

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XL.....NO. 130

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

- BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE. Tullon avenue.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.
OLYMPIC THEATRE. No. 524 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE. Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—THE BIG BO...
PARK THEATRE. Broadway.—DAVE CROCKETT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.
BOVEY THEATRE. Bovey.—TRUE AS STEEL, at 8 P. M.
BOOTH'S THEATRE. Corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue.—AMY ROSSART, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.
LYCEUM THEATRE. Fourteenth street, near Sixth avenue.—LA JOLIE PAF...
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS. Broadway, corner of Twenty-third street.—NEBO...
TIVOLI THEATRE. Eighth street, between Second and Third avenues.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 12 P. M.
WALLACK'S THEATRE. Broadway.—ROAD TO RUIN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:40 P. M.
ROBINSON HALL. Sixteenth street.—LE STATUE IMAGINAIRE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.
BOVEY OPERA HOUSE. No. 201 Bovey.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.
WOODS MUSEUM. Broadway, corner of Third street.—BLACK-EYED...
THEATRE COMIQUE. No. 215 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.
GERMANIA THEATRE. Fourteenth street.—PALMORF BIEDERMANN, at 8 P. M.
ROMAN HIPPODROME. Capriole Grounds, Brooklyn.—Two P. M. and 8 P. M.
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART. West Fourteenth street.—Open from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be occasionally rainy, clearing afterward with cooler temperature.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—The changes in the stock market were unimportant. Good investment securities were firm. Gold was steady at 115 1/2 a 115 3/4, and money easy on call at 2 1/2 a 3 per cent.

A STORM IN THE NORTHWEST.—Considerable damage has been done in the Northwest by a violent storm, which has swept over a large extent of country. Telegraphic communication with many points is temporarily interrupted, owing to the disturbance of the elements, and consequently the commercial reports from many districts have not been received.

OUR IRATE COCHINS.—The refusal of the English carpet-makers to send their wares to the Centennial Exhibition naturally attracts a good deal of notice. Our cousins evidently feel that their wares are not equal to the same class of goods made by American manufacturers, or they would never allow the tariff to prevent them exhibiting their goods. Long before free trade was ever thought of in France English goods were sent to Paris to be exhibited, and there was no question of tariff. John Bull is truly becoming oversensitive.

THE RAPID TRANSIT BILL makes no progress in the Legislature. On the most trivial pretext the subject is again and again postponed and there is but a slender prospect of any legislation. The ring of horse railroad companies which goes every year to Albany to stave off legislation on this subject is as mischievous as the Canal Ring, and it equally merits the hostile vigilance of the Governor. Under the new provision of the State constitution for punishing bribery he should be able to counteract the influence of the street railroad companies in blocking rapid transit legislation. This subject, which was to have come up for deliberate consideration three days ago in the Assembly, was postponed last evening till Tuesday of next week. One or two more postponements will kill it for this session.

THE POLICE PRECINCTS.—The consolidation of police precincts in the lower part of the city, proposed by the Board of Police Commissioners, calls forth an earnest opposition from citizens who have interests in the localities of the contemplated changes. It is insisted by them that the plan, if carried out, will prove a danger to owners of property and an advantage to thieves. The precincts, as at present formed, are claimed to be as large as the public interest and safety warrant. An officer who arrests a drunken man and has to travel with him a long distance to his station house necessarily leaves his beat unprotected a sufficient length of time to enable burglars to operate without fear of interruption; and in the extended precincts proposed it is claimed that just such affairs will be arranged by the thieves when they have an important piece of work on hand. The objections of the citizens deserve serious consideration, especially as the present Police Commission is not supposed to know much about police matters, and there are rumors that a job lies covered up in the proposed consolidations.

The Real Danger of the Third Term.

Our fond anticipation that the elections in New England would decide the question of the third term as a current issue in our politics does not seem to be realized. We believed that the republican leaders, taking courage from the strength of their organization in New Hampshire and warning from their unexpected and decisive defeat in Connecticut, would recognize, as the first duty toward the reconstruction of their forces for the campaign of the Presidency, an explicit avowal that under no circumstances would they support General Grant for a third term. This conviction was strengthened by the disposition of politicians like Mr. Blaine, Vice President Wilson and others, who did not receive their republicanism as a discharge from the army, and would not consent to surrender their position as leaders of the party and their hopes of renewed triumphs in the future simply to gratify this stubborn ambition of the President, who only became a republican when it was the stepping stone of his ambition. There was every reason for a pronounced expression of opinion on the part of republicans, without regard to State or section. Whatever faults the party had committed, there was something glorious in its record—a record that the country would not speedily forget. There was the further hope that the democrats would be consistent with their own history and make blunders so much more disheartening than even their own that they might regain power. But we find that the administration papers and those leaders who are especially in the confidence of the President do not regard the third term as by any means an impossible issue in our politics, and that it is far from being dead.

Two significant facts illustrate this. The first is that no republican leader has, as yet, become an avowed candidate for the Presidency. In Pennsylvania Governor Hartranft has been nominated by a convention. This is understood not as a serious venture, but a personal compliment. The other fact is that in considering the strength of the different leaders in the party who might possibly be the candidates before a nominating convention the constant argument is that no one of them, even now, has as much personal strength as President Grant. The reasoning upon which this is based is worthy of serious consideration, and in it we find the gravest aspect of the third term. Let us take the men who would, under ordinary circumstances, be probable candidates for the Presidency. In New England we have Mr. Blaine, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Boutwell. New York presents Governor Dix and Mr. Conkling. Pennsylvania has named Governor Hartranft—a figure of speech for Senator Cameron. In the West we have Sherman, of Ohio; Morton, of Indiana; Washburn, of Illinois; Carpenter, of Wisconsin. Each of these gentlemen is strong in his own section, with a wide personal following, in command of the discipline and resources of the party, and who would enter the nominating convention sustained by strong political influences from the party of their States. Outside of their own section what strength do they possess? Mr. Blaine is a Pennsylvanian by birth, and in active sympathy with many peculiarly Pennsylvania interests. He might be the second choice of that State, but who of the West or in the South feels any special attachment for Mr. Blaine? We question if Mr. Boutwell could carry his own State, divided as it is into factions and challenged as he is in republican leadership by men as able as Butler, Daves and Hoar. Mr. Wilson would fall before the same combination of adverse circumstances; and although he would have a large strength in the South, among the negroes especially, in the memory of his devotion to their cause during the war, Mr. Morton would probably lose every Eastern State on his financial record alone. Mr. Conkling is strong in New York, where he holds the machinery of the party completely in hand; but he is a man of wayward temper, of strong convictions and of haughty, imperious nature, that has made him enemies more frequently than friends. Mr. Washburn, if he goes into the canvass, would have a national reputation as a legislator and an international fame as a diplomatist. He would be strong with the Germans and the free traders; but Mr. Washburn, during a prominent career in Congress, arrayed against himself strong interests in finance, in railroads, in subsidy grants and in the general development of legislative corruption, which would pursue him with unrelenting anger both before the Convention and the people. Mr. Washburn and Governor Dix, perhaps, have more elements of national strength than any of the gentlemen we have named; but Governor Dix is now almost too old a man to be a serious candidate for the Presidency, and, as we have said, great as the strength of Mr. Washburn would certainly be, his antagonisms would deter a timid convention from accepting him.

Testing these men by the republican standard, which of them, after all, is stronger than Grant himself? He has his military record; whatever faults he has committed during his second term are only the repetition of the errors of his first. The country forgot St. Domingo and nepotism and Csesarism and his violent changes in the forms of constitutional government, and condoned all of his mistakes when they chose him President a second time. Why may he not feel, and feel justly, that the same generous consideration of his mistakes as a President from 1868 to 1872 would be extended to him in 1875? Is not General Grant, with all his blunders, as strong before the party as he was during the second year of his first term? If he were considered as a candidate for a second nomination instead of a third, would any of these leaders be seriously mentioned as his rival? We must consider, also, that during all these years of his government he has been steadily disciplining the party as though it were an army, and regarding these leaders as in former times he regarded his staff and his body guard. There is not a State in the Union whose republican organization would decline to obey his orders, because these organizations represent nothing more than patronage and public service. The men who lead them are in nearly all cases the creatures of his friendship or his ambition.

The fact that no republican leader has, with perhaps the exception of Washburn, assumed really a national position as a prob-

able candidate for the Presidency is an exceedingly grave one. Where are the men who, in the olden times, led the party against slavery and disunion, who compelled Lincoln to grant emancipation and who drove Johnson to the verge of impeachment for daring to question their will? No one of them has ventured to protest against General Grant. A few independent men made the effort some time since, and what has been their fate? Mr. Greeley was driven out of the party and died a disappointed and unhappy man. Mr. Schurz has gone into exile. Mr. Sumner was dethroned from his seat as chief of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate. Mr. Trumbull has been banished from public life. Mr. Cox, of Ohio, leads a precarious political existence in the lobbies of democratic conventions. Vice President Wilson ventured on one or two occasions to mildly protest against the tendencies of the President and his party management, but he was swiftly brought to terms and is now an obedient follower of the administration. Governor Dix is the only prominent republican politician who has publicly pronounced himself as irrevocably opposed to a third term. Governor Dix is so much out of favor with the party leaders that he could not command five electoral votes in the republican party of New York. His defeat for the Governorship was as much the work of his own "friends" and comrades as of the democrats. Wherever there has been the least evidence of independence in the republican organization it has been promptly and constantly repressed.

Therefore, the real danger of the third term is in this fact that to-day President Grant holds in his hand the strength of the republican party. Venturous newspapers have here and there occasionally whispered that it might please His Excellency to deign to express a resolution not to run for the third term. But we have no such expression. President Grant has said nothing, nor have any of his friends given utterance to a word inconsistent with his being a candidate before the next Republican Convention. The third term, therefore, is as much a part of the policy of the republican party as it ever has been. If the members of the party would have the sense of quickening or mutiny they might compel from these leaders repudiation of the President and his ambition. They are dormant, and there is no reason why the leaders of the party in their State conventions may not find it expedient to indicate General Grant as a candidate in the hope that with his tremendous power as the head of the government he could compel an election. The safety of the country from this danger is in the people, in that small fraction of independent voters who, after all, decide the Electoral College, and whose higher sentiment may be roused by the danger of Csesarism into the same activity that was inspired by the dangers of secession and slavery, and who will strike as manly a blow for the constitution as in times past they did for the Union.

Misgovernment in Louisiana.

Our special correspondent in the South, Mr. Nordhoff, gives, in a letter we print to-day, an analysis of the government of Louisiana, which shows that it is a very surprising thing indeed. The Governor appears to be an autocrat. The last Napoleon was hardly more so. With the powers which the constitution and laws of Louisiana give the Governor he certainly ought to be able to maintain peace and order in the State; but the rulers of the unhappy State appear to have given their whole attention to plundering the people, and have, as is usual in such cases, been so busy with corruption that they have no time or taste for the proper duties of government. It is a very astonishing story, a part of which is disclosed in this letter—a story of Legislatures made up of adventurers; of representatives who represent nobody; of the courts used for political purposes, and created and abolished as they served or did not serve the ruling politicians; and of a government kept in power in spite of the people's will for six long years, whose corruption was only equalled by its inefficiency.

The Oshkosh Fire.

Another American town has been well nigh destroyed by fire and immense loss inflicted on the inhabitants. The extent of the damage sustained by the town of Oshkosh can be estimated by a glance at the map we publish in another column. We have not the consolation, even of thinking that this calamity came unexpectedly and unlooked for, like one of those strange scourges that fall upon communities and individuals. It is evident that the danger of just such an event has been long well known, and yet no effort was made to avert it. Our go-ahead theories have carried us into the mistake of accomplishing work without giving a thought to its durability. What we aim at is immediate usefulness, and as a result the work we accomplish is for the most part badly done. Until the people who build towns make up their minds to erect solid and substantial buildings, instead of fire-inviting shanties, calamities like this that has fallen on Oshkosh must constantly occur. The cause of this evil and its cure are sufficiently apparent to strike the least thoughtful person. The present system of erecting buildings that are mere shells is a foolish as well as a dangerous policy. The losses suffered yearly in America by fire would, in ten years, probably more than pay the difference in the cost of erecting solid and fireproof buildings and the expense of erecting structures that crumble as fast as they are put up.

THE BLACK HILLS.—The want of sufficient force will prevent the expedition ordered by General Sheridan moving into the region of the Black Hills. General Custer shows commendable prudence in not risking the lives of his troops by entering on a distant expedition

without sufficient force to resist any attack that may be made on the expedition by the suspicious savages.

A Voice from the Confederacy.

We print this morning a letter from General Beauregard, addressed to the Governor of Tennessee, which will be read with curious interest. Our readers will remember General Beauregard as an eminent commander of the Southern forces during the war. He belongs to that class of generals in the rebellion whose career began in a blaze of glory and slowly ebbed away. The war, which found him a famous commander, left him a disappointed and unsuccessful general. Like officers of this class he has spent a good deal of his time since the war in explaining why it was that his career did not justify his fame. This letter is written to express his annoyance at a charge that he was in favor of extreme measures, and that he carried out his feeling by acts of cruelty to his prisoners, and made an effort to introduce into the contest an element of ferocity which we hoped no longer had a place in our modern civilization. We are surprised that a man of the culture and discernment of General Beauregard would take the trouble at this date to seriously controvert any of the slanders of the war. The general belief is that the commanders of both armies, North and South, were humane men; that they did their terrible work, as far as was possible, with courtesy and humanity and frankness, and they endeavored to alleviate, and not stimulate, the horrors of their campaigns. General Beauregard, in the beginning of the war, like some other commanders, wrote a wild proclamation or two, but no one has remembered it except as an evidence of indiscreet fervor which sober second thought would regret. Our hope has been that every succeeding year of peace would eradicate these unpleasant memories and preserve nothing of the war but the recollection of the valor of the soldiers and the patriotism and courtesy of the commanders on either side.

General Beauregard informs us that after the first battle of Bull Run he, in company with the illustrious Stonewall Jackson, was in favor of a campaign, no quarter to either side, that the prisoners were all to be killed. His reasons for this opinion are logical enough, but we read them with pain and regret. The quoting of General Jackson as an authority will not relieve General Beauregard from the criticism which his letter will inspire in all civilized nations. General Jackson was a great commander, with some of the highest qualities of generalship, and in his death took with him a reputation that probably will survive that of any commander of the rebellion. He was a peculiar, fanatical old man, with the sternness of Cromwell, given to strange moods, and now and then under influences that his enemies regarded as insanity and his admirers as an excess or infirmity of genius. General Jackson would have conducted the war against the North as Cromwell did his campaigns against the Irish. It was his temper to have put a garrison on the sword, to have razed every house, in Washington City, for instance, to the foundation, and to have written, like Cromwell, that God had given him "a crowning mercy." General Beauregard is not a man of this stamp. He did not have Jackson's genius for war, nor did he ever show that fanatical belief in his cause which inspired the great Southern chieftain. A man of the world, he had not lived like Jackson most of his life in the seclusion of a country village, his time given to meditation and prayer and a rapt contemplation of the sterner phases of Calvinism. But he was a man of society and of wide acquaintanceship North and South. For such a man to seriously consider as a proper war measure the shooting of all the Northern prisoners who came into his hands is incredible. If he ever did so it was in his anger. However much we might have condemned it then we must still more strongly condemn it now, that in his cold moments of reflection and criticism he should avow his belief that the policy was a just one.

General Beauregard's opinion is not strengthened by what he says of the campaigns of Sheridan and Sherman and others. We have no doubt many things were done by General Sherman and General Sheridan which could, and, perhaps, should, have been avoided. The desolation of the Valley of the Shenandoah was a hard measure, but it had become necessary by the fact that this valley was the base of the operations of the Southern armies, and so long as it was undisturbed it enforced upon the federal troops a new campaign every year. Therefore, the ravaging of the valley, which General Sheridan accomplished in obedience to the orders of General Grant, was a war measure, to be regretted, of course, as we regret all war measures, but executed without resort to any of those harsh extremities of war which General Beauregard was willing to invoke after the battle of Bull Run. General Sheridan shot no prisoners, refused no quarter, confined himself simply to destroying resources that might have strengthened another hostile army and compelled several fresh battles. General Sherman's campaigns through the Carolinas, harsh as they were, may have the same justification. It was the purpose of these commanders to shorten the war by depriving the South of the means of continuing hostilities. This is certainly a war measure, what we have seen in all countries under all captains, but it does not justify the avowal by General Beauregard, at this late day, that the Southern cause could have been saved by a measure of war revolting to every sentiment of humanity and fraternity.

There were many things during the rebellion which we mourn, but we think God that it was never marked by acts of deliberate inhumanity. We believe that history will show that the men of the South as well as the men of the North never forgot that they were Americans, that they lived in this nineteenth century of civilization and light. It is a revelation of most painful character to us to find that among the Southern generals there was one as accomplished as Beauregard who believed that he could serve his cause in any campaign by introducing into the war against the North, against his friends, associates and brothers, that spirit of combat which belonged to the feudal ages, and which, for two centuries at least, has only existed among the wild Indians of North America and the savage tribes of Africa.

Mr. Tracy's Testimony in the Beecher Case.

Mr. Tracy's relations to this case are peculiar. His connection with the scandal dates back to the period when it was first divulged to the public by the publication of the Woodhull article. He was then brought into consultation with Tilton and Moulton in contriving devices for its suppression. He was an avowed friend of Mr. Beecher, and Mr. Tilton refused to communicate the nature of his grievance except on a pledge by Mr. Tracy that he would not, in any future complications, act as Mr. Beecher's counsel. The required pledge was given, and on the strength of it Tilton unbosomed himself to Tracy. At the opening of the trial Tilton's counsel sharply objected to Tracy's participation, on the ground that it violated his pledge and was inconsistent with professional honor. Tracy justified himself on the plea that the charge against Mr. Beecher at that time was only improper proposals, and that the change to actual adultery absolved him from his promise. To the unprofessional mind, which looks merely to the observance of good faith between man and man, this excuse does not seem satisfactory. The pledge was given before Mr. Tilton would consent to state his grievance at all to Mr. Tracy, and, therefore, before Mr. Tracy was informed of the breadth of the charges. Being given in ignorance of what Mr. Tilton would communicate the pledge would seem to cover every possible contingency. As Tilton refused to open his mind to Tracy in advance of the pledge, and as Tracy could not have known when he gave it that Tilton would not make a charge of adultery, it would seem to persons who do not draw nice distinctions between personal and professional honor to preclude Tracy from acting as Mr. Beecher's counsel in every possible contingency. The pledge was not made between a charge of improper proposals and a charge of adultery, but before Tilton would consent to state his case to Tracy at all. It was given for the purpose of breaking Tilton's silence, and could not have been conditioned on Tilton's adherence to a statement which he had not yet made. Tracy's excuse assumes that the pledge was made after Tilton had communicated his complaint; whereas, in point of fact, it was given before Tilton would consent to open his mouth to Tracy at all. It seems absurd, therefore, to claim that he was released from it by a violation of the condition on which it was made. As Tracy did not know, when he gave it, what the charge was to be, he could not, as a man of honor, release himself on the pretext that the pledge was made in view of an accusation which was afterward changed. At the time he bound himself there was nothing to be changed, because at that stage of the transaction nothing had been communicated. The public, which judges by the principles of personal honor which prevail among gentlemen, will be apt to regard Mr. Tracy's excuse as a subterfuge.

If Mr. Tracy intended at the time that his pledge should only cover an accusation of improper solicitations it was deceptive on its face, because he must have known as a lawyer that no suit could lie against Mr. Beecher for improper proposals. Every lawyer knows that such proposals are not actionable. This was clearly brought out by Mr. Beach yesterday in the cross-examination of Mr. Tracy, who could not deny that the pledge was hollow and empty unless it extended to the case of criminal conversation. It is difficult to understand why Mr. Tracy should have consented to have this question of professional honor raised against him by acting as counsel for the defendant. On the presumption of Mr. Beecher's innocence his ability to clear himself did not depend on the employment of Mr. Tracy as counsel. Any other lawyer of equal ability would have answered as well. It is difficult to see why he should have exposed himself to those doubts as to his professional honor and his fair dealing as a gentleman.

Mr. Tracy's testimony as a witness is of more value to Mr. Beecher's side than his services as a lawyer. Perhaps he absolved himself from his pledge to qualify himself to testify. A client's confidential communications are privileged, and it may have been thought necessary to abjure that relation in order to bring Mr. Tracy on the stand. The essential point of his testimony, as bearing on the merits of the case, is his assertion that, under circumstances which entitled him to Tilton's confidence, the latter accused Mr. Beecher of nothing beyond improper proposals. If the jury can be made to believe that that was the full extent of Mr. Beecher's offence the law will compel them to give a verdict in his favor, even though every man of the twelve should believe that improper solicitations were actually made. Mr. Tilton has no case at all unless he can prove actual adultery; and if the jury can make Mr. Beecher's remorseful letters consistent with the lighter offence the case of the plaintiff will utterly break down. Morally, there is little difference between attempts to seduce and actual seduction; but legally the first is no offence at all and the latter is a very grave one.

The Reduction of Canal Tolls.

Governor Tilden took strong ground in his annual Message against a reduction of canal tolls, but it seems pretty certain that the Legislature will overrule his judgment, with the approbation of those who best understand the subject. The Canal Board is against him, the Assembly is against him; and there is no reason to doubt that the Senate will pass the bill which has gone through the Assembly in pursuance of the recommendation of the Canal Board. Even the democratic Assembly does not consider Governor Tilden an inflexible authority on canal questions. Although in the course of the debate his Message was quoted against the proposed reduction of tolls the bill passed the Assembly by the decisive majority of 73 to 27. As the reduction was made on the motion of Mr. Seward, and as a large portion of the democratic members supported him, the republican Senate is not likely to treat the Governor with more tenderness and indulgence than the democratic Assembly. This noteworthy revolt against gubernatorial inflexibility on canal questions is supported by very good reasons. It is stated that now, when the canal is closed, and its competition can have no effect on the price of freight, the railroads are carrying

wheat at lower rates than were charged on the canal last year. In such a state of things the canal can expect no business at all. Quick transportation by rail is better than slow transportation by canal, and when one is as cheap as the other the canal boats will have little employment. High canal tolls can bring no revenue when the canal has no business. Unless the disadvantage of slowness is offset and compensated by lower rates the railroads will monopolize transportation. When railroad freights are cheaper than canal freights were last year it is obvious that the canal tolls must be reduced to retain any business. It is idle to protest against the relinquishment of revenue by a reduction of tolls. If the canals get no business they can yield no revenue; and their only chance of getting business depends on their ability to compensate for slowness by cheaper transportation.

There is another consideration which must not be overlooked. The business of the canals is dependent on the business of the lakes. Grain started from Chicago by rail is certain to come through to New York by rail. The canal boats are fed entirely by the lake vessels, and lake navigation never had so gloomy a prospect as this spring. A considerable portion of the lake tonnage is likely to be laid up during the summer. The railroad rates are so low that the owners of lake vessels dare not engage crews for the season. Unless they are encouraged by a reduction of canal tolls they will not enter into competition with the railroads until the great pressure in autumn, after the grain harvest. The reduction of canal tolls, against the views expressed by the Governor in his Message, is therefore a necessary measure of self-preservation. Unless the canals underbid the railroads in freight charges they can do no business at all, and will yield the State no income at all.

The Cuban War.

The growing proportions of the Cuban war are well indicated in our despatches from Havana to-day. It is now several months since we were informed that a body of Cuban rebels had burst through the famous traba and were marching westward, hotly pursued by Spanish battalions. According to the official accounts received from Havana they were flying before their pursuers; for so the Spanish reports have constantly represented the Cuban patriots since the beginning of the war of independence. But now, after running away from the Spaniards for six years, they seem suddenly to have formed the curious notion of taking refuge in Havana, and in order to prevent them adopting this desperate course the great Valmaseda has hastily gathered a force of thirty thousand men to block the way. What is most curious is that an enterprising general like Valmaseda finds it necessary to fortify his position at Colon against those fugitive bands the Spanish soldiers have been so long pursuing. A glance at the map will show the importance of the change that has taken place in the condition of the Cubans. Two years ago the insurrection was confined within the limits of the Central and Eastern Departments. The few scattered partisans who disturbed the Cincos Villas district were no longer important and were wholly unable to make head against even the weakest Spanish column. But to-day an immense army, almost under the gates of Havana, is compelled to fortify itself to stop the progress of the insurgent forces. It is evident that the struggle is rapidly coming to a close, for the tactics adopted by the patriots must soon render Cuba untenable and Spain will be compelled to relax her grasp—just as she was compelled to abandon the attempt to reconquer St. Domingo. The Cuban torch is rapidly settling the question. Every plantation destroyed cripples Spain and lessens her power to continue a struggle that must end in the freedom of Cuba.

ABSENCE IN SALT.—It must be rather unpleasant to use salt and discover that it is impregnated with arsenic. A large number of people have just escaped from such an experience by the lucky discovery that a cargo of English salt had been poisoned in this way. The discovery was happily made before any one was injured, but it suggests an idea that captains and shipping agents are scarcely so solicitous about the safety of the public as they might be, else the salt in question would never have been distributed without proper inquiry as to its condition.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

- General F. J. Herron, of Louisiana, is staying at the St. Nicholas Hotel.
Senor Don Juan del Valle, President of the Bank of Havana, is at the New York Hotel.
Pay Director J. George Harris, United States Navy, is quartered at the Everett House.
Ex-Governor John T. Hoffman arrived from Albany last evening at the Clarendon Hotel.
Congressman George M. Boone, of Monticello, N. Y., has arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Some ill-natured people say the cold the President got at Concord was only—a cold shower.
The Beecher trial has wonderfully enriched the English language with new words and phrases.
Mr. Alexander G. Cattel, of New Jersey, has taken up his residence at the St. Nicholas Hotel.
Congressman Elias W. Leavenworth, of Syracuse, is among the late arrivals at the St. Nicholas Hotel.
Mr. James A. Bayard, formerly United States senator from Delaware, is sojourning at the New York Hotel.
To think of it—the young man who spelled buzzard "b-u-z-a-r-d-i-z-z-a-r-d-a-r-d" was asked to step down and out.
Cardinal McCloskey's elevation is already resulting in great good. All the young ladies want him to marry them.
Professor Theodore D. Wooster, of New Haven, and H. B. Hackett, of Rochester, have apartments at the Everett House.
It is doubtful whether the President will be at Hunter Hill on the 17th of June. Well, he wasn't there in 1775 and yet the affair came off.
Vice President Wilson arrived at Cincinnati yesterday, and after staying a few hours departed for Louisville, whence he will go to St. Louis and Denver.
They are not sanguine over the results of the trial trip of the Bessemer steamer, by which people were to cross from France to England without seasickness.
The locomotive "Andrew Johnson," on the Chattanooga Railroad, has painted on it a huge pair of shoes with an accompanying inscription, "From Taylor to President."
The Philadelphia Press says Vice President Wilson was "redecorated by a number of gentlemen in this city recently." The Vice President ought to know better than to so expose himself.
In a Baltimore theatre bill for 1867 appear the names of Mr. Warren, the father of William Warren, Boston's favorite comedian; Mr. Cone, Kate Claxton's grandfather, who left the stage to become a clergyman, and Mr. J. G. Brown, the grand father of Joseph Jefferson.