—VARIETY. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
BRUNSWICK'S OPERA HOUSE. WEST TWENTY-THIRD STREET, NEAR FIFTH AVENUE.—NEGR0 MINSTRELS, AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
GERMANIA THEATRE. FORTY-FOURTH STREET, NEAR FIFTH AVENUE. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
SIBILOS. BROADWAY.—ROBY O'NEILL, AND HERRMANN, AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE. NO. 21 BOWERY.—VARIETY. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE. TWENTY EIGHTH STREET AND BROADWAY.—THE BIG NARRA. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
LYCEUM THEATRE. FORTY-FOURTH STREET, NEAR FIFTH AVENUE.—MARIÉ ANTOINETTE, AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
PARK THEATRE. BROADWAY.—FRENCH OPERA HOUSE.—GIROFFO-GIROFFA. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
GRAND CENTRAL THEATRE. NO. 56 BROADWAY.—VARIETY. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
BOOTH'S THEATRE. CORNER OF TWENTY-THIRD STREET AND SIXTH AVENUE.—HENRY V. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS. BROADWAY.—CORNER OF TWENTY-NINTH STREET.—SEGR0 MINSTRELS, AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
TIVOLI THEATRE. EIGHTH STREET, BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD AVENUES.—VARIETY. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
WALLACE'S THEATRE. BROADWAY.—THE SHAUGHRAUN, AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
COLISEUM. BROADWAY AND THIRTY-FOURTH STREET.—PARIS BY NIGHT. TWO PERFORMANCES DAILY, AT 8 AND 10 P. M.
MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE. BROADWAY.—THE MAN OF ARIEL, AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
WOODS' MUSEUM. BROADWAY, CORNER FIFTH STREET.—SASSA COE, AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
OLYMPIC THEATRE. NO. 52 BROADWAY.—VARIETY. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
ROBINSON HALL. SIXTEENTH STREET AND BROADWAY.—CALLENDE'S GEORGIA MINSTRELS, AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
THEATRE COMIQUE. NO. 74 BROADWAY.—VARIETY. AT 8 P. M. 10:45 P. M.
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART. WEST FORTY-FOURTH STREET.—OPEN FROM 10 A. M. TO 5 P. M.
ASSOCIATION HALL. TWENTY-THIRD STREET.—READING, AT 8 P. M.
ROMAN HIPPODROME. FOURTH AVENUE AND TWENTY-SEVENTH STREET.—CIRQUE, TROTTER AND MENAGERIE, AFTERNOON AND EVENING, AT 1 AND 8.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1875.

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

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Gold advanced to 116. Stocks were irregular. Foreign exchange closed steady and American bonds strong.

THE COMPLETE and very graphic reports of the floods, consequent on the ice gorges on the Delaware, Susquehanna and tributary rivers, given on another page, are illustrated by a map of the Delaware, from Deposit to Delaware Water Gap, and another of the country immediately around Port Jervis.

LONDON has its share of commercial troubles. A heavy Mark Lane firm has failed with two millions sterling liabilities, and other suspensions are said to be threatened in consequence.

THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY is about to cut down the army of government paupers. A jury of physicians is to inquire into the cases of the Bonapartists who are on the pension list on account of infirmities alleged to have been contracted in the service of the State.

PRESIDENT GRANT has characteristically settled the Arkansas question by appointing ex-Governor Brooks Postmaster at Little Rock. From the Executive Chamber to the local post office does not seem a very desirable transfer; but no doubt Brooks is satisfied, and certainly the President has got rid of one of his white elephants on very reasonable terms.

THE WISE ONES of the English turf have had occasion to learn that they are not infallible in their judgment. The Lincolnshire Handicap has been won by an outside horse, against whom the odds were thirty to one, while the favorite, at two to one, was fifteenth in the race. The three placed horses were, indeed, all outsiders, the betting against the second and third having been, at starting, twenty to one and fifty to one, respectively.

THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY.—There is likely to be a compromise between the government and the Left on the question of the dissolution of the French Assembly, according to our cable despatch from Paris. Provided a day is fixed for the dissolution six months after the Easter recess, no more elections to fill vacancies are to be ordered. These are the terms said to be offered, and the question of filling the vacant seats, which will be immediately brought up, will develop the character and decide the fate of the proposed compromise.

The Great Spring Floods.

The breaking of the great ice gorge at Port Jervis, which has been so long an object of apprehension and terror to the inhabitants of that thriving village and of sympathetic interest to the whole country, took place yesterday morning, with less damage to property than might have been expected. It is fortunate that the pent-up flood forced its way through by daylight. Nothing so intensifies the horror of a calamity of this kind as to have it come in the darkness of the night, when nobody can look far enough abroad to take in the whole situation and measure the extent of the danger. Night is a fruitful breeder of imaginary terrors. It is only in the night that the sheeted ghosts of the dead are supposed to walk, unerring men who would face almost any danger without quailing by daylight. It is not easy to conceive a situation more terrific than the unloosing of a mighty flood of waters when all nature is enveloped in thick darkness and the excited imaginations of men are not curbed and restrained by a clear survey of the danger. When such a calamity overtakes a community suddenly in the night the sense of peril is magnified a thousand fold, because when nothing is clearly known affrighted imaginations naturally picture the worst. We can think of nothing more appalling than the situation of a quiet village community startled from their beds in the dead of night and fleeing from a destructive inundation whose extent is hidden from their eyes by a thick veil which they cannot penetrate. We congratulate the people of Port Jervis that the floods broke through the ice gorge in the morning, when the friendly light of the sun enabled them to take in the whole scene and imagination added nothing to the real horrors of the situation. We congratulate them that so little damage was done to their property and that only one life was lost. Had the wild outbreak of waters taken place in the nighttime nobody can say how many lives might have been sacrificed in the panic which would have turned weak heads and impelled distracted people toward the inundating flood instead of away from it.

Whether such catastrophes can be averted by reasonable foresight and effort is a question which the citizens of Port Jervis and all who are exposed to similar perils may wisely consider. The immense snowfall of the late winter necessarily swells all streams when it melts, but in most localities it threatens no great danger when the course of the rivers is not obstructed by a blockade of ice. It was not the great spring addition to the volume of the Delaware which made that river so dangerous, but the fact that a great dam of ice caused an accumulation of water behind it whose sudden release, whenever it might come, would inundate the country below. Was it not possible to prevent this obstructive dam of ice? The experiments of nitro-glycerine blasting at Port Jervis would seem to supply a satisfactory answer. True it is that this species of blasting was not efficient against a gorge of accumulated ice three or four miles in extent; the great mistake was in delaying it so long. At the beginning of the gorge the river was blocked only at a single point, and it was against this barrier that the ice constantly brought down by the stream accumulated. The successive contributions of new ice from above kept lengthening the gorge, which froze together in the cold nights and became cemented and consolidated into a compact mass miles and miles in extent. Of course there was no possibility of blasting out such a coherent mass and opening a free course to the river. But had time been taken by the forelock, and had the nitro-glycerine blasting been begun when the extent of the gorge was only a few rods, instead of several miles, we see no reason why it should not have succeeded at once and have averted this catastrophe. The experiments in blasting furnished redundant evidence that had they been begun in the first days of the obstruction they would have been completely successful. It will, therefore, be the fault of the inhabitants if they are ever again exposed to so great a peril.

Within the last twelve months we have had in this country an unusual number of desolating inundations. The destruction of two or three flourishing villages in Central Massachusetts and the bursting of the banks of the swollen Lower Mississippi are the most memorable instances. In both of these last named cases, as well as in the flood at Port Jervis yesterday, the destructive effects were the fault of man and cannot be imputed to the violence of nature. They have no resemblance to the terrible visitations which overtake regions subject to heavy earthquakes, or which lie below the craters of volcanoes, or which, like some of the West India islands, are exposed to sudden and desolating hurricanes. These are evils against which no human foresight can provide. But the destructive inundations experienced in this country within the last year belong to a different category. There is no one of them which might not have been prevented by foreseeing prudence. The Massachusetts inundations were the consequence of a dishonestly built dam, cheaply constructed in order to make a profitable job. The engulfing of plantations and whole districts on the Lower Mississippi was a needless destruction of property; for if the levees had not been suffered to fall into decay it could not have occurred. The excuse founded on the poverty of the States bordering on the river and their inability to furnish funds for strengthening the levees and keeping them in repair is worthless, because every one of these States has doubled its expenses since the war. They had money enough, but it was misappropriated and squandered on objects which had little relation to the safety and welfare of the communities which line the banks of the Mississippi. We cannot regard the destructive floods of the last year as ineradicable visitations of Providence. They are the consequences of culpable human neglect. There is no one of them which might not have been averted by reasonable foresight. We suppose our people will live and learn, and hope that an experience of disasters and dangers may teach them a little wisdom. Even if the people of Port Jervis should continue to be blind to their own interests we trust that the Erie Railway, which loses fifty times as much as it would have cost to clear out the ice gorge when it first began to form, will not be caught again by such a disaster. It only needs some intelligent attention to the snowfall of our varying winters to anticipate the danger, and in seasons which threaten a flood a little fore-

sight and a small expenditure of money will suffice to turn it aside. An expense of a few thousand dollars at Port Jervis when the ice gorge began to form would have saved the Erie road from the loss of its bridges and the interruption of its travel. We trust this is the last calamity of the kind which will ever occur at that point.

The Swallow Tails and the High Hats.

The unsophisticated stranger might have supposed yesterday that a procession of churches, each surmounted by a steeple, was walking up Broadway, so pious seemed the men who walked and so high the hats they wore. The High Hats were out in all their glory, and Heaven smiled upon their efforts to reach it. If there is anything aristocratic in age—and the most venerated titles are the oldest—the High Hats deserve to be classed with the nobility. Most of them are heirlooms in old families, bequeathed by one generation to another, and brought out on St. Patrick's Day covered with the dust and grandeur of centuries long past. Far different is it with the Swallow Tails. They are modern, mushroom, and some of them are shoddy. There is nothing aristocratic about the creations of yesterday, and as a costume for the occasion they were not so proper as the High Hats. For that St. Patrick might have worn a high hat is possible, while that he never did wear a swallow tail is certain. Still, it may be that both decorations might have been spared with advantage. Suppose that both the High Hats and the Swallow Tails should use the money required for the parade to build a grand hospital, or support a noble charity, might not that be a better way to spend a couple of hundred thousand dollars? The Swallow Tails, no doubt, would subscribe liberally if the High Hats should be handed around, and we suggest that before next St. Patrick's Day the experiment be tried.

The Truancy Law and the Catholic Parochial Schools.

The proceedings at the meeting of the Board of Education yesterday were of more than ordinary interest. The first report of the Superintendent of Truancy, which was presented at the meeting, does not present a favorable account of the practical working of the new law during the brief period it has been in operation. It has been found very difficult to obtain the names and residences of the little street wanderers for whose benefit the law was mainly enacted, and but few of this class have been brought into the schools. It is significant of the lives to which these children are doomed that even the youngest of them seem to be well posted as to the law and sharp at replying to questions in such a manner as to baffle its provisions. One hundred and fourteen truant and non-attendants only have as yet been drawn into the schools in the whole city.

Another interesting feature of the proceedings was the reception of a communication from the representatives of the Catholic parochial schools, who ask the appointment of a committee of the Board of Education to meet with them for the purpose of considering the terms upon which those schools may be admitted to the benefits and subjected to the discipline, laws and general management of the common school system.

There are fifty thousand pupils in the Catholic schools, and the proposition comes in good season to add point to the rebuke administered to the bigoted assailant of the common school system. The proposition, indorsed by the leading Catholics of the city, priests and laymen, will, no doubt, receive the serious attention of the Board.

The Fitz-Kellys and the Fitz-Wickhams.

The Patrick Fitz-Wickhams and the Patrick Fitz-Kellys, while they honor the same patron saint, celebrate his birthday in very different methods. The Fitz-Kellys, remembering that St. Patrick travelled through all Ireland on foot, would consider themselves traitors to every manly sentiment and every feeling of reverence if they failed to walk over New York at least once in the year in emulation of his example. Yesterday this pleasant duty was performed with the greatest enthusiasm and success. The Fitz-Kellys display their devotion to St. Patrick by undertaking extraordinary physical labors, and their patriotism and zeal can only be estimated in miles. It is a pilgrimage that they fulfilled, and if they did not get as far as Jerusalem they passed through Chatham street, which was the next best thing. The Patrick Fitz-Wickhams, however, never walk in procession. They consider St. Patrick's pedestrian tour through Erin to have been one of the miracles he was so clever at. They honor, they admire, they love St. Patrick, but their affection does not carry them to the extent of a ten-mile tramp. But in order to fulfil their duty they are perfectly willing to review the Patrick Fitz-Kellys and to express their satisfaction with the grandeur of the display. They are not able bodied enough to walk in the Saint's honor, but they show extraordinary power in eating for his glory at the banqueting tables of the Friendly Sons and the noble Knights. Sometimes they go to the banquets of both, and thus show that they can perform digestive miracles which even the Saint would not have attempted. Then the wit comes in with the wine, and oratory, like a spring flood breaking through a gorge, sweeps all differences before it. Such is the way the Fitz-Kellys and the Fitz-Wickhams celebrate St. Patrick's birthday, and we concede that each party has a perfect right to its taste. For our part we think the Fitz-Wickhams are to be the more envied of the two, but that the Fitz-Kellys are to be the more respected.

THE COURTS continue to be occupied with city suits. Yesterday an armory rent suit, which was decided against the city, came up before the General Term of the Supreme Court for argument, and the decision was reserved. A suit to recover a claim for bookbinding was tried before Judge Lawrence, and a verdict was rendered for the plaintiff. The original claim was three hundred and seventy dollars. The amount recovered, exclusive of the city's own costs, was five hundred and eleven dollars—an increased expense of only forty per cent to the city.

THE ACCUSION of Alfonso has been an ill wind to Don Carlos. It has blown away another partisan, General Elio, from his cause.

Goosey-Fox's School Bills.

Senator Fox has introduced two bills intended to tear up and reconstruct the common school system of this city. We see no reason why there should be two separate laws relating to the same subject.

Insatiable archer, would not one suffice? We printed a summary of these bills in our Albany despatches yesterday. The first of them provides that the offices of Commissioners of Schools and Board of Education shall terminate fifteen days after the passage of the act. It is proposed that their functions shall then devolve upon twelve commissioners to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen. If this were intended to save the schools from anarchy by bridging over the interval between the passage of the bill and the election of a new Board of School Commissioners we could understand it, though we could not approve of it. But when it is provided that these twelve commissioners shall hold their offices for five years we cannot reconcile the provisions of bill number one with those of bill number two. Bill number two aims to replace the present School Commissioners with another set, who will succeed to all their powers and functions on the 1st of January next. What use, then, can there be, after that date, for the twelve Commissioners provided for by Goosey-Fox's bill number one? We write from a telegraphic summary of the two bills; and it is possible that if we had their text they might not present quite so absurd a jumble.

The second of Goosey-Fox's bills divides the city into eight school districts, instead of the present seven. This might be well enough, considering the new territory annexed to the city. The bill provides for three School Commissioners in each district, and that one of the three shall go out each year; which is, so far, a close reproduction of the present law. But here follows the chief feature—and an egregiously bad feature it is—of the Goosey-Fox bill. It provides that the Commissioners of Schools shall be elected in each district by a popular vote. If Goosey-Fox had proposed to elect the Comptroller and Corporation Counsel we should not seriously object. These are the only officers besides the Mayor who have ever been elected by a popular vote. The heads of the other city departments have always been appointed, and not elected, for reasons whose force hardly admits of question. Why should the Commissioners of Schools be taken out of this sound rule? The Department of Education is the very last that should be controlled by popular suffrage. We cannot conceive of a greater misfortune to the city than a school board of demagogues. Even if an exciting religious question were not involved in our common schools we should deprecate as a blighting evil any law which would make our free schools a football of party politics and a part of the spoils to be scrambled for by politicians of the baser sort. But in view of the religious complication, the election of the Board of Education by a popular vote in this city would be a fatal blow to our admirable system of free schools. Nothing is so repugnant to the spirit of our institutions as mixing religion with politics, but this would be inevitable from the moment that the School Commissioners were elected by popular suffrage. Rival demagogues would appeal to Catholic and Protestant prejudices, and we should every year have an inflammatory religious scramble for the control of the public schools. Such a contest, waged on such grounds, would destroy the usefulness of our system of free schools. One party in each school district would bid high for the Catholic vote, and it would too often put into the Board bigoted enemies of the common school system, who might sometimes be a majority and administer the schools in a manner which would make them a scene of religious discord and kindle the passions of the community into a flame. Goosey-Fox's bill is the most incendiary measure ever broached in the Legislature. It would stimulate Protestant bigotry and Catholic bigotry, and the interests of education would be lost sight of in heated religious contentions for the control of the Board of Education. As a steadfast friend of the common schools—the most beneficent of our city institutions—the Herald records its earnest protest against any such disturbing, destructive measure, whose effect, if not its intention, would be to fan religious passions and divide the community into hostile camps on a question which, above all others, should be kept out of the arena of political and sectarian strife.

Mr. Fox's bill is the freak of a reckless demagogue. We object to it because we deprecate incessant tampering with the school laws, which tends to keep the school system unsettled and disturb the quiet, even administration, which is more important in this department than in any other. We object to it because its tendency and inevitable effect would be to put the administration of our schools into the hands of the lowest order of demagogues. Above all, we object to it because it would mix up religion with our city politics and lead to ceaseless inflammatory conflicts between Catholics and Protestants for the control of our schools. We do not sympathize at all with the blind and bigoted opposition to our common school system which is kept up by a small and noisy set of narrow-minded Catholics. We shall never support any small demagogue who aims to strengthen himself by playing into their hands. We stand on the same ground as Senator Kernan, who, though a devoted Catholic, was for twenty years a member of the Utica School Board, and sent his own children to the public schools. Text books and school exercises which are offensive to Catholics are always to be condemned; but when justice and fairness are observed in these respects we would fain hope that a majority of our citizens, Protestants, Catholics and Jews alike, will give a strong moral support to the admirable system of free education which is the pride and the boast of our city.

ROOM FOR THE RED MEN, ROOM!—Secretary Delano reports to the President on the present situation of affairs in the Black Hills country. The expeditions forming and those already in the territory reserved to the Indians, he says, are in violation of our treaty with the Sioux, and will be prevented from entering the reservation or expelled therefrom, as the case may be, by forces of the United States. The Indians object to the intrusion. At the same time, the Secretary

says, every possible effort will be made to extinguish the Indian title to the Black Hills country, and negotiations to that end are now progressing. The sooner they are brought to a successful close the better. Civilization is bound to advance, and the adventurous pioneers of the West are hard men to hold back, especially when the tempting stories of the wealth of the Black Hills region lure them forward.

The Riverside Improvements—A Desirable Bill.

A bill is in the hands of the Committee on Cities of the Assembly to provide for an assessment for the construction of Riverside avenue and to obviate a defect now existing in the law. By the terms of the bill the cost of construction of the carriage-way, walks and drives upon the widened Riverside avenue, in accordance with the plans already adopted by the Park Department, is to be paid by the issue of bonds, and is to be assessed—one-half on the property benefited and the other half upon the city at large. The whole of the Riverside territory not so laid out is to be held to the public use as a park. The control and management of the avenues bordering the public parks are vested in the Park Department by the present city charter. When the Riverside territory was taken for the public use one distinct portion was taken as an avenue and another as a park. In completing the laying out of the avenue it has been found desirable to embrace within its lines a strip of the land taken as a park, in order to make the avenue proper one hundred feet in width. There is full power in the Legislature to change the "public use" for which the territory was taken from a park to an avenue, and the Park Department has already authority to do all the work necessary, such as regulating, grading, paving, curbing and flagging on the widened avenue, and to assess the property benefited. Yet in case of technical objections to the legality of the assessment the proposed law is desirable and probably necessary.

There can be no good reason why the bill now in the hands of the Assembly committee should not be reported favorably and become a law. The question as to the expediency of prosecuting the work on the Riverside improvement at this time does not now come into consideration. If it did, and if the present bill had any direct effect on that question, reasons enough could be advanced in its favor. It appears, however, to be simply a bill to relieve from technical and embarrassing objections a power that already exists in the Park Department, and hence it should not meet with any opposition. It can only be opposed by those who desire to throw obstacles in the way of the improvement itself, and who are indifferent how much the public interests may suffer so long as they can accomplish their own ends. There is already enough uncertainty about our local laws, and it is creditable to the Park Department that it desires to clear away all pretence for technical objections before it commences its work. The bill should be reported favorably and put upon its passage at once.

The Mormon Question.

There is a good deal of noise about the relation of the general government to the peculiar people who have made a Commonwealth in the deserts of Utah. Since the solution of the slavery problem there has been no question about which the demagogues have shown so much cant as this Mormon question. We admit everything that can be said against the Mormons. They are polygamists; they have a strange, brutal faith; they make war upon the cardinal principles of society and the family relation; they are governed by a tyranny; their President, Brigham Young, and his elders are coarse, ignorant men, who have founded a religious empire; and it is our duty, as a Christian people, to extirpate polygamy, which, with slavery, is a twin relic of barbarism. We admit all this argument, and yet, at the same time, there is another point from which this Mormon question is to be viewed, and it is this: That with all their faults the Mormons are citizens and are entitled to the protection of the laws of the United States.

Laying aside the questions of religion and polygamy, we see in the Mormon country the achievement of one of the greatest works of modern times. When we come to write the history of the Anglo-Saxon race in America the historian will dwell upon the fact that a strong, self-willed man marched thousands of miles over the desert, defying the obstacles of nature and the attacks of the merciless savage, until he found a plain apparently as far removed from civilization as the middle of Africa is to-day; that he there established a community, which, in twenty-five years, has grown to be a powerful, prosperous, well-ordered Commonwealth, rich in every element of material prosperity, its capital one of the finest, if not the finest, city west of the Mississippi, with a hundred towns and villages dependent upon it; a State where frugality, prudence, and most of the virtues which underlie success in life are brought to a high perfection. The historian will say that this was the work of an Anglo-Saxon, of a plain man, governed only by a powerful, resolute and rude intellect. He will say that the people who composed this community were drawn from the lower classes of other nations; that they were taken from worse than poverty and despair to a foreign country and given contentment and prosperity in America. This work is one of the striking problems in our civilization. We think it is Emerson who remarks that, with the exception of Mohammedanism, Mormonism is the only religion of modern times that has shown force. It is not wise for us, in considering the Mormon question, to allow our dislike of polygamy to close our eyes to the true merits of what the Mormons have done in Utah. Nor, because we regard polygamy as a crime, and its existence an ulceration in our society, should we justify the adventures, the off-scourings of the Eastern cities, who have been tempted by the prosperity of the Mormons, and have poured into Utah, meaning to rob the people of what they have sorely earned, and men who go there for plunder, not because they want to make war against immorality and irreligion. It is difficult not to see this Gentle spirit in the proceedings against Brigham Young which were reported recently, of his imprisonment in the Penitentiary, and in the

fact that these acts of the federal court were received with "great satisfaction by the Gentile community." It is difficult not to see in most of the acts of our federal officers in Utah a demagogical spirit which should not be encouraged.

Let us deal with the Mormon question as we should have dealt with the slavery question—peacefully, and to the end that our laws should be vindicated while the rights of the citizens shall be secured. Do not let the avarice of eager, bustling adventurers drive us into injustice toward the Mormons. Polygamy is a sin and a crime in Utah, but at the same time prostitution is a sin and a crime in New York. There is as much reason for the conduct of our federal courts in Utah as there would be for the same conduct in New York upon the ground that prostitution was here tolerated and almost recognized evil, and that therefore we, as citizens, had no rights which the federal authorities are bound to respect.

Rapid Transit.

Colonel Thomas A. Scott, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in the course of an interesting interview with one of our correspondents, published a few days ago, informs us that he is now about to improve his railway system between New York and Philadelphia; that we shall have rapid transit by "a series of elegantly upholstered and rapidly flying trains, that will lap the distance in about one-half the time now consumed by the swift-expresses." The road is to be improved, sidings are to be built, new engines of the strongest calibre will be put on the track. Philadelphia and New York are the two largest cities of the country. They are closely connected by a thousand interests. The distance between them could be accomplished in an hour and a half if we ran trains upon the speed maintained between London and Brighton. What is wanted between New York and Philadelphia is not large trains of heavy cars, but small trains running in quick succession. It would be much better for us to have the English system of cars, which are smaller and quite as comfortable for day travel. If a train could be run between Philadelphia and New York in an hour and a half, leaving say every hour during the day, it would be of incalculable advantage to the two cities. If Colonel Scott succeeds in achieving this result he will merit the gratitude of the people, and, no doubt, add largely to the usefulness and value of his railway.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL IN OPERATION.—A few unpleasant incidents in connection with the practical working of the much discussed Civil Rights bill have already been recorded, and many more are likely to occur. The mischievous nature of the bill in its tendency to provoke and perpetuate social prejudices, which, left to themselves, might either die out entirely or become considerably weakened in course of time. Special legislation in such cases can never be productive of good. The good sense of the white and colored people will, however, settle the vexatious question in a more harmonious manner than ever the promoters of the bill contemplated, and the extremists of both races will find their efforts to make political capital out of the question fruitless in the end.

IN THE SUIT brought by the shareholders of the Emma Silver Mining Company, of London, against Senator Stewart and others as parties alleged to be responsible for the sale, an application was made on the part of the defendants for an order requiring the plaintiffs to give security for costs. The motion was granted and the amount of security fixed at five thousand dollars.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

- Scribner, Welford & Armstrong will publish Schlemann's "Troy."
The Eric-Brac books have reached a sale of 7,000 volumes each.
Mr. John La Farge, the artist, is among the late arrivals at the Everett Hotel.
Congressman John M. Davy, of Rochester, is staying at the Metropolitan Hotel.
Mr. Henry A. Tilden, of New Lebanon, N. Y., is sojourning at the St. Nicholas Hotel.
The first volume of Furness's German classics will be Grotius's "Herman and Dorothea."
Rev. Dr. W. C. Cattel, President of Lafayette College, is residing at the St. Nicholas Hotel.
General Robert Lenox Banks, of Albany, has taken up his quarters at the Clarendon Hotel.
Ex-Senator Reuben E. Fenton arrived from Washington yesterday at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
The author of "The Harbour Bar," published by Macmillan & Co., is the wife of an Oxford professor.
The President has appointed ex-Governor Josepha Brooks, of Arkansas, to be Postmaster at Little Rock, Ark.
M. Ledru Rollin leaves behind him a work on Athens, which will, it is said, present to the world the creed of the author.
Ex-Archbishop General Marshall E. Champlain, of Ouba, N. Y., has taken up his residence at the Metropolitan Hotel.
Congressmen J. H. Burleigh, of Maine, and H. H. Hatton, of Saratoga, N. Y., are registered at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Mrs. Olyphant's latest novel, "The Story of Valentine and His Brother," will be published shortly by Harper & Bros.
Mr. Franklin H. Gowen, President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, has apartments at the Brevoort House.
The literature of cremation has culminated in a book entitled "Cremation of the Dead; its History and Bearings upon Public Health," by W. Eassie, Civil Engineer.
Professor Hitchcock's recent and thorough geological and mineralogical survey of New Hampshire, the most interesting of the Atlantic States to the scientist of these branches, will be reported in two volumes of text and one of maps, to be published by E. C. Eastman, Concord.
Following the admirable example of the early English Text Society, there has been started in Paris an Early French Text Society. It will reprint such scarce books in French literature as "Tristan," "Le Roman des sept Sages," "Les chansons de Roi de Navarre," "Le Chronique de Jehan de Dint," and popular chansons of the 16th century. The annual subscription will be only twenty-five francs.
The last bit of the manuscript of Bret Hart's novel will be given to the printers on the 1st of April. They have been setting on it up to date so that it will not be long before it will be in the hands of the public. Mr. Hart considers that he has put his best work into this book, and laughingly says that he became very much interested in the story when reading it over in the proofs. The volume, which will contain some 300 pages, will be illustrated by 150 pictures.
Messrs. J. B. Peterson & Bros. are making a success of their gorgeous new edition of the prime Mrs. Southworth's novels. This same firm have revived Reynolds' "Court of London," which seems to be the book for which there was a demand of \$5,000 offered. They also reprint Harrison Annandale's "Tower of London," with ninety-three illustrations by George Cruikshank. This is said to be a most romantically truthful history of the famous Tower.