

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XL.....NO. 143

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, West Fourth street—Open from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, No. 24 Broadway—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 1/2 P. M.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE, No. 33 Broadway—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, corner of Broadway and Sixth avenue—JANE SHORE and BLACK-EYED SUSAN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Miss Clara Morris, Mr. George Bignold.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE, Fulton avenue—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 1/2 P. M.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-eighth street and Broadway—THE BIG KAWA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 30 P. M.

CENTRAL PARK GARDEN, THEODORE THOMAS CONCERT, at 5 P. M.

LYCEUM THEATRE, Fourth street, near Sixth avenue—LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOI and DAVY GRIFFIN, at 8 P. M. Miss Gresham.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, Broadway, corner of Twenty-ninth street—NEGO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway, at 146th P. M. Miss Ada Dyer, Mr. Montague.

BOVEY OPERA HOUSE, No. 20 Bovey—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 1/2 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL, West Sixteenth street—English Opera—GIROFLE-GIROFLE, at 8 P. M.

WOODS MUSEUM, Broadway, corner of Thirtieth street—ROBERT NA. CAIROE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 1/2 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.—THE POISONED PEARL.

THEATRE COMIQUE, No. 84 Broadway—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 1/2 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1875.

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

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were dull and unsettled, the market expectant and gold firm. Foreign exchange quiet.

THE BEECHER SCANDAL.—There is at last a prospect that the Brooklyn trial will soon be brought to a close. The defence is uttering its last word, and Mr. Everts, to whom has fallen the duty of building up Mr. Beecher's case, is making an effort worthy of his reputation. His summing up of the evidence is bright and happy, and he manages to relieve the dull legal argument with appropriate and witty quotations, which have had the effect of putting his audience into excellent humor. Its effect on the jury, of course, remains to be seen, but there can be no question of the ability and dexterity displayed by the lawyer in the defence of his client.

JUSTICE AND LOYALTY IN ENGLAND.—A public meeting was recently held at Glasgow at which the following resolution was adopted:—"That this meeting considers the late trial of the claimant as a mockery of both law and justice." Here we have a public meeting of Scotch citizens openly declaring that a trial presided over by the Lord Chief Justice of England, assisted by two venerable and highly esteemed judges, prosecuted by the money of the government and by counsel high in professional station, and decided by a verdict of twelve jurymen, as a "mockery of both law and justice." How can we consider respect for law and loyalty to the Crown to be a living spirit in a country where every day we hear declarations of this kind?

RELIGIOUS ACROSTIC seems to be spreading in England. The late Baron Pigott died a member of the Church of England. His sons belong to a sect called the "Plymouth Brethren," commonly called "Derbyites." "The Plymouth Brethren" are not, as may be supposed, an emanation from Mr. Beecher's church, but a religious body founded about forty years ago, the chief peculiarity of which is that the congregation have no special ministers, every brother and sister having a full right to "prophesy and preach." They hold that there is no true Christianity in the Church or among the sects, but only among themselves. When the body of the Baron was taken to the churchyard the clergyman of the Established Church insisted upon reading the burial service. He met the funeral at the gate and began with the words "I am the resurrection and the life," when, according to an English journal, "some of the mourners shouted to him to stop and others to go on. Meanwhile the bearers, commanded by one of the Baron's sons, pushed along and threw the coffin into the grave near the gate. A solicitor was then sent to say that in the name of the executors he protested against the service being read. The rector shut his book and walked quietly away with his curate." There are legal proceedings to be brought against the "Plymouth Brethren" for interfering with a clergyman in performing his duty. We cannot understand, however, what harm would come from the reading of the beautiful service of the English Church over a decaying corpse and an open grave.

A. New Holocaust.

News of another terrible church accident, involving the loss of over sixty lives, comes to us by telegraph. Holyoke, a quiet New England town, witnessed last night a scene of terror which has no parallel in modern times save in the horrors which attended the burning of the Church at Santiago in Chili some years ago. During the festival of Corpus Christi Catholics are in the habit of decorating and illuminating their churches, and from this custom the disaster of yesterday directly sprung. It is somewhat curious that people who undertake to guide, if not to rule the world, should constantly prove so little skillful in managing the very simple matters which naturally fall within their sphere of action. It is remarkable that while greater numbers of people assemble in theatres and other public places, much more exposed from their nature to destruction by fire than are churches, loss of life by similar accidents is comparatively rare. The cause is not far to seek. In the theatre there is method and system, with constant provision for just such cases of accident. As a result panic does not spread so rapidly among the people, and even should the unreasoning crowd become stampeded the facility of egress permits escape without involving those terrible scenes which almost invariably accompany accidents in churches. The church at Holyoke belonged to a congregation of French Catholics. It was a wooden structure and therefore peculiarly liable to accidents of the nature which befell it. It does not, however, appear that the slightest precautions were taken to guard against the occurrence of fire, nor were any means at hand to combat it should it break out. With characteristic carelessness the wooden church, crowded with worshippers, was illuminated, and this directly led to the awful sacrifice which followed. The fire first appeared in the altar decorations, but it spread with such alarming rapidity that a panic seized on the people, who rushed wildly to the doors. The natural result followed. All means of egress became blocked in a moment, and worshippers of the moment before trampled each other to death in their efforts to escape from the flames. It is useless to attempt to picture the soul-appalling horror of such a scene; only those who have lived through it can adequately know its terrors. The fierce desire of life stifling all sense of remorse and fear of God from the hearts of those who an instant before knelt humbly at the foot of His throne asking forgiveness and grace to amend their lives is a picture few would like to contemplate; still fewer would care to accept before man or the Creator the responsibility of exposing their fellow creatures to so dreadful an ordeal. Yet the frequent occurrence of similar scenes seems to have no effect on the minds of clergymen. They will have their tapers and their illuminations, notwithstanding the terrible lessons preached by frequent and appalling catastrophes of this kind. We would venture to state that enthusiastic clergymen will not be deterred even by the example of Holyoke from exposing the congregations over which they happen to preside to the risk of a fate similar to that which befell the French Catholics in the quiet New England town. Within a few weeks of the slaughter of hundreds of people at Santiago, in Chili, the same kind of risk was being run here, and the lesson seemed to have been lost on the religious community. It is somewhat curious that the Catholic bishops do not frame some regulations that would diminish, if not put an end to, this danger, and not leave this system of illuminating a crowded church to the caprice or enthusiasm of pastors whose zeal is not always tempered by discretion. We select the Catholics in this matter because they are more given to these dangerous displays than other sects, and because the chief disasters springing from this cause have fallen upon them. If, however, the ecclesiastical authorities should refuse to deal promptly and effectively with this abuse the civil authorities should interpose. It might be well to forbid the illumination of any church unless on the adoption of such precautions as would secure the safety of the worshippers. There is no good reason why churches should not be placed in this regard on exactly the same footing as other public places where numbers of people are used to assemble. It is, above all things, the duty of the civil authorities to protect the lives of the people, no matter from what sources danger may threaten. And as experience teaches us that churchmen, putting too much trust in Providence, neglect those precautions which more matter-of-fact people adopt for their own and others' preservation, some check should be put on their excess of faith. Seventy-five charred and mangled corpses appeal against the continuance of a system of *laissez-faire* which places the lives of the community in the hands of rash and careless persons who may happen to be connected with a church. It seems useless to hope for redress from within. The lesson of Holyoke has been preached more than once before, but it has not checked the tendency to gauze and burning tapers.

The possession of those aids to salvation have appeared to the religious mind more important than the mere bodily safety of the worshipper; but the authorities must look at it in another light. This gauze and these burning tapers are lurking death to the people, and even if people are willing to be burned up rather than sacrifice church illuminations they ought not to be permitted to indulge their whim.

Eric in London.

As will be seen by our special despatch from London the price of Eric shares improved in that market under the influence of the news that the road had passed into the hands of a receiver appointed by the Court. They understand there the exact significance of an occurrence of this nature from extensive experience, and in the present case they seem to have readily comprehended that it was not only the salvation of the road from the immediate ruin that was threatened by bankruptcy and foreclosure, but that it was even an advantageous fact aside from the consideration of that danger. Any road in the position of the Erie can be run more economically by a receiver than it can be by the ordinary machinery of railway organization, and economy is a critical point in the case. With the road in the hands of a receiver all its purchases are made on a cash basis, because they who furnish supplies have an ample lien on the property; but supplies sold to an insolvent corporation are necessarily sold at exorbitant rates to cover the risk of loss. Eric, there is no doubt, can pay its interest with fair management in ordinary times, and the economy thus insured is the great element toward that result. It was said formerly, when the road was rescued in the famous campaign against Gould, that it only wanted honest management; but the result of the organization then created was that incapacity well nigh completed what roguery had begun, and the effort then made failed for that reason to put the property on a good basis. Recently it has been managed with honesty and capacity; but in this unusual phase of its history it has had the misfortune to fall on evil times—on a period when traffic is almost dead, and when the little business done by railways is done at ruinous rates, because of the destructive competition of a railroad war. Out of this difficulty time alone can deliver it; and the receivership gives time. We are not surprised, therefore, to find the prominent London bankers who are familiar with American securities giving utterance, as if by a common voice, to the opinion already expressed in the HERALD, that the appointment of a receiver in the present circumstances is favorable to the interests of the company. Our own people interested in the welfare of this great property will note with satisfaction that the name of the receiver appointed is evidently in good repute with the London bankers. The intimation of Mr. Morgan that there was treachery in the Erie Board is apparently founded on erroneous intelligence, as the fact is known here which was apparently not known to him at the time of speaking, that the failure of Eric to borrow half a million from the Delaware and Lackawanna was not due to any difference in the Erie Board, but to disinclination to lend the money, from apprehension that it might lead to troublesome litigation.

Henry Wilson on His Travels.

There must be some very profound meaning to the journeyings and sojournings of Henry Wilson. He is like the wind which bloweth where it listeth and no man knows whence it cometh or whither it goeth. A fortnight ago he was at the deathbed of Breckinridge. A week later he was in Tennessee and Arkansas. At last accounts he was at Leavenworth, Kansas, and we are told he even consented to become the guest of Senator Caldwell. Why all this uneasy going from State to State and from town to town? Why this consorting with all sorts of people? Why those oracular speeches uttered in private but intended for the public? Clearly Mr. Wilson has made up his mind to get well and become a candidate for the Presidency. He would scarcely go to all this pother unless he has some such design upon his admiring countrymen. Indeed, we shall not forgive him upon any other terms. If Henry Wilson is not a Presidential candidate he has no business to be going up and down the country, sitting by the bedside of the dying Breckinridge, bowing with all his native dignity and urbanity to Mrs. Jefferson Davis and disturbing all his countrymen and countrywomen of their rest. People generally are willing to forgive much to a man who is a candidate for the Presidency, but they will not quietly submit to be constantly reminded of people who have no claims upon that high office. The newspapers have been talking of nothing but Henry Wilson for a month, and newspaper readers are beginning to ask what it all means. We can answer for some of them, and we do so to Henry Wilson if he is not a Presidential candidate. He cannot expect persons of quiet habits and retiring ways to allow him to invade their out-of-the-way villages and obtrude himself in all the newspapers unless his actions mean something. Such conduct in him is only pardonable in case his opposition to a third term for Grant means a desire for a first term for Wilson. We do not say that we shall insist upon his actually becoming President of the United States, but we do insist that he shall not trifle with us by doing only what Presidential candidates are allowed to do without bearing the full weight of his responsibilities. If he means nothing let him bring his travels to an end at once; though we think he has already gone too far, invaded too many cities and towns and villages, said too many oracular things to too many people, and obtained too much newspaper notoriety to enable his countrymen to forgive him at this late day. If he has no designs upon the Presidential office it would be mainly in him to say so; but he would find it extremely dangerous to make the avowal. Safety for Henry Wilson now consists in his keeping on his travels and boldly declaring his purpose, though there would be something sublime in his denial of any Presidential aspirations, whereby he would make himself a martyr.

Paul Borros yesterday made another successful experiment with his life-saving apparatus off the coast of France. He will undertake to cross over to England at an early date.

He has, however, already accomplished enough to show wonderful buoyant qualities in his new invention.

The International Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations.

The interesting Convention now in session at Richmond, the late capital of the Southern Confederacy, deserves attention on grounds which it may not be quite becoming in a secular journal to set forth and enforce. We leave the most important aspects of this occasion to our religious contemporaries, in whose columns the discussion will be more appropriate; but we trust we do not overstep any limit of decorum in the attempt we shall make to point out such incidental consequences as have a secular bearing. The moral forces which underlie national life are the true sources of civil order and economic prosperity, and they can never be left out of view by those who would form just ideas of national tendencies and prospects. In a government which is under the direct control of the people political action is an expression of their average character, and their institutions can never work well in the absence of a high standard of private morals. No elaborate machinery for checking public frauds, no civil service rules, no exposures of corrupt rings, no restriction of the functions of government, no mutual vigilance of political parties can afford a guarantee against the abuse of public trusts, unless the foundations of integrity are securely laid in private morals. The only hope of the nation in the present alarming degeneracy of official life lies in efforts made entirely outside of political action, and if general morality cannot be strengthened in its sources we are destined to go the way of all former republics. All true patriots should, therefore, take a deep interest in every movement which tends to nourish virtue and to discredit Carlyle's cynical definition of modern society, that it is "anarchy plus the constable." The great success within the last ten years of the widespread associations whose annual Convention is held this year at Richmond is one of the most encouraging signs of the times. Their mere statistics deserve prominence, but their social and moral bearing on our national life challenge the thoughtful reflection of all well-wishers of their country.

The holding of this annual Convention at Richmond for the first time since the beginning of the civil war suggests a line of remark to which public feeling should readily respond. Nothing is more to be desired in the interest of national unity than a cordial renewal of the bonds of national sympathy between the South and the North. The merely political tie must be comparatively feeble for at least one generation, because the South resumed its place in the Union, not by choice, but by force. Memories of the gallant dead are too fresh and too deeply cherished for the political bond to be regarded, during the lifetime of the combatants, as free from the idea of forced submission on the part of the South and of conquest on the part of the North. The Union can be cemented only by an appeal to sentiments which have no relation to the recent fratricidal strife. The patriotic recollections and common pride in the deeds of our forefathers of the Revolution, which will be revived by the approaching celebration of the hundredth anniversary of our independence, is a ground on which Northern and Southern citizens can stand without any jar or discord, and for this reason it is wise to make the most of so opportune an occasion. But as a bond of national unity even the memories of our glorious Revolution rank below a renewal of the warm religious sympathies which existed in latter days. In the last speech of Mr. Calhoun, made in the Senate twenty-five years ago, when that aged and emaciated statesman stood on the brink of the grave (a speech which was read for him by a friend because he was too feeble to deliver it), he dilated, with a pathos which was all the more touching from the strict logic of his habitual utterances, on the gradual dissolution of the ties which bound the Union together. In that prophetic and affecting speech Mr. Calhoun dwelt with deep feeling on the sundering of the great religious organizations, which foreboded a dissolution of the Union itself. He was a statesman of singular elevation and deep insight, who had a just appreciation of the force of moral causes in their influence on political action. In the foreboding speech to which we allude Mr. Calhoun referred in detail to the snapping, one by one, of the religious ties between the South and the North by the great schism in the various churches on the slavery question, which in his judgment weakened the Union by a fatal alienation of feeling that left it to rest on a merely political basis, no longer strengthened by moral sympathy. Men's religious feelings strike their roots very deep, and when most of the great religious denominations were split in twain by a geographical line that foresees statesman had a correct appreciation of the political result. A cordial restoration of the Union requires a renewal of the sundered religious ties, and the holding of this Convention in Richmond is of national importance as tending to so desirable a result. There is a necessity for strengthening every cord which can bind the lately severed and belligerent States together on grounds which have no relation to the old dissensions. When they are once more brought into full communion with each other as Christians both will be anxious to forget and put out of sight every acrimonious feeling which attended the civil war.

The Young Men's Christian Associations are admirably adapted to work as healing agencies in the restoration of national harmony. They are composed of the most active and zealous members of the Protestant evangelical churches, and the fact that they have so far broken down denominational prejudices as to act together in the promotion of common Christian aims attests their liberality and their freedom from sectarian narrowness. Their ability to rise above sectarian prejudices betokens a spirit which will also disregard sectional prejudices, and when the most liberal and intelligent minds of the great Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Lutheran denominations embark together in a common cause in which Southern and Northern Christians take an equal interest we may

reasonably hope for a more cordial state of feeling between the lately divided sections of our afflicted country. In proportion as they come to labor together in the same cause as Christians they will seek to bury whatever may yet remain of the old political animosities.

The Young Men's Christian Associations will the more securely promote these beneficent results by the fact that they have no secular or political aims. If they contemplated the incidental consequences of their labors, their motives would be open to suspicion and their influence impaired. We trust we shall not be thought irrelevant if we quote a passage from the Sacred Writings which places the undesigned effect of their labors in its true light. "Seek first," says a high authority, "the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." A really honest man is one who is honest from principle; but he receives what he does not directly seek, the temporal advantage which attends a reputation for probity. The freer his motive is from the influence of such incidental rewards the greater is the certainty that they will follow him. These Young Men's Christian Associations, who think of nothing beyond arousing and quickening the religious sense of the community, are of more value than all the reform committees which look merely to political purification. The motives of professed political reformers are always looked upon with doubt, because the banner of honesty may be raised merely as a passport to office. But an association of men who have no other purpose than to awaken dormant consciences and impress those they can influence with the moral beauty of a Christian life are doing a political service which is quite foreign to their contemplation. In proportion as the Christian standard of morals is made practical in a community there will be less need of the vain contrivances of mere politicians to stem the torrent of official corruption.

The Freemasons.

The near approach of the dedication of the new Masonic Temple in this city tends to fix attention on an Order which is older than any existing government and antedates the Christian religion itself. Men may differ as to the propriety of secret societies whose aims are not known; but the Freemasons are too ancient an Order for any intelligent man to distrust its objects. It would seem to derive its power from the lore of mystery, which has a strange attraction for human hearts; but even those who regard its ritual as a mummy cannot, with any show of reason, impeach its moral aims. A majority of our most illustrious statesmen, including Washington, have been Freemasons, and an institution in which he held a high rank might be safely accepted on trust as not inconsistent with sound morals, ardent patriotism or religious duty. It is simply one of the many forms in which the social instinct of men seeks indulgence, and is only a little more select and exclusive than the modern clubs. Club life is almost purely social, even in clubs which are organized with an ostensible political purpose. The Masonic institution, while it affords equal gratification to the social feelings, would seem to cherish higher moral ends than modern clubs. While its organization excludes political and sectarian objects its members are bound to one another by obligations of benevolence which have no place in clubs. The members of a club owe each other nothing but mutual courtesy at their habitual place of meeting, but the members of the Masonic fraternity bind themselves to assist brothers in distress, even though they may never have had any previous acquaintance with them. Their ceremonies of initiation and the mystery in which they veil their proceedings are merely an extension of the exclusiveness and the self-protection against intruding strangers which are the ordinary practice of clubs, with the added attraction of mystery. Too many of our most honored citizens have always belonged to this ancient Order for any reasonable man to regard it with suspicion.

We print this morning a mass of valuable statistics giving the number of lodges, members, encampments and knights in all the States of the Union, accompanied by a map, which enables this information to be taken in at a glance. We also publish a communication, written at our request by Mr. Thorne, a high dignitary of the Order, giving a sketch of the history and aims of Masonry. In view of the imposing ceremonies of dedication to take place next Wednesday, of the most costly Masonic Temple ever constructed in this country we suppose our readers will be glad of this information. We think everybody recognizes the picturesqueness of the Masonic parades and ceremonials on public occasions, such as dedications and funeral pageants in the burial of members of their Order. The public always welcomes an interesting spectacle, and the dedication of the new Masonic Temple would attract as much notice as the conferring of the *herrsella* on Cardinal McCloskey if the latter had not been so novel and unprecedented in this country. We ought always to be glad of imposing scenic observances which relieve the dull monotony of our ordinary workaday life.

An Indignation Meeting Called For.

We print a communication this morning in regard to the outrageous manner in which the Harlem flats have been filled that contains one or two suggestions worthy of the gravest consideration. The first of these is that an indignation meeting shall be held by the citizens of Harlem and Yorkville to denounce the wrongs inflicted upon them by the planting of pest beds all over the upper part of the island on the east side. Our correspondent also thinks that Commissioners Matsell and Disbecker should be removed on account of complicity with this great wrong against the city or reckless disregard of the public interests and the public health. Another suggestion of our correspondent—that McQuaid and the other contractors shall be sued for the money wrongfully obtained from the city—is scarcely less important. We cannot see how we can withhold our assent to either of these propositions. Mr. Disbecker in his garrulity has convicted himself of participating in the outrage, and he had the cooperation of Matsell in doing this great wrong. If they allowed the work to be done in the way it has been done for the sake of

shaving in the profits they ought to be removed for corrupt practices and punished besides. If they only permitted it out of carelessness and stupidity they are unfit for their places and ought to be removed for inefficiency. The other suggestion is equally clear. The contractors have made large sums of money by failing to fulfill their contracts with the city. The manner in which this money was obtained was as much a fraud upon the city as if they had obtained it upon false vouchers, without having done the work at all. Let the offending Commissioners be removed by all means, and the offending contractors must be made to refund as speedily as possible.

Summer Gardens.

The example of Mr. Thomas, whose influence on the musical taste of New York could not be too highly commended, is about to be followed by Mr. Gilmore. We have one summer garden at the Central Park, over which Mr. Thomas presides, and we are now about to have another at the Hippodrome, which will be under the inspiration of Mr. Gilmore. The purpose of these gardens is to furnish a pleasant, attractive and thoroughly reputable entertainment for a small sum of money. It is a disposition to cater to that outdoor sentiment which the Americans do not possess in as large a degree as the French and Germans. The Englishman and the American are selfish creatures in some respects. When the American goes to take his case in his inn he prefers to be alone and to leave his family behind him. As a consequence there is a disposition on the part of both Englishmen and Americans to seek club life and to provide amusements only for themselves, permitting the ladies to do what they please in the way of entertainment and be content with a matinee on Saturday afternoons. We like the Continental fashion much better. A gentleman should not visit any place where it would be improper for his wife to accompany him. Of course it would be impossible for any lady to visit one place out of twenty of the resorts of "gentlemen," barrooms and billiard rooms, places where the American frequents. The advantage of these summer gardens is that the citizen may take his family and be certain of an evening's entertainment, without the restrictions in the way of smoke and drink imposed by the opera or the theatre. He can smoke a cigar, or drink his glass of beer or wine and stroll around amid the flowers and cooling fountains, and have much of the enjoyment of home. We are glad to see this taste increasing in New York. We hope that Mr. Gilmore will be as successful with his garden as Mr. Thomas has been, and if we could have four or five others in different parts of New York during these hot summer nights it would go far toward offering entertainment for our people and improving the moral tone of society.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Queen Victoria left Windsor for Scotland May 14. King and Queen shot themselves in the reading room of the London Library. Commander L. A. Beardslee, United States Navy, is quartered at the Gilsey House. The President will leave Washington for Long Branch, with his family, on Tuesday next. Very Rev. P. Healy, of Calceope, Mass., is residing temporarily at the Metropolitan Hotel. Rev. Adam Lind and Rev. John Bisset, of Glasgow, are staying at the Union Square Hotel. Mr. Ojal Niesteren, Swedish Minister at Washington, has apartments at the Hotel Brunswick. Señor Don Juan del Valle, President of the Bank of Havana, is sojourning at the New York Hotel. General John C. Robinson arrived at the Union Square Hotel yesterday from his home at Birmingham. Professors George E. Day, of New Haven, and Ezra Abbot, of Cambridge, Mass., are at the Everett Hotel. Another conspiracy against Bismarck—the Pope's physician says His Holiness "may still live for many years." Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, of the Engineer Corps, United States Army, has arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Mr. Neil Gilmore, Superintendent of Public Instruction, arrived from Albany yesterday at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Mr. George B. McCarty, Chief of the Printing Division of the Treasury Department, is registered at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Captain C. F. Patterson, Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, has taken up his residence at the Everett Hotel. L. E. Dyer, Appraiser at the port of Memphis, has tendered his resignation in order to accept the appointment of Consul to Odessa. Commander James A. Greer, Commander B. R. Taylor and Medical Director Robert T. Maccoun, United States Navy, have quarters at the Union Square Hotel. Mrs. Julia Ward Howe furnishes another evidence of the equality of the sexes. She can make frightfully bad puns—puns that inspire people with pity for the author. There has lately been discovered at Rome a portrait of Raphael at twenty-six, not hitherto known to exist, and believed by some experts to have been painted by Raphael himself. It recently rained boiled shrimps in France, the contents of a water spout apparently being tumbled on the country after the sun had heated the water sufficiently to cook the game. Abraham Jackson, the lawyer against whom are the grave charges of forgery and dedication to the extent of nearly \$800,000, arrived in Boston last evening, in charge of Detective Wood. As a garbage cart was dumped lately in the suburbs of London a human head rolled out of the mass. It was fresh and bleeding, and the mystery is from whom one of the ash pans emptied into the cart that morning it came. Mr. John Lemouine has been elected a member of the French Academy to the place made vacant by the death of Jules Janin. It is almost a recognition that this *Académie* belongs to the *Journal des Debats*; for Janin was its great *syndicatus* and Lemouine writes for it the only good political articles published in Paris. Carl Heimerding, the Berlin actor, had a birth day, and a friend sent him an ingenious acrostic. It consisted of fifteen bottles of wine, so arranged that the initial letters of the names of the wines spelled the name of the actor. The wines were Ceruus, Assmannshausen, Rauxen, Laible, Hockheimer, Esteppe, Liebrunnenhilt, Marobrunner, Emilton, Rausenstaler, Diefdesheimer, Ingelheimer, Niersteiner, Giesouren. M. d'Agrippa de Busch, the last descendant of the famous Captain de Busch, has just died in Paris in singular circumstances. In the family there was this prophecy:— When a horse and mule are one Then the last sire's race is near. This was of course intended to mean the immortality of the race. But they have lately bred at the Paris Garden of Acclimatization a mule that was scarcely distinguished from a horse, and de Busch died dead white looking at this animal. There is a French author, perhaps somewhat distinguished by ultramontanism, who has discovered the secret of the Freemasons. He says it is the secret of the devil, and that they perform a devil's mass "on an altar lighted by six candles. Each one, after having spit on the crucifix, tramples it under foot"; the diabolical ceremony terminating by every one ascending the altar and striking the holy sacrament with a pogaard.