THE SUGAR TARIFF.

Importers and Refiners Protest Against the Proposed Congressional Action.

HOW FRAUDS ARE COMMITTED.

Defects in the System of Collecting the Sugar Tax.

MONOPOLISTS PROTECTED BY GOVERNMENT.

Charges of Adulteration that Demand Investigation.

The publication in the Washington despatches yesterday morning of the bill concerning duties on sugar, presented to Congress by Secretary Sherman through the Speaker, Mr. Randall, created quite a stir, though not altogether unexpected, among the sugar refiners of New York. The bill does not meet with the approval of the trade, and to give authoritative expression to the reasons on which the trade's objections are founded a meeting was called at noon yesterday, at No. 97 Water street. In answer to the call the following gentlemen appeared:—Messrs. Skiddy & Minford, E. D. Morgan, Havemeyers & Elder, Havemeyer & Eastwick, Havemeyer Brothers, Grinnell & Minturn, H. H. Swift, Aldana & Fuller, Bauerman Brothers, Mattheissen & Wiechers, W. P. Willets, George Moeller, Peter Moeller, Gustavus Schwab, Youngs & Co., Franklin & Co., and the Brooklyn Sugar Refining Company. Mr. Solon Humphreys was elected president of the meeting and Mr. W. P. Willets secretary. The first business after the organization of the meeting was the presentation of the following resolutions, to wit:—

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the proposed change in the tariff on sugar, as suggested by Mr. Secretary Sherman, is in the highest degree unjust and impracticable; and that instead of decreasing the temptation and opportunity to fraud on the revenue it very greatly increases them by making a difference of no less than .013c. per pound on one number in color or one degree of the polariscope.

Resolved, That as the people of this country demand for their consumption low priced soft sugar, the manufacture of which is only practicable from a low grade of raw sugar, any tariff which discriminates against such low sugar is a very great injustice, and we call on Congress, if any change is to be made in the tariff, to have it so framed as to avoid discrimination against any quality of raw sugar, whether of high or low quality, and that it shall conform as near as possible to an ad valorem duty.

The first resolution was adopted without discussion, but Mr. Schwab wanted the second amended so as to ask Congress for an absolutely ad valorem duty based on the home market value of the goods. Mr. Fitch said he doubted if Congress would go before the country on an ad valorem duty. Mr. Minturn said he was in favor of greatly reducing the whole scale of duties, and finally, after much discussion, Mr. Schwab's amendment was put and lost by a vote of 8 to 6, and the resolution as read adopted.

Mr. Minturn offered the following resolution, which was adopted without discussion:—

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the duties on sugar, amounting as they do to between fifty and sixty per cent, are excessive and unreasonable, and should be reduced at least one-half, in justice to the consumers of the country and for avoiding the difficulties and frauds in collecting the revenue.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. D. A. Wells for the *brochure* on sugar. The book, it was stated, had some faults, and those who voted the thanks wished it understood that they did not in all things agree with Mr. Wells. The secretary was directed to forward copies of the resolution to Secretary Sherman and the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means of Congress, and the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

SUGAR WORKERS IN MASS MEETING DENOUNCE THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE TARIFF.

The workingmen engaged in the sugar refining business in Williamsburg, awake to the danger threatening their industry from the measures proposed to Congress, assembled at Washington Hall, corner of Broadway and Fourth street, last evening, to protest against a discriminating tariff. Fully 2,500 men attended, though all could not get into the hall. William C. Miller, a cooper from L. N. Palmer's shop, was elected chairman, and Alexander McAllen, from the same place, secretary.

The chairman said that 150,000 people were getting their bread from the sugar refining industry, and the proposal to change the tariff meant beggary for all and throwing the refining out of the country altogether and into the hands of Cuban slaveholders and coolies who worked for ten cents a day, and Congress ought not to make laws that would destroy an entire industry. Williamsburg cannot afford to lose the income she gets from the 60,000 people living here who get a livelihood from the sugar refineries. Alonzo C. House, from Havemeyers & Elder's refinery, said that the question of American rights was bound up in this question. If Congress passed the tariff proposed they would deprive every citizen of the right to labor, for now in these hard times there is no work in other trades and the refineries would all close on its passage. Legislation closed the salt works industry at Syracuse, to the detriment of the whole State, and now it is proposed to commit a greater wrong by closing the refining industry.

Karl Kranz followed in German and then Mr. Alexander McAllen. He said they knew the charge of adulteration was false, and as for frauds in the importation Mr. Havemeyer, a refiner, was the first to notify the government of the attempted fraud by Cuban shippers by the change of color. The sugar paid one-quarter of the revenue of the government, and it is surely not the policy of the government to kill the goose that lays that golden egg, which they assuredly will do if they pass the measure proposed by Secretary Sherman.

The government were providing the red Indians with food, clothing and agricultural implements; but what will they do for the tens of thousands the passage of this measure would throw out of employment?

Robert Gillies, the next speaker, from the De Castro & Donner refinery, charged that Spanish gold used indiscriminately was creating all this excitement, and the meeting to-night was to counteract its influence as far as possible. The Lord helped them that helped themselves, and they as workingmen were assembled to appeal to Congress not to give to slaveholding foreigners work that their own citizens have been doing and can do better than any slave or coolie is capable of, and at the same time place it in the market cheaper.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

Mr. James Trenor then urged the passage of the following resolutions in a pointed address, and they were carried unanimously:—

Whereas the sugar refining industry, upon which a large proportion of the people of the Eastern District of Brooklyn, and thousands of men in other parts of the country, depend for their livelihood, is suffering from most unusual depression, and much privation among the men working in refineries and among their families is being endured in consequence; and whereas we have solid grounds for believing that this condition of things is largely owing to the falling off in the demand for soft refined sugars, caused by the public fear that such sugars are adulterated with harmful ingredients, false statements to that effect having been widely circulated in the press by interested and designing foreigners; and whereas wholesale charges of fraud against importers and refiners have been made, which charges are pronounced by government officials, under oath, to be without foundation and by the Secretary of the Treasury to rest upon no evidence; and whereas, for these reasons of falsely alleged adulteration and fraud, pressure is being brought to bear upon Congress to induce it so to change the present tariff as to impose one specific rate of duty of two cents and four mills per pound on all sugars not above No. 13 Dutch standard in color and not exceeding ninety-four degrees in saccharine strength; and whereas, according to the ablest and most impartial authorities in this country, such a tariff would discriminate against all low grade sugars below No. 13 (such discrimination increasing in severity in proportion to the lowness of the grade), upon which low grade sugars this, our home industry, absolutely depends for its prosperity; would injure the shipping interest; would be of no present benefit and an eventual loss to the consumer; would transfer the refining industry of the United States to a Spanish, slave labor producing dependency, and thus necessarily ruin the industry by which we American citizens gain our bread.

Resolved, first, That it is the duty of the press, and more especially of the class of organs which have circulated the aforementioned slanders, to disabuse the public mind of the groundless fears arising out of them.

Resolved, second, That we hereby denounce these charges of fraud to the country as wholesale calumnies, craftily foisted upon newspapers by certain New York agents of Cuban planters and by them sedulously circulated over the United States for the purpose of procuring legislation favorable to these latter and destructive of our industry.

Resolved, third, That neither fraud nor adulteration, even supposing both to have existed in the full measure charged, are to be rightly or properly reached by tariff changes; that if they could or ought to be so reached the proposed uniform rate of duty up to No. 13 Dutch standard opens the door to fraud much greater than is possible under the present tariff and immeasurably easier of accomplishment; and that it is an insult to the government to accuse it of inability to enforce the present tariff law, or to base any change in the law upon any such alleged inability.

Resolved, fourth, That it is the duty of Congress so to legislate in matters of trade and commerce as not to imperil home industry, least of all for the benefit of foreign countries; that in deciding questions as between capital simply, as represented by importation, and labor employing capital as represented by refining, the leaning should be toward the latter; and that, therefore, this effort of Cuban slave labor producers and some importers to effect a change in the present tariff favorable to them alone and destructive of the great refining industry of the United States should be promptly and decisively foiled by the representatives of the people.

Resolved, fifth, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to each member of the Senate and House of Representatives; that the earnest attention of our local members of Congress be called to this matter, and that, if deemed necessary, a committee of our men be instructed to proceed to Washington to fully lay before Congress our views and rightful demands upon this vital question.

THE ALLEGED ADULTERATION OF SUGAR DENIED BY NEW YORK REFINERS—HOW CONGRESS COULD DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF FRAUD—INTERESTING EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION.

A great deal having been said with regard to adulteration and fraud in the sugar trade—fraud on the part of the importers and adulteration on that of the refiners—several gentlemen largely interested in the business were yesterday interviewed on the subject by a HERALD reporter, in order to reach the facts in the case. One of these gentlemen said:—

"It has been remarked by officials connected both with the Treasury and the Custom House departments that these charges have uniformly been of a general and vague character. Parties making the charges are said to have been repeatedly asked to make them specific, but they never did so. A prominent sugar refiner called upon the Secretary of the Treasury for such proofs as might be in the department substantiating any such charges of fraud. The reply of the Secretary was that there existed no evidence. His assistant assured the importer in question that all the documents in the department relative to the matter were mere assertions."

MR. HAVEMEYER'S VIEWS.

Mr. Theodore A. Havemeyer, upon being questioned concerning this matter, said:—

"In the first place, there is a great public misconception with regard to the relation between these alleged frauds and an alteration in the tariff. I can only say, as Mr. David A. Wells says in his report:—'That, even supposing fraud to the fullest extent suspected had occurred, it has no connection whatever with the proposed tariff revision and does not call for any legislation. And this last, for the reason that the remedy, as in the case of alleged frauds in sampling and weighing, is purely a matter of administration, and every law necessary for efficient administration on the part of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Custom House officials already stands on the statute books.'

"From this it is clear," continued Mr. Havemeyer, "first, that evidence of such frauds is totally wanting, so far as New York importers and refiners are concerned; and, second, that if they did exist tariff legislation is not the way to reach them. To say that the Treasury, with all the officials at its command, is unable to enforce the present law is to accuse Secretary Sherman and all his subordinates of complete incompetence. I think they have proved very satisfactorily to the country the nonsense of any such allegation. But if fraud were to be checked by an alteration of the tariff the means at present proposed would offer 800 per cent more inducement to it than the present tariff. The government supposing its officials to be color blind—could at present be defrauded of thirty cents per 100 pounds if an importer could succeed in passing a No. 10 sugar as a No. 7, the difference in color between which any child can tell. According to the proposed tariff if the importer succeeded in passing a No. 17 as a No. 16 the government would be defrauded of eight times the amount. The difference in color between these two numbers is almost imperceptible."

WHERE THE DIFFICULTY LIES.

"It is stated that much of the real difficulty has arisen from the importation of high testing, but low colored Cuban centrifugal sugars."

"That is precisely the case. There has never been any difficulty between the Treasury and the importers touching any other class of sugar. There is no doubt that these sugars are left low colored in order to evade the spirit of the law; but those who charge fraud on importers or refiners in this connection fire very wide of the mark. The sugars are sold upon their saccharine strength and not upon their color, the only person benefited being the Cuban producer. Indeed, it is precisely these sugars against the importation of which under the low rate of duty the refiners were the first to protest, inasmuch as they foresaw the difficulty which would arise from their importation in the amount of drawback to be paid on exported sugars. Their importation under the low rate of duty left Secretary Sherman no choice but to lessen the amount of drawback, and this has seriously interfered with the exportation of American refined sugar."

"Are there any other interests which would be affected by the proposed change in the tariff?"

"Undoubtedly there are. The shipping interests would be the first to suffer. Men like Solon W. Humphreys and Lawrence Turnure, who have spent their lives in the sugar business, have stated that such a tariff would virtually exclude all the low grade sugars. The importance of this matter to the shipping interests can be judged from the fact that the American tonnage employed between the United States and four of the principal low grade sugar producing countries was, in 1870, 93,274 tons. In 1877 it had risen to 155,403 tons, with the prospects of an indefinite expansion. It would directly affect all the men in the West engaged in preparing materials for cooperage to the number of about twenty thousand; it would affect the national revenue, which would have to be collected from the highest grades of sugars produced in foreign countries; it would affect the consumer, who would very quickly find himself at the mercy of Cuban refiners. It is needless to go into the details proving these assertions; they can be found clearly laid down in the report of Mr. David A. Wells."

"There appears to be a considerable outcry on the subject of adulteration of sugars; have you anything to say with regard to this matter?"

"I would first say that I have been greatly pained at the apparent indisposition of some organs of public opinion—and those the most prominent in circulating these adulteration canards—to thoroughly investigate this matter. What the refiners have to fear in the present juncture is not investigation but the absence of it. And it was this conviction that induced me to send to the press a letter informing them that the doors of my refinery were wide open, asking them to send the most competent and reliable men they had in order that the investigation might be as searching and conclusive as possible. By that I understand that both myself and every man in my employ was open to the keenest cross-examination to which they could subject us. This most unusual course I adopted in order to kill once for all charges which were affecting the public mind and indirectly causing considerable distress among my workmen."

THE REFINERS DO NOT ADULTERATE.

"It is charged that refined sugars are largely adulterated with glucose?"

"I will first of all speak with regard to our own house. Since it first began business, more than three quarters of a century ago, not a single pound of glucose has ever been manufactured with or mixed with our sugars. If I knew any sugar refiner to be using it for the purposes of adulteration I would unhesitatingly expose him. Self-preservation would force me to do this, even in the absence of any higher motive, because no firm making sugars as we do could stand the competition of any one largely adulterating with it. A portion of the press has assumed that the increased production of glucose was referrible to its use in sugar adulteration. The largest producers of glucose positively deny that they have ever supplied a single pound of it to the great refiners, and this, of course, we know to be a fact. Neither has glucose ever been mixed with our syrups. I am informed that certain people who buy our syrups mix glucose with them, and that the public like the mixture. I must say that I was as much amused as astonished at the statement of one New York daily, which called glucose a 'poisonous concomitant.' Surely they must have counted upon the densest kind of ignorance in their readers. With regard to other great refiners, I did not need their affidavits to be assured that they were as blameless in this matter as ourselves."

"Is there any truth in the rumor about the sugars being adulterated with muriate of tin?"

"As for sugars, they were never treated by us with muriate of tin. For about a year previous to 1869 we used muriate of tin for the purpose of improving the color of syrup, the proportions being one part of muriate of tin to 100,000 parts of syrup. Since 1869 we have never used an atom of it."

DANGERS CONGRESS SHOULD AVOID.

"What have you to say with regard to the impending action of Congress?"

"Merely this. The matter is one of great national moment and should not be legislated upon hurriedly. I feel confident that the senseless clamor about fraud and adulteration will not have the slightest weight with the representatives of the people; and, further, that if any present action is deemed necessary it will be taken only after the calmest and most mature deliberation. I feel the refiners have the strongest possible case, for the following reasons:—First, they ask Congress for no protection whatever, for the simple reason that free trade in sugars would be the greatest boon they could have conferred upon them; second, they ask for no special legislation in favor of their own industry. If it can be proved that the consumer, or, in other words, the public at large, will be benefited by the destruction of the refining industry, by all means let the refining industry be destroyed. But if, on the other hand, it can be conclusively established that under any system of levying duty which does not deprive American refiners of the raw product they need the American people can be supplied with cheaper and better sugar than can be obtained in any other part of the world, then it is the duty of Congress to see that that industry stands as unhampered as any other in the country. That the American people can be so supplied by American refineries we are prepared to prove by evidence, and we ask Congress to take this proof before action."

"What have you to say with regard to the objections made to the use of the polariscope for testing the saccharine strength of sugars?"

"This. The objections made have no force. If the polariscope were an instrument on trial there might be some hesitation in its adoption, but it is in universal use by planters who sell their sugars, by importers and by refiners. If I want to buy a cargo of sugars in Havana I telegraph for sugars polarizing just what I need. I get them, and no others. The affair is just as simple as I have stated it. To tell the public that the Treasury of the United States cannot use an instrument universally and successfully adopted for precisely one end which it has in view is nonsense, to which no reasonable man will listen for a moment. When I tell you that two boys in our house were given thirty samples of sugar to test in rooms apart, and that in the majority of cases their tests agreed to within one-tenth of one per cent, while the greatest difference in the thirty tests did not amount to more than one quarter of one per cent, you will be able to judge for yourself whether or not the use of that instrument is difficult."

"Is that all that you have to say on this question?"

"It is, unless it be to state my gratification that the HERALD has taken up the question at a moment when, more than at any other, the public mind needs to be disabused of much error, and informed both with regard to the real issue hidden under all these charges and the importance of a right decision upon that issue by the representatives of the nation."

EVILS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF COLLECTING THE TARIFF AND HOW TO REMOVE THEM—A MONOPOLY THAT WEIGHS UPON THE PEOPLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The annual importation of sugar into the United States aggregates about seven hundred thousand tons, or, say one thousand five hundred million pounds.

The duties thereon are levied and collected according to the "Dutch standard"—*i. e.*, samples of sugar in bottles, prepared in Holland by an obsolete process, are supplied by the Secretary of the Treasury from time to time to the different collectors, and the sugar imported is compared with these samples, which range from below No. 7 to No. 20 in color.

It is a test by color only. If the sugar imported is below No. 7 in color the duty is 1¾ cents per pound; if above No. 7, and not above No. 10, it is 2 cents per pound; and if above No. 10, and not above No. 13, it is 2¼ cents per pound; and if above No. 13, and not above No. 16, it is 3 cents per pound; and if above No. 16, and not above No. 20, 3½ cents per pound. Twenty-five per cent is added.

In every package of sugar imported there are at least two, often three grades of sugar—*i. e.*, a package of sugar will contain No. 7 and No. 11 or No. 9 and No. 14, perhaps, according to the general quality of the goods—the lowest number being the "foots," the highest the "heads;" the "foots" being formed by the "head" sugar draining down into the "bottom" or "foots" of the package. To arrive at a just classification, therefore, an average sample is taken (from the head, middle and bottom of the package), and upon this average sample the duty is fixed.

Of the whole amount of raw sugar imported five-eighths are below No. 7 and three-eighths between No. 7 and No. 10—*i. e.*, the present discriminating tariff has induced the production of a low grade of sugar in the producing countries which are unfit for immediate consumption. In other words, every pound of sugar imported has by force to go to the refinery to be refined before it is fit for use, and consumers are compelled to buy their supplies from the refiners, who control absolutely and are the arbiters of the sugar trade.

HOW FRAUDS ARE COMMITTED.

Frauds on the revenue can be classified under two heads—First, by under sampling; second, by under weighing.

In 1877, of 560,000 tons of raw sugar imported into the port of New York 350,000 tons were imported by three of our largest refiners. These 350,000 tons were landed at the docks of the refineries and within twenty-four hours after landing were boiled up and all trace of them completely wiped out. The only government officers at the refiner's wharf are the sampler and weighmaster, both underpaid officials ($800 to $1,200 salary), who, it is a notorious fact, are "purchased" to serve the interests of the refiner.

The sampler, by taking samples from the "foots" of the packages, or by simply accepting such samples as the refiner may choose to give him, thus enables the refiner to pay only for No. 7 sugar, while three-fourths or more of his importations may consist of a grade of sugar equal to No. 10 or No. 12 Dutch standard, which are subject to a much higher rate of duty.

The weighmaster then comes and performs his simple duties with the same success. Packages weighing from 1,800 to 2,200 pounds are made to weigh from 1,400 to 1,600 pounds, thus enabling the defrauder to "economize" from $12 to $15 on every package.

If lots of dry goods or other merchandise were imported and went directly under the control of the importer, and the duties thereon put under the same control, the matter would be unprecedented and would surely cause great astonishment, and yet there is no class of goods imported that could not afterward be traced out, re-examined and reappraised more easily than a cargo of raw sugar can be after it has reached the refinery, where it is at once boiled up and all trace of it effaced.

The great majority of refiners and importers claim that this privilege should not be granted, and there is certainly no creditable explanation offered to sustain it. Whether intended for fraudulent purposes or not, this loose system must necessarily beget frauds. Honest men among refiners and importers have been driven out of the trade, not because they lacked legitimate facilities or business qualifications, but simply because they could not compete with men whose practices are known to be dishonest.

CHEATING THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Not content to defraud the revenue on importations they must also rob the pockets and cheat the stomachs of the poor consumers by admixing with the supposed refined article such ingredients as glucose, tin, muriatic and sulphuric acids.

The consumer is powerless. Forced to use an article which he knows does not sweeten, he is now told that the article is also injurious to health. He has no alternative. He must buy adulterated refined sugar or must be deprived of an article of prime necessity.

Such is the exact condition of sugar affairs under the present discriminating tariff—a tariff which suits only the foreign producer and the American refiner.

In considering the subject of levying and collecting duties on sugar many difficulties present themselves, not from the subject itself, but from the different interests asking favorable consideration. First, the Louisiana planter, because he forces from an unyielding soil, in an uncongenial climate, an article of prime necessity, therefore must be protected. Second—A few refiners clamoring for special legislation, simply because they manipulate an imported article. They add nothing to the home production, nor do they add one iota to the sweetening qualities of the sugar. They simply take an imported article, and, by adulterating it to a degree that renders its use dangerous to health, they demand, authoritatively, that the government should sustain them in an odious monopoly.

Last of all comes the weak voiced and downtrodden consumer, who fails to see why he should be made to sustain Louisiana in her conflict with natural difficulties, or, again, why he should be compelled to pay tribute to the refiner.

THE REMEDY.

The ad valorem system has been tried and condemned because it opened the door to frauds by undervaluing. Then the "Dutch standard," now in force, was adopted; but this is now and very justly condemned, because it also opened the door still wider to fraud by undersampling and underweighing.

It is clear that Congress should not make cheating profitable.

The only equitable system now left to be tried (since the government needs revenue) is one that is very generally advocated and asked for by a large majority of importers and refiners, and one that will more closely assimilate the interests of the three conflicting parties than any system hitherto tried—that is, a uniform or specific rate of duty on all sugars imported up to No. 16, Dutch standard, and another and higher rate of duty on all sugars above that number and on all refined.

This system will facilitate and make more certain the collection of the revenue, will reduce the possibilities of fraud to a minimum, and do away with an army of samplers, weighmasters and appraisers, thereby saving large expenses to the government.

Louisiana would get all the protection she claims, the refiner would be protected in his legitimate industry and the consumer would at least have the option of purchasing a good and pure raw sugar if he wanted to at a much less cost than he is now forced to pay to the refiner for an article which is, at best, impure and oftentimes adulterated to a dangerous extent.

For the further protection of honest trade the government should see to it that all importations of sugar, like all other goods, be landed at public bonded warehouses, there to remain under the control of the government until thoroughly examined and passed upon.

By this simple precaution, which cannot but commend itself to the honest man, the government would save millions of money, and, operating with a uniform rate of duty, would protect honest trade and finally put a stop to all the troubles that have sprung up in the collection of the revenue since the existing tariff came into force.

AMEN.

"BLACK LENA" WANTED.

Judge Dykman, of the Kings County Supreme Court, General Term, yesterday morning affirmed the conviction of Mary Morris, alias "Black Lena," on the ground that no error in the proceedings could be found. Mary Morris, it will be remembered, was arrested with Catharine Martin, in April, 1875, for shoplifting at the dry goods store of Journeay & Burnham, on Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn. Bail was offered to the extent of $20,000, but was refused. They escaped from Raymond Street Jail in May, 1875, while awaiting indictment. They were rearrested in Boston in December of the same year. Their trial took place on the 21st of December, and they were convicted and sentenced to the Kings County Penitentiary for four years and six months each. Eighteen months after the conviction and sentence of the accused Mary Morris, through the efforts of her counsel, secured her release on bail, it being claimed that an error had been made in the proceedings. An effort will now be made to rearrest the released prisoner.

ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company yesterday a dividend of three-quarters per cent was declared, payable out of the net earnings for the quarter ended November 30, 1878, to stockholders of record on the closing of the transfer books on the 19th inst. The company's financial statement of November 30 is as follows:—Unavailable assets (stocks of other companies, patents, &c.), $643,460 03; cash assets, $201,299 08; total liabilities, $35,289 23; net cash assets, $165,920 45; amount required to pay dividend of three-quarters of one per cent, $100,000; surplus December 1, 1878, $60,920 45.

AMUSEMENTS.

A FINNISH CONCERT.

An audience respectable in numbers and character gathered at Chickering Hall last night to assist at the third grand concert of Miss Selma Borg. The programme almost exclusively comprised Swedish and Finnish music, the folk songs and operatic endeavors of the composers of Finland being given the preference. After a medley of Swedish national airs by Lander's orchestra Miss Borg appeared on the platform and was heartily welcomed. She at once proceeded to deliver her address, in which she said that nothing she has ever heard either in the concert room or at the opera, gave her so much comfort as the feeble little heart songs of her native country. "When we study a nation's songs," she said, "we have a perfect mirror of that nation's heart." She was not speaking against the magnificent works of the modern composers; but before a single nocturne or a single symphony was written the music which she is now introducing into America was sung by the people of Finland. The charm of the address was in Miss Borg's wonderful attempts at managing the hardest words in the English language, in which she succeeded so exquisitely that there was in the endeavor much of the sweet simplicity of the Finnish folk songs. At the conclusion of the address Professor Lander presented her with a beautiful baton, and she at once took her place as the leader of the orchestra in the interpretation of Finnish music. First she gave a series of Finnic songs, but an irreverent youth who got into the hall by mistake complained that there was too much heart in them and too little music. The last number was "The quaint old March of the Finns, played at the battle of Lutzen in 1632." Subsequently the orchestra, under Miss Borg's leadership, gave the overture to the Finnish opera of Filip von Schautz's "Kullervo," and Mlle. Amanda Carlson sang a Finnish song by the same composer. The entertainment closed with Bjorneberg's "March" and the "National Hymn" of Finland by the orchestra.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Annie Louise Cary is thirty-four years old.

The Josh Hart Combination are playing in San Francisco.

Miss Ada Cavendish is playing with her usual success on the Pacific slope.

Miss Emma Abbott is attracting large and fashionable audiences in the West.

Paris has 48 theatres, which give employment to 1,777 actors and 1,102 actresses.

Miss Kate Claxton's company, now playing "The Double Marriage" at the Lyceum Theatre, are drawing well.

Miss Bateman has appeared at the Prince of Wales Theatre in a new character for her, that of Queen Elizabeth in Giacometti's translation of the play.

It is denied that Henry Irving, the actor, has been commanded to provide a dramatic entertainment at Windsor Castle on the occasion of the marriage of the Duke of Connaught.

Mme. Patti and Nicolini appeared in "Aida" in Brussels last month. Mlle. Albani—now Mme. Gye—has been engaged to sing at Moscow and St. Petersburg during the winter.

Mme. Rose Hersée is to receive £5,200 for a six months' engagement at Melbourne. She will be accompanied by her husband, Mr. Arthur Holet, late of the Carl Rosa company.

This is the last week of "Our Boarding House" at the Grand Opera House. Several of the company have made "hits," among them Mr. Harry Little as Gillypod and Frances Kemble as Betty.

The directors of the Cincinnati Musical Festival Association announce that the fourth festival will be given during the month of May, 1880, in the Music Hall Building. Mr. Theodore Thomas has been engaged as musical director.

A princely violinist of remarkable ability is Prince William, the eldest son of the Crown Prince, and the Germans, in praising his skill, refer to the fact that Frederick the Great was a thorough musician. It is hinted that the young Prince is not by any means captivated with the music of the future.

Signor Bettini, the operatic singer, has brought an action in the English courts against his wife, Mme Trebelli-Bettini, from whom he is separated, to recover £2,000, which he claims to be due him in the division of certain property that was made in the settlement of their mutual interests. The case is still pending.

At the late exhumation of the bodies of Beethoven and Schubert from their graves in Waehringer Cemetery, in Vienna, the fine, delicate, almost feminine head of Schubert contrasted strangely with the massive, thick, bony and great brain-holding skull of Beethoven. The bumps of musical talent were missing in both—at least in those places where bump theorists put them. Schubert had still thirteen teeth and Beethoven fourteen. The former's skull showed more perfect proportions than the latter's.

"THE BANKER'S DAUGHTER."

WAS IT THE "GOLDEN CALF" OF MR. ROGÉ—MESSRS. PALMER AND CAZAURAN DENY THE SOFT IMPEACHMENT.

Mr. Ad. Rogé's letter in yesterday's HERALD on the subject of American plays and the authorship of the "Banker's Daughter," now performing at the Union Square Theatre, created quite a ripple of interest in theatrical circles. As will be seen from the interviews with Mr. A. M. Palmer and Mr. Cazauran, published further below, those gentlemen treat the matter as a good joke, and Mr. Palmer particularly objects to pay Mr. Rogé the royalties on the play handed in by Mr. Howard until he is ordered to do so by a court of justice. Mr. Bronson Howard himself could not be found to personally defend himself against the charge of plagiarism, but both Mr. Palmer and Mr. Cazauran declared that he knew nothing about even the existence of Mr. Rogé's play until last Saturday, when Mr. Palmer was first threatened with legal proceedings. With a reckless disregard of the dire legal consequences threatened by Mr. Rogé, Mr. Palmer means not only to continue the performances of the "Banker's Daughter," but to pay the royalties as heretofore to Messrs. Howard and Cazauran until he is actually served with the injunction so sternly promised by the injured Mr. Rogé.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. PALMER.

Being asked what he had to say in reply to Mr. Rogé's charge that the "Banker's Daughter" was but a plagiarism of Mr. Rogé's own play, Mr. Palmer replied:—

"I really am unable to say whether 'The Banker's Daughter' is or is not the offspring of M. Rogé's fertile brain and bovine fecundity, as exemplified in a play which he did leave here, entitled 'The Golden Calf.' I cannot answer the question, because I never have read 'The Golden Calf,' and never expect to read it. All I can say is that a lawyer has written me a letter, stating that 'The Banker's Daughter' is a sort of stepchild of Mr. Rogé and of this 'Golden Calf.' If it is so I think it an unutterable disgrace to both Mr. Howard and Mr. Cazauran, who should certainly have instructed me to pay that gentleman the royalties they so complacently receive as their own. Mr. Cazauran admits that the play was left with him. He has been feeding on Dennery, Sardou and the rest so long that he may have been driven to Rogé at last. As to Mr. Howard, I really think he ought to be ashamed to have produced in Chicago in 1873 the play that Mr. Rogé intended to compose in 1876. It reminds me of Daly's remark, that the elder dramatists had stolen their best works from modern authors. Mr. Rogé certainly evinces a spirit of chivalric generosity that both Mr. Howard and Mr. Cazauran would do well to emulate. He is willing, he writes me, through his lawyer, to permit me to continue to play 'The Banker's Daughter' as such if I will pay him moneys for the privilege, and will also allow me to go on paying the gentlemen who stole it from him. This is kind. As to M. Rogé's play, Mr. Cazauran, I have no doubt, has it by heart. See him."

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE PLAY?

The reporter asked "Where is the play now, Mr. Palmer?"

"Cazauran has it, of course. He is the regular salaried dramatic shark of this house, and even Rogé would only be a side dish to his capacious maw."

"Is it true, Mr. Palmer, that a 'jealous coterie, eager to seize' the plays of slumbering dramatic geniuses controls your management in the selection of the dramatic productions offered to you?"

"It is true, undoubtedly. The coterie consists of Bulwer, Dumas, Sardou, Sheridan, Denney and such other small tyrannical parasites who suck the life-blood out of us so thoroughly that they leave none for Rogé."

"Joking apart, may not M. Rogé's play have something in it, Mr. Palmer?"

"I suppose it still contains whatever Cazauran has not taken out of it. See him. He knows all about it."

"Where shall I find him?"

"In the manuscript closet, I suppose. The janitor will help you dig him out if he is entirely submerged."

THE "MANUSCRIPT CLOSET."

The writer directed his steps to that "Chamber of Horrors," the "manuscript closet," where the children of the American muse so cruelly slaughtered by the terrible Cazauran are sleeping in that happy oblivion which even the sharpest critical pen cannot disturb. It is a sort of wooden safe built into the side wall of the theatre, and the effect upon an imaginative mind in seeing these flowers of dramatic fancy ruthlessly nipped in the bud is appallingly grim. Every one of these dusty, yellow manuscripts seems to assume life and voice and to cry out for revenge upon the head of the slaughterer who has doomed it to these musty and moldy shelves. How many crushed ambitions and destroyed hopes these piles of pressed manuscript represented—how many anxious days and sleepless nights, and racking torments of the mind!

"Here," said the murderous Cazauran, pointing, apparently unmoved, at his victims, "are plays rejected by the management in their entirety, and," he added with grim satire, "that afford me absolutely nothing to steal. Here are plays from Texas, from California, from the Territory of Wyoming, from the editorial sanctums and reportorial rooms of the magazines and the daily press. No idle French manuscripts but two!"

WHAT MR. CAZAURAN SAYS.

"I wish to ask you regarding M. Rogé's play?"

"'The Golden Calf?' " was the ready reply. "No good, not a single burst of applause, not a tear, not a laugh, not a shudder in it."

"Was the 'Banker's Daughter' a plagiarism from the 'Golden Calf?' "

"Could not really say. Mr. Howard brought the 'Banker's Daughter' here in its original shape of 'Lillian.' "

"But is it like the 'Golden Calf?' "

"Well, there are suggestions and possibilities of effect in it that Howard seems to have either hit upon or imitated. If the latter it is hard on Rogé."

"Did you read the 'Golden Calf' conscientiously and carefully?"

"I read one act and a half."

"Why not the whole?"

"I'm fifty-six—life is short."

"TOO GOOD!"

"What did you think of what you did read of it?"

"The play struck me as being too far above the average capacity of our New York public for success. An audience of HERALD editors, members of the Cabinet and of members of the Board of Education might come to see it once or twice, but that wouldn't pay for the getting up."

"M. Rogé, I presume, is an American author, as he takes up the cudgels for American authorship."

"No, sir, M. Rogé is a Frenchman, but, as a second (dramatic) Lafayette he has placed his pen, if not his sword, on the side of American liberty and progress."

"M. Rogé complains that rejected plays are not duly returned to their authors?"

"My dear sir, Mr. Rogé never came for his play, and I supposed he had actually forgotten it as much as I had, or else wished us to keep it as a valuable accession to our mournfully increasing collection of rejected plays, which now numbers some seven hundred and twenty-seven copies—exclusive of the 'Golden Calf.' "

"Are you not afraid of the injunction threatened by Mr. Rogé?"

"Rather like it. 'Lay on, Macduff, and so and so be he who first cries Hold! Enough!' "

It was evident that nothing serious could be got out of Mr. Cazauran on a subject so grave in itself and magnified in its importance by the prospect of a protracted litigation in the courts, and the writer therefore bade Mr. Cazauran and this graveyard of plays farewell.

"NEW CHINA."

THE MONGOLIAN COLONY IN MOTT STREET—A CHOP HOUSE OPENED.

That portion of Mott street and its immediate vicinity known as "New China" has been of late making efforts to supply the wants of the Mongolians who comprise what is really a Chinese colony. A drug store, a grocery store and a tailoring establishment have been opened, to say nothing of gambling hells and opium dens already in operation. The fronts of many of the establishments are adorned with hieroglyphic shingles which proclaim the particular business carried on inside. A few days ago a chop house was opened—the first Chinese restaurant in this city. It is owned jointly by two intelligent-looking young Chinamen, named Thomas Ahyee and Narcizo Afouc. Their establishment is located in the basement of a house in Mott street, and contains three rooms, the front one being the restaurant proper. There are a number of plain chairs and tables, and the walls are embellished with Chinese pictures, portraying battles between the Celestial gods and ancient heroes of Asia. On each table is a glass tumbler, holding a number of chopsticks.

At intervals on the wall are pasted squares of red paper, which serve as a sort of registry book, where the patrons of the place are expected to write their names and addresses. The fare furnished is really excellent, and poultry being so cheap almost every customer can afford to enjoy a good meal. There are roast ducks, boiled chickens, roast pork and a variety of other dishes, including boiled rice, the last named dish constituting the favorite diet of the "almond-eyed" gentry.

A HERALD reporter visited this place last evening and found a number of Chinamen grouped around one of the tables, discussing the late admission of Wung Ah Yee to citizenship. One of them was James C. Baptist, who acted as witness in the case. Recognizing the reporter, he rose, with a smile upon his face, and volunteered the information that the proprietor was doing a fair business. The visitor was then escorted through the culinary department and learned that all meats and other solids were cut up small, to obviate the use of knives or forks. The class of Chinamen who patronize this new eating house are eminently respectable, being nearly all skilled artisans. They propose to make the house a model one of its kind. No intoxicating liquors are sold, nor will any drunken man be permitted to enter.

On Wednesday last a Chinese lady arrived in this city from Havana, *en route* to Shanghai. She is at present stopping at a friend's house in Mott street, and will remain there several days. There is only one other Celestial female in this city, but it is expected that several will come to this country before long. Numerous reports have been circulated from time to time about certain Joss houses alleged to exist in the city, but the residents of Mott street are united in denying that there is any such place of worship. The only body that has a *bona fide* existence is the Chinese Benevolent Association, whose headquarters are at No. 34 Mott street. The president of this society is Mr. George Acong, who presides at the yearly and monthly meetings. The society funds are often drawn upon for the support of widows and orphans of defunct members.

A great source of annoyance to the meek-minded Mongolians is a crowd of roughs who infest Mott street and are said to do all in their power to drive off their Chinese neighbors. The recent criticism of this gang by several indignant citizens has led to the increased vigilance of the police, and efforts are being made to put a stop to its bad conduct.

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION.

INSTRUCTING PASSENGERS IN THE USE OF LIFE PRESERVERS DURING OCEAN VOYAGES.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 29, 1878.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE H