

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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44TH YEAR.....NO. 329

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

- LENT'S NEW YORK CIRCUS. FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—DAME TREE. AMERICAN INSTITUTE—EXHIBITION. UNION SQUARE THEATRE—FRENCH PLAY. STANDARD THEATRE—PATINAGE. GERMANIA THEATRE—WOLFFENBUTTER FRAUK. ABBEY'S PARK THEATRE—FITE IN IRELAND. DALY'S THEATRE—WIVES. GRAND OPERA HOUSE—OTHELLO. ITALIA THEATRE—DIE RAUBER. HAVELY'S THEATRE—THE OCEANOGRAPH. BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE—PINAFORE. ABBEY'S PARK THEATRE—THE FRENCH SPY. BOOTH'S THEATRE—LES CLOUCES DE CORNEVILLE. NIBLO'S GARDEN—ENCHANTMENT. WALLACK'S—OUR GIRL. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS. TONY PASTORS THEATRE—VARIETY. MATINEE. THEATRE COMIQUE—MULLER'S GARDENS CHRISTMAS. AQUARIUM—PERFORMING ANIMALS. MATINEE. KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL. TAMMANY HALL—BROADWAY TOURNAMENT. SEVENTH REGIMENT FAIR—NEW JERSEY DAY. STEINWAY HALL—GRAND CONCERT—MATINEE. NEWARK OPERA HOUSE—MECH AND ABOUT NOTHING.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be warmer and partly cloudy, possibly with snows turning to rains. To-morrow it will be warm and fair, followed by lower temperature.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—There was much less activity in the stock market and prices declined steadily, closing at the lowest points of the day. Money on call was plentiful at 7 and later at 6 per cent upon good stock collateral. Governments were very quiet and steady. State securities were very dull and railway bonds were fairly active but weak. Exchange was dull at unchanged rates.

THE PILOT WAR has reached the courts.

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS is not a supporter of Grant for President.

POLITICAL BOMBHELLS AND MINE EXPLOSIONS are now the order of the day.

A SAD STORY of a misspent life is told in another column. See "Identified in the Morgue."

A NEWFOUNDLAND Dog has been buried in Greenwood Cemetery by his affectionate owner. What next?

THE PERILS OF THE SEA are again related in our columns to-day, showing that the life of a sailor is by no means a fair weather one.

THE ELEVATED RAILROAD employes want to share in the enormous profits of their companies, but the chance of success is very slender.

ANOTHER COLLISION, fortunately unattended with loss of life or limb, occurred on the river yesterday. A little more care would prevent these accidents.

IS IT POSSIBLE that on any railroad a single timepiece may decide the fate of many lives? The collision in Massachusetts yesterday morning seems to indicate that it is.

THE BAPTISTS should look to the manners of some of their teachers. Portions of the discussion at yesterday's conference over the proposed congratulations to Bishop Potter would have been discredit to any body professing evangelical religion.

THE CANADIAN SOLDIERS are not coming after all, which is a pity, for our National Guard would be delighted to do them honor. But as the Sixty-ninth are all ferocious Fenians (!) the red coats of England will not be unfurled in Broadway. Blood 'n' ouns! Faugh a balg-h!

YESTERDAY was a great day at the Seventh Regiment Fair, distinguished visitors from the regular army and navy having honored the occasion by their presence and pockets. These brave fellows do not forget that it was citizen soldiers who composed the armies which regular officers have led to victory in the past fifty years or more.

THE RECURRENCE OF EVACUATION DAY compels some comparisons so gratifying that a New Yorker may be forgiven for temporarily forgetting the debris, dirty streets and dirtier political condition of his city. The scant hundred years that have elapsed since the British embarked from this feeble metropolis of a feeble nation have made us one of the great cities of the world and the centre of that most indispensable of all trades, the feeding of Europe, while our Sub-Treasury building encloses more bullion than any other four walls in the world.

THE WEATHER.—The centre of disturbance has passed into the ocean and is now moving northward. The pressure is decreasing steadily within it, and there are indications that it will develop energy while crossing the ocean. The barometer is highest over the Middle and South Atlantic States. In the Northwest it fell very rapidly during the early part of the day, and as predicted another centre of disturbance advanced toward the upper lake regions. Storm energy will be developed in the Western disturbance during to-day over the lakes, the winds increasing considerably in force and blowing from the south and west. Snow fell in the upper lake regions and the Northwest. Elsewhere the weather was clear. The temperature rose decidedly in the West and central valley districts, remained nearly stationary in the Middle Atlantic States and fell in the other sections of the country. The winds have been brisk in the lake regions, central valley districts and on the New England coast. In the other districts they were from the West. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be warmer and partly cloudy, possibly with snows turning to rains. To-morrow it will be warm and fair, followed by lower temperature.

The New Crisis in Cuba—Emancipation the Remedy.

The infrequent items of Cuban news which have been allowed to pass the censorship at Havana are not reassuring for those optimists who would have us believe that the "Ever Faithful Isle" attained a permanent solution of its difficulties by the peace of Zanjon in February of last year. There can be no doubt that the transaction celebrated at Zanjon between Captain General Martinez del Campo and the leading Cuban insurgents, whether it be termed a treaty or a capitulation, was entered upon in good faith by both parties, and that it has led to measurably good results. A war of nearly ten years duration was terminated without disgrace to either of the belligerents, the insurgent chieftains have been honorably treated at Havana, and the island, has enjoyed a much needed rest for nearly two years. The coffee, sugar and cotton interests have revived under the benign influences of security from the insurgent torch, many of the ruined haciendas have arisen from their ashes and new ones have been established in various portions of the island. An honest effort has been made to reform some of the long standing abuses in the financial administration, a good degree of personal and political liberty has been enjoyed, and, above all, a veritable liberal party has been created, which pleads for reform—not by insurrection, but by constitutional methods.

For all these benefits Cuba is indebted to the wise and conciliatory policy of the late Captain General Martinez del Campo, now Premier of Spain, who fairly earned the proud title of Pacificator of Cuba. His name must ever be held in respectful regard by the Cuba of the future, whether colonial, autonomous or independent. It is pleasant to note that many of the chieftains who fought valiantly against him until the pacification of Zanjon maintain their loyalty to the spirit and the letter of that compact. The Cuban deputies in the Spanish Cortes, all of whom are liberals, earnestly repudiate all connection with or responsibility for the new uprising in the island, and their disclaimers are echoed with more or less sincerity by the leaders of the liberal party at Havana.

Nevertheless a new insurrection arose in the Eastern Department at the close of August last, and has steadily increased and extended westward until now it presents a formidable front in Camaguey and the Cinco Villas. The newspaper organ in New York of the first Cuban insurrection, which refused to accept the peace of Zanjon and kept alive the torch of revolution, is naturally jubilant, and declares that the sacred cause initiated at Yara on the 10th of October, 1868, is once more triumphant on the fields of a hundred glories for Free Cuba. According to the revived Cuban Junta of this city the ignominious crime of Zanjon is now to be avenged. That shameful compact has, at least, say they, served one useful purpose—namely, to purge the cause of Cuban independence of the traitors, the cowards and the half-hearted friends who sold out for Spanish gold. The new insurrection has no place reserved in its councils or in its camps for such men, but, on the other hand, tens of thousands who were too young to figure in the former struggle or who honestly believed then that Spain might be trusted to effect the promised reforms, will now support the revolution as the only expedient for attaining permanent peace and prosperity.

It would be in vain to deny that there is some truth in these allegations. The new Cuban insurrection is not purely an uprising of the negro element in the Eastern Department, as has been too hastily believed, nor is it merely the offshoot of the turbulent disposition of a few leaders of the former struggle. It cannot be denied that Cuba has remained tranquil for nearly two years awaiting the fulfillment of Spanish promises, which has seemingly been indefinitely postponed. Whenever during the late Cuban revolution any diplomatic pressure was exerted upon Spain by the Cabinets of Washington, London or Paris, the ready excuse for declining to take measures for emancipation or for financial reform was that, although the Spanish government ardently desired to introduce these reforms, it must postpone them until the insurgents had loyally submitted. Well, the island has been at peace for two years, and the first practical step for emancipation has yet to be taken.

Emancipation in Cuba seems to be weighed down by the multitude of its friends. We are told that King Alfonso, like King Amadeo and like President Castelar, is an ardent friend of emancipation. Premier Martinez del Campo is fully committed to it, Canovas del Castillo desires it, Serrano, Martos, Sagasta and Ruiz Zorrilla clamor for it. All parties both in Spain and in Cuba have made up their minds that emancipation must come. The planters themselves no longer oppose it openly; some of them have taken the initiative on their own estates. There is no pretence that there is any constitutional impediment, for the Cortes have already repeatedly sanctioned the measure in principle. The Moret law of nine or ten years ago provided the legal preliminaries, dependent only upon the pacification of the island. Why, then, does slavery still linger in the Pearl of the Antilles?

The answer to this query must be sought in the "nature of things." Great social revolutions always come from without. There is no example of any great abuse having been reformed by the parties interested in its maintenance. They will grumble and denounce and promise, but will not act. It is therefore of good omen to the cause of Cuban emancipation that a decisive pressure from without is now being exerted upon the lagard statesmen of Madrid. The fires of insurrection kindled in Camaguey and the Cinco Villas should have a quickening influence upon the easy going reformers in the Cortes. Now is the accepted time for Cuban emancipation, or the "Ever Faithful Isle" will be lost forever to Spain.

It is probable that the speedy liberation of the Cuban slaves and the introduction of a moderate degree of self-government in Cuba at this time would be effectual in

quelling the revolt. Emancipation is the first and most pressing need of that island. All other questions are secondary and should readily be postponed to a more convenient season. Cuban independence or autonomy is of vastly less importance. Doubtless the time must come, and that soon, when Cuba will enjoy total or partial independence. But this is a matter upon which the United States have only a secondary interest. Americans of all parties wish Cuba to be prosperous, progressive and pacific. We have a right to demand of Spain that such measures as are evidently necessary to that end be taken at once. We cannot afford to have our vast commercial interests in that island perennially sacrificed to fictitious interests in Spain. As a nation it is indifferent to us whether Cuba be independent, autonomous or colonial, but we must insist upon its being well governed, else it is a perpetual thorn in our side. Provided the Cubans have the privilege of governing themselves they may well afford to retain an honorable connection with the mother country, which would have many incidental advantages. But the one thing needful for Cuba and for Spain is the immediate abolition of a system which has long been condemned by the unanimous voice of the civilized world.

Poisonous Pies.

Some words are reported as the utterances of the baker, who, it is possible, sold the delicacy to which the death of Mr. Wheeler is attributed, which, if they shall prove to have no special relation to the Coroner's inquiry into the facts of that case, may at least be regarded as of some interest to pie eaters at large, and if the Saturday Review and other equally well informed authorities are right "pie eaters at large" may well be taken as a short description of the American public. These are the words to which we refer, quoted from the Sun:—

Mr. Schinkel says that months ago he saw a little cream that had been left standing in the bottom of a copper kettle, and, upon tasting it, it puckered up his mouth. He supposed that vergeris had formed and had tainted the cream. He cautioned his foreman to keep the kettles clean on this account. He told him that if sugar was used the poisonous substance would not form in the kettle. The men preferred not to use sugar, because whatever it was used in required constant attention. "It told him it was a serious matter," Mr. Schinkel continued, "and that they must expect to watch the kettles. My foreman has been with me four years and I have thorough confidence in him."

Now what happened in that bakery "months ago" may happen months hence, and it may have happened yesterday or last week, when Mr. Schinkel was not on the lookout; and it may happen any time, whether he does or does not take precautions against it. "He supposes vergeris had formed" in a mixture which was a part of what had been put in some pies. He knows, consequently, that the constituent parts of vergeris are present when this mixture is made in copper kettles, and that all that is necessary for the formation of this irritant poison is that the mixture should stand a little longer than usual before it is put into the pies, or that the kettles should not be scrupulously clean when the mixture is made. Only a little carelessness on the part of his men, he is aware, may convert the toothsome mixture of lemon and cream into a deadly poison. And who can be sure that his workmen will be always excessively careful? Mr. Schinkel evidently cannot, because he found in the instance referred to that they had not been, and he admonished them that "it was a serious matter."

He has other reason than this to know that they may not always be careful. He urged the use of sugar, but the men prefer not to use it. Why? Because "whatever it is used in requires constant attention." They prefer for their own convenience not to give "constant attention" to what they are making, even though that is the condition of preventing their delicacies from becoming deadly poisons. There is another point as to which Mr. Schinkel probably has some information, though it does not appear in the report of his remarks. Perhaps he knows that the supposed lemon juice in mixtures of this kind is very likely to have no relation whatever to lemons, but to be a base counterfeit made of mineral acids, or at least of oxalic acid.

Six Per Cent Interest.

The act of the last Legislature reducing the legal rate for the use or forbearance of money from seven to six per cent is to take effect on the 1st of January. There is a difference of opinion among lawyers and business men as to the correct interpretation of this law. The mooted question relates to its operation on contracts entered into between the date of its passage (June 20, 1879) and the date at which it takes effect (January 1, 1880). In respect to contracts entered into previous to June 20 or subsequent to January 1 there is no difference of opinion. A contract made before the former date for paying seven per cent will hold good during the life of the contract, even if it should run five or ten or any number of years. On the other hand, any contract made on or after January 1 will be illegal and usurious if it stipulates for the payment of more than six per cent. All the doubt arises out of seven per cent contracts made during the intermediate period.

Mr. Schoonmaker, the Attorney General of the State, has prepared and published an opinion that all seven per cent contracts entered into previous to the 1st of January are legal and valid. Writers in the Albany Law Journal controvert this opinion, and the language of the act, if strictly construed, seems to give a plausible color to their dissent, owing, as we think, to the loose and careless manner in which our statutes are so often drawn. The law declares that "nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to in any way affect any contract or obligation made before the passage of this act." Had the language been "before this act takes effect" instead of "before the passage of this act," the Attorney General's interpretation would be unquestionably correct, but this is not what the law says. Before the "passage" of the act is before the 20th of June, and if the Legislature did not intend that it failed to express its meaning. The ambiguity is unfortunate, since it introduces uncertainty into a great mass of obligations.

We suppose that nothing short of a judicial decision can settle the construction of the law.

A Memorably Dry Autumn.

The very remarkable development of the weather this fall over a large part of the country has excited much interest and some alarm. In the East Lake Champlain was reported toward the close of October "lower than ever remembered for fifty years and falling every day." The droughts in Pennsylvania at Reading, Pittsburg, Catawissa and along the lower Schuylkill, have been almost unprecedented, while in the West the railroads leading to Springfield, Ill., have been obliged to run water trains, and the Missouri Weather Service reported the last month "the driest October in forty years." The current "Weather Review" of the Signal Service states that the October "rainfall has been below the normal in all districts excepting the South Atlantic and East Gulf States, the Lower Missouri Valley, northern portions of Minnesota and Michigan and along the Pacific coast," and adds, "Severe droughts are reported throughout the country generally." It will be remembered that no very extensive and heavy precipitations characterized September, and there has been no compensative fall of rain this month, we believe, which suffices to restore the soil generally to its usual humidity.

This widespread deficiency of moisture may be supplied by the winter and equinoctial storms of the next few months, so that it would be premature to hazard any alarming conclusions as to the prospect of the crops in 1880. The late excessively wet summer of Europe was followed by a moderately dry and fine autumn, and we may therefore hope our dry autumn will be succeeded by a wet winter or spring, preparing the earth for a productive yield of harvests next year, though as the winter rains fall on the frozen earth in a great part of the region that has this year suffered most this compensation will be felt in raising the rivers rather than in preparing the land. "Rain," as an eminent meteorologist says, "is the most capricious of all the meteorological phenomena, both as regards its frequency and amount." Symons, the British hyetographer, has found a period of twelve consecutive years—from 1738 to 1750—in which the mean annual British rainfall was deficient by at least ten per cent, and sees no reason why such a run of dry years may not recur. But the Smithsonian data from 1835 to 1870 show "a certain tendency to an arrangement of groups of years of drought followed by unusually wet years"—nature's effort to restore equilibrium in the mighty workings of the atmospheric machinery. With the return of the polar winds which penetrate the moist Mississippi Valley and the still more humid Gulf region in January we may expect the frequent storms thus generated which pass over the country depositing copious precipitation.

Policemen and Corner Loafers.

A policeman has just distinguished himself by the laudable but altogether too infrequent attempt to disperse a gang of corner loafers. The rascals, however, were unwilling to forego their darling diversion of insulting ladies and other passers-by, and they resisted even to the extent of throwing stones, upon which the officer drew his revolver and fired into the gang. The motive of the officer was most praiseworthy, and the community would not express regret had the pistol bullet disposed of one or more of the rowdies, but it nevertheless is true that the method of procedure was extremely bad and reprehensible. Aside from the fact that in streets as full of people as those of New York a bullet is as likely to hit the innocent as the guilty, the object of the law is not to kill peace breakers, but to preserve the public peace. Had the officer rapped for assistance, or even regarded discretion the better part of valor and ran to the station house for reinforcements, he might have arrested the whole gang and had them punished by due course of law, to the delight of the public and the discouragement of other rowdies. Besides, death without trial is a more severe and arbitrary punishment than the law allows even for such vermin as corner loafers. Let the officer continue in his good work and be followed by other members of his force, remembering, however, that his enemies are more serviceable to the community and a warning to their kind if they are in jail than they possibly could be in speedily forgotten graves.

The National Bird.

Since our last annual Thanksgiving number of silver dollars, precisely sufficient, as we calculate, to supply one for every man, woman, child "and baby" (to adopt Senator Blaine's addition and make the phrase comprehensive) in the United States, have been coined. On each of these new dollars is the image of a nondescript bird which the designer perhaps intended for an eagle, though it looks more like a buzzard. Instead of the strength and majesty expressed by former representations of the eagle the winged creature on this coin seems in a flutter and fright, and one might fancy it to be on the point of flying away, as if it felt that its room would be more acceptable to the American people than its company. The artist may not have known what he was doing, for "there's a divinity that shapes our ends;" but this dollar with a strange device, in number on the approaching Thanksgiving Day just equal to the number of our population, looks like an emblematic notice served on every inhabitant that the days of the eagle are numbered, and that it is about to take its flight from our national banners and coins.

The artist probably designed wiser than he knew, and we suspect that the favored Mr. Kiddle might, with his "mystical lore," explain how it happened that the coming event thus "casts its shadow before." It is well known that Dr. Franklin derided the eagle and advocated the turkey as our national emblem. Mr. Kiddle was receiving those sublime communications from the spirit world which cost him so dear about the time when the artist of the Mint was designing the new coin, and the spirit of

Franklin may then have been hovering about the precincts of his beloved Philadelphia, and have availed himself of the open channels for inspiring the designer. The turkey has become so popular that its old advocate may have felt encouraged. In a playful letter from Passy to his daughter (Mrs. Beeche), ridiculing the new Order of the Cincinnati, Dr. Franklin said:—

For my own part I wish the bald eagle had not been selected as the representative of our country. He is a bird of bad moral character; he does not get his living honestly; you may see him perched upon some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk, and when that diligent bird has taken a fish and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him. With all this injustice he is never in good case, but, like those among men who live by clapping and robbing, he is generally poor and often very lousy. I am, on this account, not displeased that the figure (on the badge of the Cincinnati) is not known as a bald eagle, and looks more like a turkey. For in truth the turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true, original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey was peculiar to ours. He is besides (though a little vain and silly, 'tis true, but not the worse emblem for that) a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards, who should presume to invade his farmyard with a red coat on.

The fowl so extolled by the American philosopher has become in fact our national bird, although not yet officially recognized. The ancient Egyptians were accounted a wise people, and in choosing their gods they selected animals which were recommended by their taste. As the satirical poet says:—

Such savory deities must needs be good As served for once for worship and for food. Our great unsentimental philosopher and patriot seems to have had a similar idea respecting animals selected for national emblems.

The Sligo Trials.

The trial of the three Irish agitators, Daly, Davitt and Killen, was commenced at Sligo yesterday. The excitement seems to have been considerable, but the presence of armed constables marching to and fro all day long may have had the effect of checking any attempt at fiery demonstrations in favor of the prisoners. Daly, as we learn from our special cable despatch, was released on bail, and Davitt will probably be similarly dealt with to-day. Killen's case may last longer if the eccentric Mr. Rea can carry out his intentions. The latter gentleman may succeed in amusing the spectators if he does nothing else. The arrests have already had a good effect in calling the attention of Lord Beaconsfield seriously to the present condition of Ireland. But the English Premier's idea of relieving the distress by furnishing Ireland with coal at "cost price" is but a sorry way to meet the demands of the Irish poor. It is a kind of generosity that costs nothing, and for this very reason probably commends itself to Disraeli's mind. But this is certainly not the way a great statesman should meet a great national calamity.

How Old is the Friday Superstition?

In Mr. Proctor's Sunday evening lecture on the "Religion of Astronomy" he alluded to the prevalent superstition about the ill luck of beginning journeys on Friday, and cited in illustration the delay of a troop ship by order of the British Admiralty some years ago out of consideration for the terrors of the sailors. An apter illustration lay close at hand in the fact that Friday is avoided as the day of departure by all the Atlantic steamers which ply from this port. But Mr. Proctor ventured an assertion about this superstition which admits of doubt. He said that it dates back "four or five thousand years." So erudite a writer as Robert Southey, on the contrary, regards it as Christian and as arising from the crucifixion. If Mr. Proctor has facts to controvert this opinion of the author of "The Doctor" they would be very interesting to the public. The historian Buckle, who delighted in that kind of research, seems to rest content with Southey's assertion. In a considerable mass of material he accumulated about the ill luck of Friday we find no examples cited outside of Christendom save from the west coast of Africa. The fact that Columbus sailed on a Friday upon his first grand voyage of discovery implies also that it is a superstition of comparatively modern origin. If it had been widely diffused among sailors in his time surely he would himself have avoided adding such a terror wantonly to the expedition. Still further, had such a superstition been known at the Spanish court it is scarcely possible that an express prohibition would not have been laid on him by Queen Isabella against defying it. Allusions to the common existence of it are made by Shakespeare and Montaigne a century later, which indicate the sixteenth century as the period of its rise and diffusion. In "Troilus and Cressida" Shakespeare makes Pandarus say of Cressida, "And she were not kin to me, she would be as fair on Friday as Helen is on Sunday;" but we scarcely think this would justify Mr. Proctor in dating back the superstition to the time of the Trojan war. It is one of Shakespeare's immense anachronisms, in the introduction of firearms in "Julius Caesar," and proves only that Friday was deemed unlucky in his own age. The allusion by Montaigne is contained in his "Essays," where he says that sooner than fall into the vice of obstinacy to avoid that of superstition he thinks himself excusable if he should "rather choose the odd number Thursday than Friday." There are plenty of eminent men in modern times who have been dominated by the Friday superstition—for instance, Lord Byron and Prince Bismarck—but can Mr. Proctor cite an example from the times prior to Columbus?

A Bomb from the City of Churches.

By a remarkable interview published in the Herald this morning it will be seen that the City of Churches is far on the road to a bankruptcy which can be averted only by the exercise of care, caution and courage in the enforcement of tax collections. Legislative enactment has given delinquent taxpayers extraordinary privileges, and as is always the case where expenses go on after the income is stopped, financial embarrassment has normally ensued. Brooklyn also staggers under a load of "temporary bonds" to the extent of fourteen million dollars, and the great East River Bridge stares her useless in the face, annually demanding

and absorbing a tremendous interest. Years ago "improvements," unneeded but born of the "flush times," were indulged in to an alarming extent, and the owners who then danced with gleeful anticipation have now the pleasure of paying the financial piper. The experience of Secretary Evarts, who after an investment is glad to shake the entire dirt heap from his feet and leave it all for taxes and assessments, carries with it a suggestive moral. It is to be hoped that Mr. Kinsella's fellow townsmen are all of his way of thought. If not Brooklyn's jeremiad cannot much longer be postponed.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

There are 25,000 English women in India. Ex-Governor Fenton, of this State, is in California. City-wagon's four wives received each a concertina. Ex-Senator Simon Cameron is visiting in Cleveland, Ohio. The Queen of England loves the cold weather at Deeside. Zola works in a big house, in a big room and at a big table. General Hancock is the guest of General Carroll in Washington. It is said that the forts on the Thames could be taken in an hour. Labouchere calls G. A. Sala the best after dinner speaker in England. Mr. Gladstone is very confident of coming into power at an early day. In France agents buy up all the numbered seats for the first night at a theatre. Philadelphia's Municipal Reform Club has disbanded. It was nine years old. A female celebrity has arrived in Monaco who goes by the name of the "Houlette Fiend." Show-busy oysters on the shell are in finer condition than they have been in for several years. In England an attempt is being made against inebriety with an antidote made from cichonans bark. Mr. Toombs' "Death to the Union" despatch is almost universally repudiated by the Southern press. In London an eminent law firm has telephonic communication with some of its most important clients. French wines are late this year and Africa is ahead of Spain for earliness in sending wines to Paris. In rural France there is a mania for having English servants. Governmenters are treated as members of the family. Baring-Gould says—"An English woman is lovely, a French woman is charming, a German woman is angelic." Glass while at red heat is plunged into oil and made so hard that mortars and pestles may be manufactured in that way. We buy steel railway rails in England. England brings her steel rails from Germany and the ore is taken from England to Germany. While repairing a drain at a house in Rome some workmen unearthed a large number of coins of 1450 to 1550, and nearly \$8,000 were offered for them. The electric light, introduced into the Paris Opera House for the protection of Mr. Beaudry's paintings, was tried on Thursday last with complete success. Mr. George Augustus Sala, whose popularity is having a revival among the London critics, will make a tour of the Southern States for the London Telegraph. London Truth—"To come home and find an ill-cooked dinner prosided over by a slatternly wife in her tantrums is a gloomy business. To hear a husband maugler daily over the increasing price of coals and small beer is quite as gloomy for the wife."

Thomas Hardy's new novel will be called "The Trumpet Major." Mr. Hardy ranks next to William Black among the novelists of our day, and would surpass him, if in his study of Defoe's style he did not sacrifice grace to that strength which he thinks comes from being hard and graphic. In anticipation of the visit of General Grant to Jeddo there appeared a sketch of his life in Japanese, in which the author, after speaking with enthusiasm of the achievements of Goranatu, as no calls the General, addresses his readers in the following words:—"Whether we consider the fox among beasts, or the phoenix among birds, we find that even when endowed with unusual abilities the intelligence of these is not equal to that of stupid old women or doltish boys. But men are able, if they choose, to cultivate their talents; and there is a man who has cultivated his great natural abilities, is rich in thought, is admirable in his movements, is as unshakable as heaven and earth, and with whom neither the fox nor the phoenix is for a moment to be compared. Such a one is General Grant, whose intelligence is commanding to a degree, and whose business capacities are truly grand."

A GREAT METEOROLOGICAL FEAT.

(From the Baltimore (Md.) American, Nov. 23.) The New York Herald publishes in parallel columns a table showing the character of its European storm warnings, and the extent to which they were verified during a year of close observation, from which it appears that out of twenty-seven predictions but two proved failures. When it is remembered that these warnings were called to London from three or four days to a week in advance of arrival of the storms, it will be seen that this service was not only a great meteorological feat, but an immense benefit to shipping interests, and all others, indeed, dependent in any way upon the weather. But while the British have derived great practical benefit from these forecasts it is not so clear that we have profited greatly by our extensive weather service in this country. It is true that the daily indications inform us whether the temperature to-day will be higher, lower or stationary; whether it will be fair or clear, and from what quarter the wind will blow; but it is often impossible to ascertain from the general terms in which these predictions are couched the degree to which they will be fulfilled. "Colder weather," for instance, may mean a fall of one or ten or twenty degrees in the thermometer, "warmer weather" may mean a rise equally indefinite. "Clearing weather" may prove to be drenching showers of rain or a clear sky. "Local rains" may not fall anywhere within one hundred miles of us. Computed as these predictions are for large areas of territory, it would be unreasonable, perhaps, to expect any greater accuracy, but it is worth considering whether it is not now within the power of the Weather Bureau to give them a more local application. This has been done on several occasions when special request has been made for predictions covering a given point, and, except in the additional amount of time and trouble it would involve, there is really no reason why all the leading cities in this country should not have every morning their special weather forecasts, besides those now given for the general meteorological departments. In this way we might be able to know in advance not only whether the weather for the day would be warmer or colder, but approximately how many degrees, and the practical value of the information would be greatly enhanced. It is also clearly within the power of the service to extend its prophesies over a much greater period of time than twenty-four hours, and so convey timely warning to travellers of the character of the weather they are likely to encounter in their journey. All these improvements, it may be urged, will involve additional expense; but if a meteorological service is worth having at all it ought to be made as complete and accurate as possible.

POSTMASTER JAMES TO BE SUED.

Independent of the action taken in the matter of stopping the mails addressed to the lottery dealers, in the courts, a meeting of the parties interested was held yesterday afternoon in the room of Postmaster James for the purpose of coming to an understanding. It was finally agreed to commence a friendly suit in the United States District Court against Postmaster James and hurry it through in the shortest possible time.

DR. QUACKENBOS' CONDITION.

At eight o'clock last night Dr. Quackenbos was in a comparatively tranquil slumber, from which he awoke about ten. Within a few minutes of midnight he was awake and restless. The pulse was very low, at one time showing an acceleration of not over thirty pulsations per minute, and at other instants as high as forty. His condition at the hour last named was very precarious.

MR. WHITCHURCH'S EXPULSION.

At a meeting of the Taxpayers' Central Committee last night, at its headquarters, No. 940 Third Avenue, Samuel Whitchurch was expelled from the position of recording secretary and as a delegate to the body.