WASHINGTON.

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FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, May 16, 1876.

ACTION OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE LOUISIANA TROUBLES—GENERAL AUGUR TO USE HIS DISCRETION IN PRESERVING ORDER AND PREVENTING BLOODSHED.

The Secretary of War says to-night that the administration has had under consideration for a long time the condition of affairs in Louisiana and that, to-day, upon the telegram of Acting-Governor Antoine the President decided to direct that General Augur, commanding the Department of the Gulf, shall be allowed to use his discretion in complying with any request made by the State authorities for the enforcement of law, the preservation of order and the prevention of violence. Of course, this action of the military co-operating with the civil authorities, at the instance of the latter, is only contemplated by the instructions given, so far as may be necessary in the proper functions exercised by the State officials, and to secure the proper working of the State government. Orders have accordingly been given by the President in this direction, and the Secretary of War has directed that they be carried out. Great confidence is felt in General Augur's careful use of the discretion given him on account of his well known reliability and his general experience in questions where a nicety arises in regard to any interference with the civil authorities when the military are to be brought into requisition. This, it is said, is why the President, the Secretary of War and General Sherman concurred in the advisability of placing the whole thing virtually in the hands of General Augur for final disposition under the obvious duty of keeping within such bounds as are prescribed by the constitution.

Thus far no great consequence is given by the administration to the occurrences transpiring in Feliciana parish; but it is thought, from the long consultation had at the Cabinet meeting to-day, that every proper remedy will be taken by the government to prevent the disgraceful occurrences of yesterday in Louisiana. The feelings of those who are outside, however, and are well posted in affairs there and the impending political contest say that this is but the beginning of the end; that the negro, who has been patient so long, must not be goaded to desperation, especially where they are so largely in the majority as in Feliciana parish, where the numbers are, it is said, about 4,000 colored people to 1,500 whites. Burnings by incendiaries, assassination and a war of the races may be expected. To check this finally the conservative element must step in. This is the view of the most experienced and sensible Louisianians here. They openly blame the administration for the condition of affairs now prevailing. Indeed a Southern republican Congressman went so far to-night as to say that the immediate remedy for the whole trouble lay in the relegation of power to the whites, who would thereupon divide into two parties, as they were before the war—say into democrats and whigs—and they would divide the colored people between them, and each party would then protect its own colored allies. In this way only would the color line disappear and whites and blacks cease their continual quarrelling.

THE REDUCTION IN THE ARMY EXPENSES—REVISED ESTIMATES OF SECRETARY TAFT AND THE DISSATISFACTION OF THE COMMITTEES—THE SECRETARY IN EXPLANATION OF HIS ACTION.

The Secretary of War sent in to-day his revised estimates for the War Department. The reduction in the army appropriation proper is less than $4,000,000, a revision which is regarded with great dissatisfaction by the Military and Appropriation committees, who were led to believe that Secretary Taft would be more economical in his proposed expenditures. He is said to have promised the committee a larger figure of retrenchment and they are disappointed. While he is accused of thus having receded from his original good intentions the Secretary says for himself that he has proceeded upon the advice of and after consultation with the most experienced and prominent officers of the army, including General Sherman, Lieutenant General Sheridan, Major General Hancock and Quartermaster General Meigs, to cut down the figures to the very lowest possible "notch" and has succeeded in making a reduction of $5,600,000, including the items in the Sundry Civil Bill, which he says is the very best he could do. This result was accomplished by lopping off expenses in the Quarter-master General's and Ordnance departments and in the fortification account. The pay and commissary branches of the army, together with the office working force remain untouched. Secretary Taft examined everything closely himself and made the best investigation possible, and he feels that he has done what is right. Though he may not have pleased all the members of the committee yet he could not consent to cripple the service in any way.

The direction in which he has notably effected the reduction will be found in the items of clothing, camp and garrison equipage, and the Rock Island and Benicia arsenals and army quarters. He regretted to learn that he did not meet all the expectations of the committee, but he had tried to do what is right and expedient in the matter, with all the most reliable information at his hand. Such sources of widespread information as were at his command warranted him, as he believed, in saying that he had better opportunities of judging the real wants of the army than the gentlemen of the committee.

SWEEPING CHANGES IN THE NAVY YARD SYSTEM PROPOSED—THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES ON THE SUBJECT—REFORMS TO BE ESTABLISHED.

The House, if it has its way this session and follows the recommendations of the Naval Committee, will make important and sweeping changes in the navy yard system, both in the number of the yards and in their management. It will be remembered that under the general resolution directing an investigation of the navy yards sub-committees on this branch of the subject were delegated to visit all the navy yards, and the statistics of information gathered by these several sub-committees have been grouped for the inspection and deliberation of the full committee. A report will be forthcoming in a day or two recommending, among other measures for securing retrenchment in the naval service, that all navy yards be closed excepting the one at Brooklyn, the one at Norfolk and the one at Mare Island, which last may be kept open for the purposes of repair; that, eventually, but two yards be maintained and kept open—to wit, Brooklyn and Mare Island; that no naval station be authorized or established, unless in case of necessity, when such station shall be selected from such of the closed yards as may be most expedient in the judgment of the Secretary of the Navy; that the yards at Washington and Charlestown be sold as soon as they can be conveniently disposed of.

Mr. Willis, of New York, chairman of the sub-committee which visited Brooklyn, is prepared with figures to show that the new navy yard at League Island will cost $60,000,000 to complete. The committee will report in favor of retaining the navy yards at Kittery and Pensacola as government property, to be used in case of war or other emergencies.

The subject of the management of and discipline in the navy yard will make an important feature of the report as well, and those who have had an opportunity of getting at the views of the committee say that they will recommend the abolishment of the bureau system and that orders be given through the commanders thereof; the performance of watch duty by marines; the assimilation of prices and time of labor to those of private contracts and the punishment as a criminal offence of making assessments on employees or receiving commissions for contracts. It is also contemplated to prevent the doing of private work, or the doing of any work without previous appropriation therefor or the charging of work done in one bureau to another. The office of Civil Engineer is regarded as superfluous and its abolishment will be recommended.

THE WHISKEY FRAUDS IN SAN FRANCISCO—EFFORTS TO PREVENT FURTHER INVESTIGATION—AN EXCITING TIME ANTICIPATED.

News has been received from San Francisco that the agents of the government are vigorously pushing the war against the distillers in that city. The seizure of five distilleries a few days since has added to the excitement there, and most strenuous efforts are being made by the local officers and the distillers and such allies as they are able to command to stop investigation and to drive off the officials who are conducting it. A short time since one of the most active of these men was approached and offered $30,000 in gold if the investigation of the whiskey frauds could be stopped. There is considerable pressure brought to bear upon the California Congressmen and politicians here in Washington, and many charges are being preferred against the agents of the government now at work among the distillers in San Francisco. The methods of fraud thus far discovered only differ from those unearthed in Chicago, St. Louis and Milwaukee in their being carried on with more boldness, if possible, and apparently with a better understanding between some of the Excise officers and the distillers than existed in these cities. The subject is likely to attain great prominence within a very short time.

THE BELKNAP IMPEACHMENT—ARGUMENT OF SENATOR EDMUNDS IN FAVOR OF JURISDICTION.

When the Senate went into executive session as a high court on the Belknap case Senator Edmunds, of Vermont, took the floor in favor, it is said, of holding jurisdiction and delivered a carefully prepared address, lasting through the whole day. His argument made a serious impression on the body. It is now thought that the argument will consume the rest of the week. Senator Christiancy is said to side with Senator Edmunds and be favorable to a decision affirmative of jurisdiction.

THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEXICO—FORTHCOMING REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE MEADE.

Representative Meade, of New York, who has been for some time managing the bill for the admission of New Mexico, which was referred to him, and on which he has prepared an adverse report, finds that every one else is getting credit for the work done by him and the handling of such an important question. He was much surprised, if not annoyed, to-day by the knowledge that his work was attributed to others. He has prepared a very elaborate paper on the subject and will bring it into the House at once. It is by no means decided as yet, however, what will be the fate of New Mexico as to becoming a State, much of the opposition to it not having yet developed.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, May 16, 1876.

THE LOUISIANA INVESTIGATION—THE CHARGES AGAINST REPRESENTATIVE MOREY FORTIFIED BY LETTERS AND PAPERS—HOW THE ELECTION IN LOUISIANA WAS CARRIED.

The special committee to examine into the federal offices in Louisiana further examined Major Edgar Selye to-day. The witness produced a large number of letters and telegrams from Congressman Frank Morey to himself in order to substantiate the evidence given yesterday. He also produced an agreement made between himself and Morey at the time Morey bought the documentary evidence of witness implicating himself. It read as follows:—

The package accompanying this agreement, and enclosed with it and sealed, is to be delivered to Hon. Frank Morey or to his order on November 1, 1876, or at any time thereafter that he may call for it, provided that up to that time Major Edgar Selye has, since November 1, 1875, been provided with a position having a salary of not less than $125 per month, said position to be in the Custom House at New York city or as agent in the Secret Service Department of the government or some similar position, or that he shall receive the pay of such position during the time, the fact is to be determined by such acknowledgment of Major Edgar Selye as is satisfactory; or, in the event of doubt, by such evidence as may be produced by said Frank Morey, ample opportunity, not exceeding three months after November 1, 1876, to produce such evidence being allowed said Frank Morey for this purpose. This done and signed by me this 21st day of October, 1875.

EDGAR SELYE.

Accepted—FRANK MOREY.

The witness then went on to recount the efforts made by Morey to obtain the position, and stated that after his failure therein Morey made another arrangement with him, by which, in consideration of certain sums of money, he delivered up all the documents. His story was simply a repetition of his statement yesterday, fortified by a copy of the papers which he had retained.

Witness was asked to explain, when he said that two indictments were pending against him in Louisiana for cutting telegraph wires and robbing the mails, and Morey had one of them dismissed and told him that the other would be held over him to use if he took any steps in this matter. The witness also produced some United States warrants for the arrest of about sixty persons in Louisiana in October of 1874, and said Morey, Ray and the Green family sat up on the night of the 23d of October and made out the list, and witness, as deputy marshal, was directed to arrest them and keep them in jail till after the election. They were democrats and Morey gave the orders for their arrest. He did not know where Morey obtained his authority, but all of the officers about there obeyed his orders. Morey was in the habit of writing out orders, telegrams and requisition for troops and directing witness to copy them, sign them and issue them as coming from himself.

Witness was requested to name some of the transactions at that time, but refused to do so as it would criminate himself.

Q. Has anything been said to you about going to Canada, and not testifying before this committee? A. Yes; Mr. Souer, a member of the Legislature, from Louisiana, wished to see me at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, in New York; I met him, and he told me the Sergeant-at-Arms was in town and I had better go to Canada, and he showed me a despatch from Morey to Casey asking Casey to go to the Custom House and get me a leave of absence; Casey did go and asked Mr. Sharp if he would retain my place for me and allow my pay to continue while I went to Canada; Souer said he would give me $150 cash to go with and $150 per month while I was away; Mr. Sharp said he could not give me leave of absence, but would give me a place when I returned; Casey asked me what I knew about the New Orleans Custom House, and said if anything wrong had been done there it was done by some of the subordinates and not by himself; I did not agree to go; I said $150 was a small sum to leave the country with.

By Mr. Conger—How much did you want? A. Well, I told them that two of Morey's notes had not been paid.

Q. Tell us all you said about it? A. Well, I said if they would pay Morey's notes amounting to $300 and give me $500 more I would go away to Montreal.

Q. Would you have done so? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why didn't you? A. They were willing to try to obtain the $500 for me, but would not pay the notes, and Souer kept trying to bluff me, saying if I testified I would get into the Penitentiary and I finally would not have anything more to do with him. Witness said he knew he could not testify before the committee without laying himself liable to prosecution as soon as he left the committee room, unless immunity was granted to him, and unless it should be granted he expected he would be taken to Louisiana and prosecuted.

He was asked to give the particulars of some of the criminal transactions, without giving any names, but he declined to do so.

Mr. Blackburn then renewed his motion, made yesterday, that the chairman be instructed to apply to the Attorney General for immunity for the witness.

In reply to cross questions the witness said he made a statement of the principal points against Morey over a year ago and showed it to several persons, and that was one of the papers he sold to Morey, but he kept a rough copy of it for self-protection.

THE KENTUCKY CENTRAL RAILROAD CLAIM—JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL DUNN IN EXPLANATION OF ITS PAYMENT—THE FACTS OF THE CASE SUCCINCTLY STATED.

The Committee on Expenditures in the War Department to-day resumed their inquiry into the matter of the Kentucky Central Railroad claim. General W. H. Dunn, Judge Advocate General of the Army, testified that during the years 1870 and 1871, while Assistant Judge Advocate General, he was on duty as law officer of the War Department, and in the fall of 1870 this claim was referred to him by the Secretary of War in the ordinary course of business for examination and report. The papers remained in his office from some time in November until the next May, and received a very careful and thorough examination at his hands. As the result of this examination he was clearly satisfied that it was a just claim, and, therefore, he made a favorable report, which, being approved by the Secretary of War and afterward by the Third Auditor and Second Comptroller of the Treasury, procured its payment. No effort was ever made in any quarter to influence his judgment.

In response to further questions General Dunn presented the following as the chief points of his reports on the claim, showing the considerations which controlled his action, and bringing out some facts regarding its history that have not hitherto been published:—

First—The Kentucky Central Railroad Company was entitled, under the constitution, to just compensation for services rendered the government, and what was just compensation was not a matter to be determined arbitrarily by the Quartermaster General or any one else.

Second—The military rates, so called, imposed upon said company against its protest were not just compensation for the services rendered.

Third—The rates of compensation asked for and finally allowed were no more than just compensation for the service.

Fourth—The payments made to the company by the Quartermaster's Department, having been received under protest that they were not all the company was entitled to receive, in no manner concluded the company against demanding further payment, and the Quartermaster General erred in holding the company concluded by the acceptance of such partial payment and in representing to the Secretary of War that the services were paid for and settled.

Fifth—The Quartermaster General recommended that the rates asked for by the company (ninety per cent of its regular tariff) be paid for services after August 1, 1864, which recommendation was approved. The reasons given for that recommendation apply more forcibly for the time such rates were refused than for the time they were allowed.

Sixth—April 15, 1864, the recommendation of the Quartermaster General that this claim be rejected was approved in this form:—"By order of the Secretary of War, C. H. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War." In a few days thereafter, on the application of Mr. Magraw, then the attorney in the case, the Secretary of War, under his own hand, ordered the Quartermaster General to call on Colonel Swords, the Assistant Quartermaster General, on duty in Cincinnati, for a report on the case as then presented. Colonel Swords made such a report, showing fully that the payments for transportation made to the railroad company had been received under protest, and upon the assurance of the Quartermaster making the payments that the company, by receiving such payments, would not be debarred from asserting its claim to ninety per cent on its regular tariff rates. Subsequently Mr. Stanton verbally, as stated by the Solicitor of the War Department, Hon. William Whiting, and also under his own hand, as appears by the record, referred the report of Colonel Swords, through the Quartermaster General's Department, to Solicitor Whiting for a report. All these references took place after the time it is stated that the claim was rejected by the War Department, and certainly negative the idea that Secretary Stanton considered the claim rejected. The last reference was seven months afterward. The reference of this report of Colonel Swords is the last official act of Secretary Stanton of record in regard to this claim, and excepting a report by Solicitor Whiting that the claim was still open for settlement, no further action appears to have been taken regarding it until the year 1870.

Seventh—The National Railroad Convention which was held in Washington on February 20, 1862, on whose recommendation the so-called military rates were adopted, passed the following resolution:—

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that the Secretary of War should make such compensation as will be equitable to those roads whose expenses are enhanced by reason of their being in or near the seat of war.

In pursuance of this resolution the Quartermaster General under authority of the Secretary of War allowed to the Baltimore and Ohio, the Louisville and Nashville, the North Missouri and the St. Louis and Iron Mountain railroad companies more than the military rates for the transportation of army supplies. The Kentucky Central was entitled to be placed in the same category as those roads, the same reasons that justified the payment of higher than the military rates to those roads obtaining with equal force in the case of the Kentucky Central.

Quartermaster General Meigs, who was present, was asked by Mr. Clymer whether he desired to say anything in regard to the testimony of General Dunn. He replied that he did not think it necessary to do so, as his official action concerning the matter was fully set forth in the record.

THE SECRET SERVICE FUND—MR. DAVENPORT IN EXPLANATION OF HIS LABOR AND HIS CHARGES.

The Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice this morning resumed the examination of John I. Davenport, who produced the law showing his authority for receiving pay for indexing his books. In the index books there are, including names, nearly 8,000,000 words, and witness claimed for these words the sum allowed by law. This index was simply a copy of the registration lists, alphabetically arranged. In all his charges for this index the witness never made a charge not warranted by law. The indexing he conceived to be a necessity; the indexing diminished the labor of the office very materially. In reply to Mr. Meade, the witness said that prior to 1871 he was a member of a law firm in New York. The first work he did after the dissolution of the law firm was to take a copy of the census.

Question—Where did you get that copy of the census; for, as I understand it, the census was not then printed?

Witness could not answer that question as put, unless he were permitted to make an explanation. Some charges had been made against him of wrongdoing in connection with that census, and he would not answer unless he could explain it. He was willing to say, however, that he obtained the copy of the census from Marshal Sharpe.

After some discussion by the committee he was permitted to explain that he made his compilation in a room of the United States Court House, and when he said he obtained the papers from the United States Marshal he meant only so far as his clerks were permitted to handle them. His compilation was not made from the regular June census, but from a census taken in October on account of a feeling that the June census was incorrect.

Witness was examined at some length in relation to his compilation, the manner of doing, &c., but no new facts were elicited.

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING—ACTION OF THE HOUSE IN REFERENCE TO CONGRESSIONAL PRINTER CLAPP.

The House to-day, by a party vote, directed the Speaker to certify to the proper authorities of the District of Columbia the testimony taken relating to the action of A. M. Clapp, as Congressional Printer, for proper action. The resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire whether the Congressional Printer is an officer who may be impeached was adopted without a division.

The third resolution, instruct the Committee on Appropriations to embody in the Sundry Civil Service Appropriation bill sections changing the present system of government printing was recommitted to the committee.

MOODY AND SANKEY.

ST. LOUIS, May 15, 1876.

Moody and Sankey, who have held a number of densely thronged meetings here since Friday last and excited great religious interest among nearly all classes, left last night for Kansas City, where they will participate in the Sunday School Convention to convene there to morrow.

VESSEL BURNED.

DETROIT, Mich., May 16, 1876.

At Point Tawas, at four o'clock this morning, an unknown vessel was observed on fire in the offing on Lake Huron. Later in the day the steamer Benton arrived from Bay City, and reports passing several floating mattresses, blankets, a cedar post, with bottle attached, &c.; but owing to the heavy sea she was unable to pick anything up.

AMUSEMENTS.

"HOW SHE LOVES HIM," AT WALLACK'S THEATRE.

The revival of this sterling comedy at Wallack's last night is likely to awake only one regret among the theatre going public—namely, that it had not been revived earlier in the season. It is so long ago since this fine piece of handiwork by Mr. Boucicault has been seen on a New York stage that it comes to us almost as a novelty, and to thousands of New Yorkers it will prove entirely new. It has the great merit of being a thorough comedy with a plot of texture just strong enough to sustain interest in the story and shining most in its effective contrast of character and sparkling dialogue. The scene is laid in England, whose chalk cliffs are constantly visible in a fine marine view. There are two love stories in it and it is hard to say which should give the play its title, for "she" certainly loves "him" in both cases to an alarming extent. We suppose, however, by the rule of contraries that the love which it is hardest to bring to the lips is that for which the author names the piece. This is the case with Mrs. Tom Vacil (Miss Dyas) and Mr. Tom Vacil (Mr. Wallack). They have been divorced on a trumped up case, in which the husband, playing the jealous monster, has fallen into his own trap, securing himself a life of woebegone endeavor to win back Mrs. Tom. To that end he feigns sickness and goes to reside in a seaside sanatarium, so as to be near his late wife, who is residing in the adjoining villa of Sir Richard English. This wealthy old knight (Mr. Gilbert), a returned East Indian, has made a distant relative, Miss Atalanta Cruiser (Miss Effie Germon) his heiress, and she is in love with Dick Hartley, a young fellow of no means but unlimited affection, and possessing a family wrong. Of course, Mr. Montague plays this part. Very soon Dick Hartley discovers that old Sir Richard is his father—that father who deserted Dick's mother on a strong and apparently well-founded suspicion of infidelity, before Dick was born. These are the main difficulties which the dramatist sets out to smooth away. This is accomplished after affording Mr. Gilbert several opportunities to display testiness, pathos and affection and giving Mr. Montague a chance to exhibit filial love, defiance of poverty and touching forgiveness of his father. The instrument of the *eclaircissement* between father and son is a blooming, professional pauper, Lady Selina Raffleticket, who is always selling chances in a raffle for a widow or the daughter of a clergyman. In the case of Mr. Tom Vacil and his wife it requires a feigned attack of a fatal disorder and four comical consulting physicians to let them triumph over all their obstacles, among which is an offer of marriage to Mrs. Vacil from a certain boobyish Captain Yawley. They are reconciled at last in a scene full of humor.

The plot, as will be seen, deals very sparingly in mystery, leaving the mind full play for appreciating the flow of jest, repartee and epigram as delivered by the clearly defined personalities indicated above. The play abounds in effective situations, and Mr. Wallack, in resuming this character of the fond, stuttering husband, lays New York under a fresh obligation. It is needless to say that Mr. Montague plays the lover admirably, and that Mr. Gilbert is fitted like a glove by the grouty but whole-hearted Sir Richard. Mr. Beckett as Diogenes, the affectionately impudent Irish servant, redolent of Charley O'Malley and Jack Hinton, convulses the audience, and Mr. Floyd plays the soft-headed Yawley with a keen sense of its ludicrous side. The Atalanta of Miss Germon is one of her best parts, and the little dialogue with her heart was as prettily given as it was prettily conceived by the author. Miss Dyas has not the best opportunity to display her powers, but she played with ease and skill; while Mme. Ponisi, who first appears in the third act, gave a roundness to her performance of the lady living on her wits that redeemed it from some of its unlovable traits. Her surprise at the discovery of a throb in her heart and a tear in her eye was delicious. All the minor parts were well filled, and as it is a little wearisome to praise everything, we would remark that the only thing in the comedy any one is likely to carp at is the occasional broadness of some of the allusions and slightly blue effect of some of the syncopations and elongations of words in the course of Tom Vacil's stutterings. They may be excusable because they were apparently enjoyed, and the same may be said of the numerous hearty osculations between Dick Hartley and Atalanta Cruiser in the first act.

"How She Loves Him" will probably run to the end of the regular season—that is, until the 27th inst. The house last night was crowded.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

Last night M. Emile Anjier's new piece, "Madame Caverlet," was produced at this theatre for the first time in America. It was originally played at the Vaudeville Theatre, in Paris, where it is said to have been very successful. The plot is a remarkably simple one. An ill-assorted couple have, some fifteen years before the opening of the play, been divorced *a mensa et thoro*. Both husband and wife being French, this divorce acts only as a judicial separation, and does not permit either to remarry during the lifetime of the other. As represented in the piece, the husband has been alone to blame, and the wife, as long as she possibly could, had condoned his dissolute behavior. After their separation the wife retires to live with a wealthy aunt in the country, and she takes with her her two young children—a boy and a girl. While living here she meets and falls desperately in love with M. Caverlet, who takes her to Switzerland and there lives with her as her husband. Meantime the children grow up under the belief that their father was an Englishman, and that, consequently, M. Caverlet is really the husband of their mother.

It is at this period that the play opens. The rich aunt has for a long time refused to see her erring niece; but shortly before her death she has made a will leaving all her property to her. The husband, hearing of this, and desirous of gaining possession of the property, hastens to find his wife, and offers to take her back. The wife, still ignorant of her aunt's death, indignantly refuses, whereupon he threatens to take away her children, as she, being the mistress of another man, is no proper person to educate them. These difficulties are solved by a payment to the husband, who agrees to change his domicile to Switzerland, where marriage with a divorced person is lawful.

The principal elements of success in this plot are the numerous very strong dramatic situations with which the piece abounds. The scenes between the husband and his son and afterward with his wife are worked up with great skill and dramatic force. But the play should never become a favorite in this country. The whole apparent aim of the dramatist is to portray a woman who is ill-treated and separated from her husband and afterward meets her "affinity." The whole tone of the piece is bad, as it leads the audience to sympathize with this woman, who, no matter what ill-treatment she may have suffered or what temptations she may have been exposed to, should never have forgotten that she was still a wife and a mother. To ask us to sympathize with such weakness and want of character is one of the worst things a dramatist can attempt. The piece was admirably acted throughout. M. Veniat, for whose benefit the performance was given, undertook the *rôle* of Henri Merson, the son of the divorced woman. In his scenes with his sister and her lover he was charming in his portraiture of the careless youth, while in the latter part of the play he displayed great power and ability in his meetings with his dissolute father. The Caverlet of M. Dalbert was quietly effective and M. Legrand was amusing as the youthful and ardent lover. M. Darcy as Merson gave a capital representation of the careless rake who, lost to all sense of shame, is willing even to make money of his own dishonor. Mme. Lormiant was Henrietta, the guilty but injured wife, and she was remarkably strong in the many powerful situations in which she is placed. The entire performance was more than usually complete, and was often applauded by a large and appreciative audience. On Thursday George Sand's comedy, "Le Marquis de Villemer," will be given.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Miss Minnie Hauck, now on a short visit to America, will not, it is said, sing in public until her return to Germany.

Mr. J. N. Pattison, the pianist, gives a recital every day at one o'clock in the Main Hall, Centennial Exposition, in the Weber department.

A song or two by Mlle. Aimée would prove a great help to the Offenbach concerts. The management should also put forward Levy, who is engaged at the Garden.

A concert will be given at Chickering Hall this evening, at which the Trinity Glee Club, Miss Annie J. Borie, Mlle. Marguerite Selvi and a large number of other popular vocalists will appear.

The programmes for the ensuing week at Gilmore's Garden comprise works by the following composers:—Wednesday, Berlioz, Strauss, Gounod, Boullard and Offenbach; Thursday, Auber, Nesvadba, Gounod, Meyerbeer, Strauss and Offenbach; Friday, Weber, Gounod, Strauss and Offenbach; Saturday, Rossini, Berlioz, Strauss, Gounod, Boullard and Offenbach; Sunday, Beethoven, Rossini, Gounod and Offenbach. The bills might be profitably varied to a still greater extent, and other musical changes would benefit the performance.

THE OVERTURE TO ROBESPIERRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Having seen the article—a criticism perhaps a trifle severe—in which you refer to me in your issue of the 14th inst., a double motive makes me write to you upon its subject. And first I beg to thank you for your kindness in taking notice of me, for the artiste is always fortunate when the press deigns to speak of him; in the second place, I would ask you—if it is not too indiscret—whether you have ever heard the overture to Robespierre in Paris. I doubt it, as you accuse me of changing this piece by altering the proper time and rhythm of the movements, and yet I have had the rare honor of conducting it after the advice and in the presence of Litolff. You will therefore allow me, however great your authority as a critic may be, to prefer that of Litolff. Do not then be surprised if I continue rendering "Robespierre" in the same way, for it is the only true one. In asking you to insert these few lines in an early issue, I beg to present my compliments, and remain,

MARIUS BOULLARD.

NEW YORK, May 16, 1876.

STRAKOSCH AND THE OPERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Permit me, through the medium of your valuable columns, to express, not only my opinion, but the opinion of numerous others, who are both patrons and lovers of opera, in regard to the ridiculous statements made by Maurice Strakosch in his interview with your reporter on Sunday last. First, as regards the Belocca season, you have already explained the cause of its utter failure in the able editorial which appeared in your issue of May 1, therefore it would be superfluous for me to state anything further on this subject; one thing, however, is certain, that the American public are not going to be humbugged any longer by Maurice Strakosch's bombastic pronunciamentoes and statements to the effect that as Belocca has been pronounced a perfect artiste by the European critics, the American public is without doubt or question to accept her as such. This is a positive insult to our taste and good judgment, and Maurice Strakosch has yet to learn that the Burnumism he played successfully on us twenty-five years ago will not bear repetition, as the Belocca few nights' season has demonstrated beyond a doubt. It appears to me that Mr. Strakosch thinks that he alone has wisdom and power of discriminating judgment. Such men when they are known are generally found to be wanting. But let M. Strakosch know that it is no disgrace even for the high priest of opera to learn and not obstinately resist the conviction that the American public will either have Italian opera properly rendered or nothing. If he thinks to throw dust in their eyes by attempting to underrate the talents of such great artists as Titiens and Trebelli and advocating the wonderful but imperceptible merits of Mme. de Belocca he is greatly mistaken. M. Strakosch's conversation with your reporter is a series of childish contradictions. He had far better do as his brother Max does, when he rushes into print—get some one else to write his own mind for him.

FAIR PLAY.

NEW YORK, May 15, 1875.

OFFENBACH'S CONCERTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I am sure the management of these concerts would confer a favor upon a large number of music loving people by publishing daily the programme for the evening. It is impossible to know otherwise whether you wish to go or not, a matter which you can decide easily if you know what is to be given. One does not always care to find oneself listening to the same pieces a second time, or to be obliged to hear pieces one does not particularly care for.

X.

RIGNOLD AND CHARITY.

CENTRAL DISPENSARY, No. 934 EIGHTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK, May 16, 1876.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

We see it stated in your paper of to-day that Mr. George Rignold is to make his last appearance in this city at the matinée of next Friday at Booth's Theatre. This is not so; as Mr. Rignold, on his return from California, about the last of June, will give his final performance, previous to his departure for England, for the benefit of this charity. Respectfully yours,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Central Dispensary.

SACRED CONCERT.

At St. Ann's Roman Catholic church, in East Twelfth street, a grand sacred concert will be given, commencing at eight o'clock, next Sunday evening, in aid of the association for Befriending Children and Young Girls. A number of prominent artists have volunteered their services for the rendition of a well arranged programme of choice selections of sacred music.

MUNN'S TRIAL.

TESTIMONY OF A REVENUE DEFRAUDING CONSPIRATOR—THE MONEY FROM CROOKED WHISKEY DIVIDED AMONG OFFICIALS.

CHICAGO, May 16, 1876.

In the Munn whiskey trial to-day, after a number of witnesses had been called, Jacob Rehm was called for the prosecution. Up to this point the testimony has been calculated not so much to implicate Munn, directly, as to show that large sums of money had been paid to Rehm, who turned them over to others; Rehm testified that the first he received for illicit transactions was $500 from Mr. Hesing; the distillers gradually adopted the plan of running crooked, and Munn, Bridges and other officials allowed it and shared profits; had paid large amounts to Bridges—probably $40,000 to $45,000; paid money direct to Munn only once, in 1875—$1,000; he always sent a notice to distillers of intended visits from government officers.

On cross-examination Rehm said he was first seduced into whiskey stealing by A. C. Hesing. Witness proceeded to state how the case was presented to him by Hesing; how the various distillers paid large amounts as election assessments; of these Rehm was the disburser; he paid to the Hon. J. D. Ward $25,000; Hesing got a big share of this; Ward knew where this money came from and that it was illegally obtained; in March, 1875, Munn inspected the establishment of Roelle & Junker; witness asked him what he thought, and Munn said he ought to report it; witness said better let it go; he would settle it; witness said he was worth $200,000 or more; had received fraudulently from distillers, &c., $110,000 to $120,000; had used from $12,000 to $20,000 in politics; had never been promised immunity by the government, but it had been intimated that if he turned State's evidence, the Court will take it into consideration.

S. J. Conklin, formerly revenue agent in Milwaukee, testified that Munn had made known to him a story of fraud while riding to a distillery in Milwaukee, and that he had received money from the distillers there which he paid to Munn.

At the conclusion of the testimony for the day, which concludes the prosecuting evidence, the Prosecuting Attorney having remarked that the evidence was overwhelming, Colonel Ingersoll, counsel for the defence, offered to submit the case immediately without rebutting testimony or argument. This proposition was denied, and Court adjourned.

WISCONSIN CROOKED WHISKEY.

HONORED CITIZENS DENOUNCED AS IMPLICATED IN THE CONSPIRACY.

MILWAUKEE, May 16, 1876.

The defence closed its case in the Jonas conspiracy trial to-day with the evidence taken in rebuttal on behalf of the prosecution of the testimony of witness for the defence relative to Rendskopf's alleged attempt to suborn witnesses in Chicago.

It appears now that Conklin, ex-revenue agent, on receiving a written undertaking of immunity, signed by the prosecuting counsel, has executed a lengthy statement, involving honored names in this State in the whiskey frauds. This statement will not be made public until the Grand Jury meets; but it is understood to be a complete history of the Ring, and that it shows that certain large sums were paid to prominent politicians in order to procure the reinstatement of discharged revenue officials employed by the Whiskey Ring.

DISTILLERY RAIDS.

IMPORTANT SEIZURES IN NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA—ARRESTS MADE.

WASHINGTON, May 16, 1876.

Major Wagner's mounted revenue force having been removed from South to North Carolina, has just completed a successful raid on Hunting Creek, Reddies River and Lewis Fork. In Wilkes county, N. C., twenty illicit distilleries were seized, with fourteen copper stills and 30,000 gallons of mash and beer. At one place of deposit thirty-five barrels, containing over 1,500 gallons of unstamped illicit corn whiskey, were found concealed, and safely removed to Statesville to be sold for the benefit of the government. Several arrests were made.

A RAID IN VIRGINIA.

William O. Austin, Deputy United States Marshal of Virginia, reports a raid made by him on Stony Creek, Scott county, Virginia, resulting in the capture of five illicit distilleries, with the contents of copper stills and over 10,000 gallons of mash and beer. He also arrested nine men engaged in distilling. Stony Creek has long been a place dreaded by the officers, where the distillers felt safe in defying them.

A DESPERATE PRISONER.

An alleged till tapper named W. W. Monckton, alias Montgomery, alias "The Kid," was arrested last night by Detective McNamara, of the Central Office, in a saloon on Sixth avenue, near Twenty-ninth street, after a long chase. When Monckton found the officer gaining upon him he darted into the saloon and seized a knife, but the detective succeeded in disarming him by the use of his pistol. On the way to the station house a gang of roughs attempted to rescue the prisoner, but, reinforcements arriving, they took flight. Pending their arrival, however, Monckton became violent and desperately struggled with the officer for several minutes. He was locked up in the Twenty-ninth precinct station house and subsequently removed to the Central Office. It is thought by the police that, besides being a professional till tapper, he is an escaped convict.

ENGLISH COACHING.

FROM OXFORD TO LONDON—AN OLD ROUTE REVIVED.

[From the London Sportsman, May 2.]

May Day, 1876, will henceforth be celebrated in the annals of the road as the occasion of the revival of the public stage coach between Oxford and London. In the good old times, when the four horse coach was almost the only means of public conveyance, Oxford was as well served in that respect as any city in the kingdom; but since the Prince of Wales, which used to start from the Vine Inn of that city, ceased to run nearly twenty-one years ago, the University on the Isis has not possessed a public stage coach in connection with the metropolis. When, therefore, it became known that the present coach would start on its first journey to London from the Clarendon Hotel yesterday morning there was great joy in Oxford, and when at last the coach was actually drawn up outside the door of the hotel a considerable crowd gathered to witness its departure and to express good wishes for the success of the undertaking. Since the revival of coaching the longest journeys attempted have been those to Brighton and Tunbridge Wells; but that to Oxford considerably exceeds either of these in distance, being, indeed, by far the longest metropolitan stage coach route at present existing. Although the journey between Oxford and London is continuous, it is, as a matter of fact, divided into two distinct portions—namely, the journey from Oxford to Reading and that from Reading to the White Horse Cellars in Piccadilly. The first portion of the distance has been undertaken by Mr. Mansel Mansel, a gentleman new to public stage coaching; the second or metropolitan division being worked by Mr. Carlton Victor Blyth, the popular whip who had the road between Windsor and Reading last year. These two gentlemen have entered into a partnership by which they agree to keep the coach on the road till the end of July under any circumstances, and, in the event of the experiment proving successful, to continue to the close of the coaching season. A curious item of this agreement contains a provision that in the event of the Oxford coach arriving in Reading after the advertised time Mr. Mansel Mansel agrees to provide the passengers with a champagne luncheon free of charge and also to post them on to London at his own expense. The first portion of the route is divided into three stages, and is worked by fifteen horses—four for each stage and three spare horses. This very handsome lot have been collected by Mr. John Hetherington, of Edgeware road. The coach is the same as that used on the Guildford road last year.

For the second portion of the journey Mr. Blyth has a magnificent new coach, built by Messrs. Holland & Holland. It is, in lightness, strength and general excellence, the very model of what a stage coach should be. Like that used in the earlier stages, it is painted black, with yellow panels and under-carriage. The journey between Reading and the Cellars is divided into five stages, and is served by nearly thirty horses, collected for Mr. Blyth by Mr. Williams. The coach leaves Oxford on alternate days—namely, Monday, Wednesday and Friday—and returns from London on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Having thus far put my readers in possession of the material facts of the new venture, I will endeavor shortly to describe the journey.

The weather in Oxfordshire and Berkshire on Sunday last was most unpromising. There