WASHINGTON.

President Hayes on the Financial Question.

POSITION IN HIS MESSAGE ADHERED TO.

Action of the Banking and Currency Committee.

GENERAL LOOSENING OF PARTY LINES.

A Plan to Set Gold Afloat Among the People.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1879.

THE PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY SHERMAN'S POSITIONS ON THE FINANCIAL QUESTION—NO DEPARTURE FROM THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.

Some Western republicans have allowed their excitement over the President's and Secretary Sherman's financial recommendations to carry them away so completely as to lead them into misrepresentation of the opinions of these officers as privately expressed. It was reported by several Western republicans that both the President and Secretary had, in conversation with them, shown that they desired no action from Congress in accordance with their recommendations, and that, in fact, they had merely talked for buncombe in the Message and report. There is sufficient authority for saying that this report gives an entirely false impression, and that, so far from retreating from their public positions, both the President and Secretary consider their recommendations about the legal tenders to be of the greatest public importance. The following letter, written by the President to a personal friend yesterday—a friend who does not agree with him, by the way—shows accurately where he stands and what he thinks to be advisable and necessary for the country:—

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 1879.

MY DEAR ——:—You want money to be plenty, the rate of interest to be low; at the same time you want the money to be good. You can only have this state of things when there is confidence in the stability of the currency. Capital will not go where it is uncertain in what currency debts will be paid next month or next year. If the legal tender for debts depends on the uncertain action of Congress there will be a want of confidence. The only constitutional legal tender is gold and silver. Depart from that and confidence is gone. All the world now believes that investments in America are likely to be profitable. A sound financial policy will bring us money from all the commercial nations of the earth. In good times prepare for hard times; in good times pay debts. The legal tender notes are debts. Let them be paid by the coin in the Treasury and the coin that is coming in from abroad and it will not contract the circulation. Let our ship be headed in the right direction. It is a sound policy which has brought good times; the same policy will continue good times. Sincerely, R. B. HAYES.

This letter shows that the President is in earnest about the financial policy which he has recommended. It seems doubtful at this moment whether the republicans will, to any extent, support his views. They are much alarmed at the prospect of the currency question coming up and the resolutions of Messrs. Fort and Price in the House, and of Senators Ingalls and Carpenter in the Senate in favor of retaining the legal tender quality of the greenbacks are being assiduously urged as the proper republican ground on finance.

THE LEGAL TENDER CLAUSE BEFORE THE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEE—PROPOSITION TO COMPEL NATIONAL BANKS TO HOLD RESERVES IN COIN.

There is certainly a curious condition of things here in relation to finance questions, as was shown to-day in the Banking and Currency Committee. Mr. Fort, of Illinois, republican, called up his resolution condemning any attempt to withdraw the greenbacks of to repeal their legal tender quality. Thereupon Mr. Lounsbery, democrat, of New York, offered as a substitute a brief bill repealing the sections of the Revised Statutes which make the greenbacks legal tender. There ensued a discussion in which Mr. Ladd, greenbacker, of Maine, took the side of Mr. Fort. Mr. Buckner, (dem.) of Missouri, chairman of the committee, agreed with Mr. Lounsbery, and so did Mr. Chittenden, (rep.) of New York. The whole matter will be considered by the committee next Wednesday, but it is probable that no report will be made until after the holidays. Mr. Buckner said this evening to your correspondent:—

"I am ready to vote for such a proposition as Mr. Bayard's or Mr. Lounsbery's if it is brought before the House. I do not think the Legal Tender act adds a whit to the value of the Treasury notes, and I do think its passage was a glaring invasion of the constitution and admitted rights of the States over contracts."

Mr. Buckner wrote two years ago a very able letter to his constituents exposing the unconstitutionality of the Legal Tender act, a letter which then attracted attention, although the repeal of the act was not then even hoped for. In that letter he showed that all the authorities since the formation of the government were arrayed against the power to make paper money legal tender, excepting the Supreme Court in its notorious decision, and he pointed out that the Legal Tender act was the parent of the whole flat money and unlimited inflation heresy.

The Banking and Currency Committee to-day agreed to a bill of Mr. Buckner's compelling the national banks to keep a large part of their reserve in coin. His object is, in part, to distribute through the country most of the coin which the Treasury is now hoarding, and which, as he probably sees, is exciting the financial genius of different Congressmen. Mr. Fernando Wood, for instance, proposes to have a great part of this store of gold spent to buy maturing bonds, and if he does not succeed in that somebody presently will want to lay hands on it to build Mississippi levees or improve harbors and slack water navigation. Mr. Buckner said this evening to your correspondent:—

"The main purpose of my bill is to set gold and silver afloat among the people. If they can see it and get it they will get accustomed to the use of it and get over the prejudice they now have in favor of paper. The use of gold and silver has been on the increase in my State of Missouri for some months past. If the legal tender sections are repealed by this Congress then the national banks must have coin to redeem their notes, and I want to hasten their acquisition of it. We are to have, I believe, a large paper money inflation. In the next twelve months the national bank note circulation will increase, I believe, at least $50,000,000, and my bill compelling them to keep coin on hand will serve to check this unwholesome inflation and keep it within safe bounds. My desire is also to get out silver which now lies in the Treasury."

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1879.

THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The House Committee on Appropriations had no meeting to-day. They will early in the coming week take up the letter of the Attorney General recommending an appropriation of $600,000 for deficiencies to pay United States marshals and deputy marshals.

THE COMMITTEE ON RULES.

The Committee on Rules met in Mr. Stephens' rooms in the National Hotel to-day to give the finishing touches to their revision of the rules. Mr. Stephens' health was such that he could not go to the Capitol.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE—MR. REAGAN'S BILL.

Congressman Reagan, of Texas, intends to get his bill to regulate interstate commerce by railroads and prevent unjust discrimination by common carriers before the House at the earliest practicable moment. The Committee on Commerce will have a meeting on Tuesday, at which they will give a hearing to all parties interested, and it is the intention, if possible, to be ready to report the bill at the first call of the committee in the House. When once reported it will of course go to a place on the calendar, and its friends think it of the utmost importance that it should be as near the top as possible, as otherwise it may be lost for want of time for action in one or the other of the houses. With an early start its friends believe that it can be got through.

THE HOLIDAY RECESS.

Some of the managers on the democratic side have been to-day considering the question of adjournment, and it was agreed among them to favor beginning the holiday recess on Friday, the 19th inst. Monday, the 15th, was suggested by some, but this proposition was defeated. The day for reassembling will probably be Monday, January 5.

COLONIZING NEGRO VOTERS IN INDIANA—DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF THE EMIGRANTS—A BAD POLITICAL MOVE.

State Senator Foster, of Ripley county, Ind., is in the city and was questioned to-day with regard to the negro emigration to his State. He reports that about two thousand negroes have reached there to date. The first lot that arrived in the State consisted of fifty men and four women, but now they are rushing in with all their relations, and some of them are in a deplorable state of destitution. The people of Indiana would welcome able-bodied laborers, but he says that the people are beginning to look upon the whole project as a scheme to colonize voters in the State. They have no feeling against the negroes, who they believe to be dupes, but there is an intense feeling against those who have duped them. If the negroes had gone there of their own accord they would all have been well received, and would have obtained employment and good wages; but as it is there is a very strong public sentiment against them, and the people have become disgusted. The public sentiment in his section of the State is so strong that the farmers and others who employ these people find themselves in a measure ostracised. If the movement is intended as a political one Mr. Foster predicts that it will be entirely ineffectual, because the party expecting political capital out of it will lose more by the defection of the citizens of Indiana than they can possibly gain by the newcomers.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1879.

THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

The President to-day appointed Wilbur R. Smiley, of Providence, R. I., to fill the vacancy in the Board of Indian Commissioners, caused by the death of J. D. Lang, of Maine. The President has also appointed General George Stoneman, of California, to fill the other vacancy in this Board, which has remained unfilled for about four years. The Board now consists of ten members, the maximum number allowed by law.

RESOLUTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES PRICE AND FORT IN THE BANKING COMMITTEE.

The Banking and Currency Committee to-day took up the resolutions introduced in the House a few days ago by Representatives Price and Fort, but after briefly discussing them, laid them aside for consideration at a meeting called for next Wednesday. A prominent democratic member of the committee expresses the opinion, based upon the tenor of the preliminary discussion this morning, that the committee will probably take no action at present upon these resolutions, or in regard to the President's and Secretary Sherman's recommendations therein referred to.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1879.

The United States steamer Tallapoosa sailed from Portsmouth, N. H., for the Boston Navy Yard at nine o'clock this morning. The report of the arrival of the Constellation at Gibraltar was received by the Secretary of the Navy to-day.

Chief Engineer Alfred Adamson has been ordered to the Swatara at Boston, Mass. Passed Assistant Surgeon M. D. Jones has been ordered to duty at the Naval Academy. Passed Assistant Engineer Levi I. Safford has been ordered to the Swatara. Passed Assistant Engineer Charles F. Nagle has been ordered to the Rio Bravo at Brownsville, Texas. Master S. A. Starinton is detached from the Naval Academy and ordered to hold himself in readiness for orders to the Swatara. Ensign Edward D. Bostick is detached from the Passaic and ordered to hold himself in readiness for orders to the Swatara. Passed Assistant Surgeon E. H. Green is detached from the Naval Academy and ordered to hold himself in readiness for sea service. Passed Assistant Engineer Robert D. Taylor is detached from the Rio Bravo and ordered home to await orders.

First Lieutenant S. W. Quackenbush, commanding the Marine Guard on board the United States revenue steamer Franklin, at Norfolk, Va., has been detached and ordered to report to the commandant at Brooklyn, N. Y., to relieve Captain G. P. Houston, in command of the guard of the United States flagship Powhatan.

JUDGE ALBRIGHT ACQUITTED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Dec. 5, 1879.

The trial of Edwin Albright, President Judge of this district, for the embezzlement of a pension belonging to Elizabeth Wetherhold, while practising law at the Bar of Lehigh county in 1866, commenced yesterday morning. The whole day was consumed in taking testimony of the witnesses who had been subpœnaed to testify in the case. Although the amount was very small, being only $100, the interest taken in the case was general, owing to the prominence of the defendant, as well as his recognized official integrity. The counsel in the case commenced argument before the jury early this morning, and at about three o'clock this afternoon the jury returned a verdict of acquittal, after an absence of five minutes.

NO OUTRAGES IN LOUISIANA.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Dec. 5, 1879.

The report from Delta, published in the New Orleans *Observer* and telegraphed thence last night, about affairs in Madison parish, La., is pronounced false in every particular. R. H. Brown, one of the men reported to have been hanged, was at his home at Tallulah, La., this evening, and was well and hearty. The other cases reported are on a par with that of Brown. The election passed off more quietly than has been known for years.

CAPTAIN ROWLES' REMAINS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

BALTIMORE, Dec. 5, 1879.

Preparations have been made for the removal of the remains of the late Captain Henry Rowles to England for final interment. A burial service was held at the Church of the Messiah (Episcopal) to-day. Sexton Brancker, president of the St. George's Society; John Gill, William Goodwin, William M. Pegram, R. H. Pugh, George R. Woods and Thomas Morris were the pall bearers. The Episcopal burial service was impressively read by Rev. Dr. Kirkus, formerly a clergyman in England, and now a rector in this diocese. The casket bore a silver plate, engraved with the name of the deceased, and was shrouded in the British Union Jack. There was a large attendance of representative business men and government officials present at the ceremonies. At the close of the service the cortège proceeded to the harbor, where the corpse was transported to the steamer Orchis, which sailed for Liverpool this afternoon. The funeral fleet comprised the yacht Chronometer, revenue steamer Guthrie and a number of other steam sailing vessels. All the flags on the shipping in the harbor were at half mast, and the flags on all the public buildings were also lowered as marks of respect. Captain Rowles leaves a widow and four sons residing at Gloucester, England. He was formerly master of the Orchis, but was transferred to the steamship Rathmore, of the same line, on which vessel he met his death two weeks ago off Cape Henry, as already announced in the HERALD.

THE COAL TRADE.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5, 1879.

The Lehigh Coal Exchange met to-day at the rooms of the organization, and spent some time in discussing a proposition to limit coal production during the coming season. The agreement provides for a stoppage of mining operations for about one-third of the time. No definite action was taken upon the proposition, and it is likely another meeting of the Exchange will be held at an early day. No change in prices was made at to-day's meeting.

The Schuylkill Exchange will meet to-morrow to consider and act upon the proposition to limit production by working only two-thirds time. It is understood the Schuylkill trade is almost a unit in favor of the proposition.

SMOTHERED IN GRAIN.

THREE MEN LOSE THEIR LIVES BY THE FALLING OF A MILL FLOOR—THREE THOUSAND BUSHELS OF GRAIN FALL ON THEM—EXCITEMENT AT BROCKTON, MASS.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 5, 1879.

A terrible accident took place in the grain and flour mill of Ellis Packard at Brockton, Mass., about five o'clock P. M., in which C. A. Nourse, Dennis Lynch and Dennis Reardon lost their lives by suffocation. The men had been at work on the second floor of the building shovelling corn for the past two or three days, and at the time of the accident had transferred about five thousand bushels from the elevator to the floor, where it lay in bulk. Suddenly, without the slightest warning, the timbers and flooring gave way, and the men were precipitated about twenty feet into the cellar and buried deeply by 3,000 bushels of corn which fell with them. The news spread like wildfire over the town, and in a few minutes after the building was surrounded by hundreds of people.

A force was immediately set to work to shovel the men out, though there was not the slightest possibility of finding them alive, while another gang commenced to remove the timbers and débris. The men worked with a will, and at half-past six o'clock found the body of Nourse, the bodies of Lynch and Reardon being discovered a few minutes later. At this time the excitement of the crowd was intense, and the grief of the widow of Lynch, who was present, was terrible to witness. The bodies were removed to an undertaker's, where Medical Examiner Paine took them in charge.

The exact cause of the disaster is difficult to ascertain.

The building is about twenty-five years old, and probably the timbers had become somewhat rotten and weakened, although the flooring had lately been strengthened by additional supports.

Mr. Packard states that he has before had a much larger amount of grain on the floor at one time, and has heretofore considered it perfectly safe.

Nourse, the miller, was about thirty-two years of age, and leaves a wife and one child. He was universally liked. He came from Rockingham, Vt.

Reardon was about thirty years of age, and leaves a wife and two children.

Lynch was thirty-five years of age, and leaves a wife and two children.

An inquest will be held.

A SINKING VILLAGE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 5, 1879.

At a late hour last night the citizens of Mahanoy Plane, a mining town of some five hundred inhabitants, located about fifteen miles north of this place, were startled from their slumbers by loud reports and agitation of the surface earth. A scene of confusion and excitement ensued throughout the town. Gardens began to disappear and dwellings to rock and topple, causing the occupants to rush for places of safety. After the excitement had somewhat subsided an investigation was had, when it was found that the trouble was caused by the caving in of a part of the colliery of Messrs. Miller, Hoch & Co., which runs under the village. The owners are said to have taken out coal which should have been left as pillars to support the earth above. The removal of this coal has left nothing but a shell of earth above, which lies beneath private property, and in many instances directly under dwelling houses, the foundations of which have become cracked, as is also the ground for blocks around, making it a risk of life to longer remain in the buildings. As a consequence people were up all night busy removing their household effects to places beyond the reach of the subsidence. An injunction will be applied for in court by the residents of the town to compel the mine owners to cease mining coal in this portion of the colliery. A similar sinking occurred at this place several months ago, but not in as thickly a populated portion of the village. There is much anxiety felt in the community for the safety of those living in close proximity to the mine, as it is liable to cave in at any time.

WARNING TO STEAMSHIP COMPANIES

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 5, 1879.

The Canadian government contemplate making the transatlantic steamship companies responsible for their agents, who, under false pretences, induce pauper immigration to this country, and will impose a fine in each individual case, and will refrain in future from assisting in defraying the cost of transporting immigrants from ports of entry to points of destination.

It is probable that the Dominion Parliament will meet during the first week of February next.

OFFICIAL CRUELTY REBUKED.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 5, 1879.

A large meeting of influential citizens to give expression to the sentiment of the community with regard to the recent revelations concerning the House of Correction management and the refusal on the part of the Board of Supervisors to receive the report of its special committee of investigation was held at the Chamber of Commerce this afternoon. Alexander Mitchell presided and several prominent men addressed the meeting. Mr. Angus Smith summarized the abuses reported in the House of Correction. He said the Board of Supervisors were criminally responsible for them and should be called to account. The good name of the city demands that such a state of affairs never occur again. The people were ready to be taxed for anything that will remedy the evil, and the odium that has fallen upon the city should be removed at all hazards.

Other speakers followed in the same strain. The Committee on Resolutions then reported a preamble reciting the widely known abuses proved to exist in the House of Correction and the necessity for a change in the administration of that institution, together with the following:—

Resolved, That public duty and public interest demand that in the treatment of criminals the aim should be, not only at punishment of crime, but still more at reformation; that the policy of deriving revenue from the labor of convicts should in all cases be kept strictly subservient to the higher purpose of reformation; that the system of placing together all classes and ages of criminals is wrong, and we believe it to be the duty of the city, at whatever cost, to provide for the separate care of persons convicted of light misdemeanors, offences of persons in early years, and of more hardened criminals and those convicted of aggravated crimes; that proper treatment does not involve either the exercise of cruelty or the use of abusive language. We heartily deplore the fact that the latter have both been in use at the House of Correction and denounce any such officials who have so abused their trusts; and we express our indignation at those members of the Board of Supervisors who have opposed inquiry into the management of the House of Correction and refused to adopt the report of an investigation committee of their own number.

The resolutions concluded with the thanks of the community to the press and to all who have aided in arousing public attention to the condition of the House of Correction and placing the real facts of the case clearly before the public.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 5, 1879.

Mr. Devereaux, receiver of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, is in the city to-day in consultation with some of the officers of the Pittsburg and Lake Erie Railroad. It has leaked out that there is an arrangement in progress by which the management of the latter company contemplates buying the Atlantic and Great Western road at the sale which is soon to take place under foreclosure of the first mortgage. The Pittsburg and Lake Erie road connects with the Atlantic and Great Western at Youngstown, Ohio, and it is important to its prosperity that the Atlantic and Great Western should not fall into the hands of its rival, the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Pittsburg and Lake Erie is very strong financially, and is able to control sufficient money to make the purchase if it is thought best to do so.

CALIFORNIA MINING STOCKS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 5, 1879.

Official closing prices of mining stocks to-day:—

Alpha	8¼	Justice	1½
Alta	2⅞	Leviathan	⅛
Argenta	29-32	Leeds	13-32
Belcher	1⅞	Lady Washington	19-32
Best & Belcher	12	Mexican	19
Bullion	4⅜	Martin White	27-32
Bodie	8¾	Mono	4
Belle Isle	1⅜	Mammoth	5½
Bechtel	1⅛	McClinton	13-32
Boston Consolidated	1⅜	Northern Belle	6⅛
Bulwer	9¾	North Bonanza	19-32
Black Hawk	⅛	Noonday	3
Belvidere	19-32	Navajo	⅛
California	3¾	Ophir	22½
Chollar	6⅝	Overman	5⅛
Con. Virginia	3¾	Potosi	3½
Crown Point	1⅛	Raymond & Ely	19-32
Caledonia	1	Real del Monte	1⅜
Eureka Consolidated	17¾	Savage	7⅛
Exchequer	3	Sierra Nevada	30½
Gould & Curry	6¼	South Bulwer	⅛
Grand Prize	⅜	Silver King	4
Golden Terra	12⅛	Syndicate	2⅛
Goodshaw	5-32	Silver Hill	15-16
Hale & Norcross	9	Tioga	2
Hillside	1½	Tip Top	1⅜
Imperial	9-16	Union Consolidated	50⅜
Independence	9-16	Wales	3
Julia Consolidated	1⅛	Yellow Jacket	9

GENERAL GRANT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

CHICAGO, Dec. 5, 1879.

The reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Perry H. Smith last evening in honor of General Grant was remarkable for its elegance and brilliancy and for the large and distinguished gathering present. To-night the General and Mrs. Grant attended another reception, given by the Chicago Academy of Design, at their gallery, corner of State and Washington streets. A very handsome memorial invitation, printed in gold letters on white silk, was presented to the General yesterday by the Reception Committee. The affair is very elegant in every respect and attended by Chicago's best citizens.

AN INVITATION TO MILWAUKEE.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 5, 1879.

In response to an invitation from representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Association of this city to General Grant to become their guest at such time next May or June as may be most convenient, the General has written a letter of acceptance, in which he says he expects to return to Galena about the 1st of May, and will leave it to the citizens of Milwaukee to fix their own time for the visit, not later, however, than the 10th of June.

An effort is being made to have the general reunion of the Wisconsin soldiers, now set for August, so changed as to meet the time of General Grant's visit.

PREPARATIONS TO WELCOME HIM IN KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 5, 1879.

The preparations for General Grant's reception in Louisville are extensive and complete. He will be received at the Indianapolis depot and escorted by the Mayor and a large procession to the Court House, where the Governor and a committee of representative citizens will be assembled. The Mayor will then make his speech of welcome, and after Grant's response the Governor will speak for the State. General Grant will then go to the Louisville Hotel, where elegant apartments are provided, and after lunch will receive citizens and ex-soldiers who desire to pay their respects. At five o'clock he dines with Henry Watterson. Mrs. Faulds and her sister, Mrs. Shreve, will give a handsome reception to Mrs. Grant from four to six o'clock. Main street at night from eight to ten o'clock will be illuminated through which General and Mrs. Grant will pass to the Galt House, where one of the most brilliant receptions ever given in Louisville will take place.

GRANT'S VISIT TO BROOKLYN.

President Ray, of the Brooklyn Common Council, yesterday appointed a Committee on Preparations to receive General U. S. Grant on the occasion of the expected visit of the ex-President to that city. The following named Aldermen were designated to serve on the committee:—Messrs. Aitken, Kane, McCarty, Fritz, O'Connell, Waters and Seamon. The committee visited Mayor Howell yesterday, and he advised them to defer action until it was definitely known that General Grant will visit the city and accept a public reception. Should the General do so His Honor will see that suitable measures are taken to fittingly honor him. The members of Rankin Post, No. 10, and other Grand Army posts have informally discussed the project of according a reception to the General, who is a "comrade" of one of the Philadelphia posts. The President, *pro tem.* of the Kings County Board of Supervisors will appoint a committee of seven members, as directed by the Board, "to take such measures as the dignity and patriotism of the county may demand, and said committee are authorized to act with any committee that may represent the city of Brooklyn."

A GREAT CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 5, 1879.

The *Official Gazette* of to-morrow will contain the notice of an application to Parliament at its next session for power to construct a line of railway from the north shore of Lake Winnipeg to Hudson's Bay, with a view to forming a connection with a line of steamers to ply between Fort York at the mouth of Nelson River and points on the other side of the Atlantic. The Canadian government have been considering the practicability of establishing an ocean route via Hudson's Bay and the Straits, and are likely to afford every encouragement to an enterprise that promises to open up a new outlet for the produce of the Northwest of the Dominion.

WAS THE CHILD POISONED?

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A DOCTOR—ACCUSED OF PRESCRIBING POISONOUS MEDICINE FOR A CHILD.

Dr. Gabriel J. Wolff, sixty years of age, of No. 251 East Tenth street, was arrested and locked up in the Tenth Precinct Police Station last evening on complaint of Officer Chiardi, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, it being alleged that the doctor was guilty of endangering the life of a child by administering a prescription containing a heavy dose of poison. The facts in the case, so far as they could be obtained last night, are stated to be as follows:—On the 8th day of last November Dr. Wolff was called to a dwelling in Eighth street, near avenue C, to attend to a domestic known as "Annie." A male child was born, and immediately after the birth the mother left for parts unknown, leaving the child in charge of Dr. Wolf. The Doctor advertised for a person to adopt the child, and was answered by a Mrs. Fredericka Rusch, of No. 47 Delancey street. The child was given to the Reusch family, and the doctor instructed them that, in case the babe was taken sick, they should call him immediately. Last Thursday the child was taken ill and the doctor summoned. He prescribed the following prescription:—One-half dram tincture of opium crocota; acid aromatic tincture, two drams; two half ounces syrup of cinnamon. One teaspoonful was to be given every hour.

Mr. Reusch took the prescription to a drug store on the corner of Eldridge and Delancey streets, kept by C. A. Proben. It was handed to Mr. Probert to compound, and as he read it he asked Mr. Reusch what it was for. "For a child two weeks old," replied Mr. Reusch. "Why there is poison enough in the prescription to kill a horse," the apothecary replied. "I will compound it, but only one-eighth the strength." A teaspoonful was given to the child Saturday, and from that time it rapidly grew worse. Its form became emaciated, its eyes sunken and its tonsil swollen. Three days afterward it was unable to swallow anything and last evening the condition of the child was so critical that Captain Allaire, of the Eldridge street police station, was informed of the particulars of the case. Officer Chiardi was telegraphed for and upon his arrival Dr Burrian, of No. 70 Rivington street, was called to examine the child. His opinion was that it would not recover, and he said the prescription contained a heavy dose of poison. Dr. Wolff was arrested forthwith and taken to the police station, but he refused to say anything whatever that would throw any light on the mystery now surrounding the case. He was locked in a cell and will be arraigned in Essex Market Court this morning.

CHARITY FOR SINNERS.

MR. BEECHER EXHORTS HIS HEARERS AT PLYMOUTH PRAYER MEETING TO AID THE REPENTANT IN THEIR SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

At the regular weekly prayer meeting of Plymouth Church, held last evening, Rev. Mr. Beecher, holding the Bible open upon the little table by his side, read, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." How wise that is, said Mr. Beecher. If a man be overtaken in a fault, ye that are spiritual, who never commit such faults and are not tempted, restore such an one. But you are not to go to them and look down upon them and tell them what their sins have been. You are not to make them feel bad, but restore them in a spirit of meekness. Go to them with that sweetness, gentleness and meekness which will make it an easy thing for them to bear humiliation, rebuke and restoration. You yourself may be tempted. There is no man who is not liable to fall some time; and when a man falls restore him. Don't abuse him; don't neglect him. Restore him as a sister would a sister—as a mother would a child. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ." Mr. Beecher, after speaking at some length on the burdens of life, referred to the recent pardoning of William C. Gilman. After giving in detail a history of this crime, conviction and sentence, Mr. Beecher said that Mr. Gilman's life was now before him in a Christian land and in a Christian city. Would he be permitted to restore himself? Could he get back again. Not without a scar, perhaps, but could he be permitted to stand again and take care of his two little boys and meet that kind Christian sympathy and fellowship? That is the question. Men that believe in the law, that are protected by the law, find it the most difficult thing in the world to give sympathy to a man that has broken the law, and that after 2,000 years of the example of Christ. There will be in this instance an opportunity of showing how if a Christian man under temptation stumbles and falls there is the grace of God left to lift up the fallen man and restore him to strength and usefulness.

A business meeting was held at the close of the prayer meeting, at which Mr. Beecher made a motion to the effect that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Sherman, Pratt and Hale should consider the question of applying for the admission of Plymouth Church to the New York and Brooklyn Congregational Association, to which only the pastor's now belong, and report on next Friday evening.

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—"MIGNON."

Guglielmo ..... Signor Campanini
Lotario ..... Signor Del Puente
Federico ..... Mlle. Annie Louise Cary
Laerte ..... Signor Rinaldini
Antonio ..... Signor Grazzi
Giarno ..... Signor Monti
Filina ..... Mlle. Alwina Valleria
Mignon ..... Mme. Emilie Ambre

Mme. Ambre appeared as Mignon last evening at the Academy of Music before an audience that was of fair size and willing to encourage her in her undertaking. She was judiciously and even warmly applauded, and if her Mignon fell short of a success it was not owing to the coldness of the house. The cast was a notably strong one and the setting of the piece was good. It will be seen from this that Mme. Ambre appeared under pleasant circumstances. She sang much of the score very well; in her dramatic treatment of the *rôle* there was something to praise, but more to blame. The chief fault of her Mignon was that it lacked clearness and boldness of outline. There was not a consistency in the treatment of the character that gave to it an individuality of its own, and, as a result, Mme. Ambre left no impression on her audience that was vivid and distinct as to her conception of Goethe's heroine. It was not the "refined and ethereal child" of the poet, nor was it the forcible and demonstrative being which some of our lyric artists have made it. It was not an embodiment of the simplicity and grace of nature, nor was it the representation of the force and power of dramatic art. It was evidently intended as a medium between the two, but it was not broad enough to take on the color of either, and as a result it was vague, undefined and shadowy. But it must be remembered that this was the impression of the picture as a whole; in some of its details it was very good, as, for instance, in the sixth scene—that with Guglielmo—in the second act, where Mme. Ambre's *pose*, her whole bearing and her vocalism were remarkably clever. Her manner, her voice, her face, all expressed a world of pathos as she sang,

To-morrow? Who knows where we shall be to-morrow?
'Tis known alone to God, who this vast world doth rule.

In direct contrast to this was her unpicturesque posing and lumblike method of skipping about the stage, in a costume that was marvellously unbecoming, in the earlier scenes, and her careless phrasing of passages which should have conveyed a depth of sentiment. In fact, it is better and more just to her to abandon a criticism of her Mignon, and simply consider the opera as a series of numbers, which she sang. This will admit of a closer estimate of her vocal ability.

The famous air "Non Conosci il bel suol" was sung in parts with good and full voice, and many passages were of a very sweet quality. The fault lay in the fact that the introductory phrases were not invested with that dreamy, mysterious character that they should have possessed, calling up reminiscences of a distant, bygone time. The duo with Lotario which succeeds it was really remarkably well done, and it was a pity that the fine cadenza was omitted, as it would have greatly added to the fine result Mme. Ambre effected.

Mignon's scena in the second act was very creditable, the recitative was good and the runs and trills in the ballata were excellently executed, the only weak point of it all resting in the fact that it lacked a dramatic finish to make it strong throughout. Some bits of recitative later in the scene she did nicely, but her demonstration of emotion, which always seems to necessitate proportionate motion, detracted from an otherwise good effort.

The opening of act third saw some of Mme. Ambre's best work in action and vocalism, the "deh perche mai l'ira del cielo," &c., possessing considerable vocal force and showing marked dramatic ability. The prayer, "Oh, Virgene Maria," was delivered with great feeling, and throughout the whole of this finale there was a great improvement observable in the Mignon of the evening.

It was midnight when the house was emptied, and only a brief note can be made of the general cast, although it was of so excellent a quality that each individual member assumed a prominent place in every act.

Signor Campanini is without doubt the greatest living Guglielmo, and he sang with a vim, a dash, a brilliancy that was superb. Every note in the crescendo passages rang out clear as a bell, and his phrasing of the delicately shaded music with which his part teems was simply exquisite. So much of the work of the evening falls on him that to detail it all is impossible now.

Mlle. Valleria sang very well; her polonaise was brilliant and effective in the sustained and detached notes, but the rapid passages were not clearly emitted.

The conception of the piece was good, but when hurried by the brisk movements she fell a trifle flat more than once. Miss Cary was a dashing and charming Federico, and her famous Rondo-gavotte "Ci sono" was very well rendered. Both Mlle. Valleria and Miss Cary made marked impressions in their parts, and, with Signors Campanini and Del Puente, earned deserved laurels. Signor Del Puente's Lotario was a most finished performance, and his aria in the last act one of the features of the evening.

Of the opera it may be said that it did not make a marked success, but possessed too many good points to be declared a failure.

BOOTH AS BERTUCCIO—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

Bertuccio (a jester) ..... Mr. Edwin Booth
Galeotto Manfredi (Duke of Faenza) ..... Mr. H. S. Duffield
Guido Malatesta (an old military commander ..... Mr. J. Eilsler
Serafim Dell'Aquila (a poet) ..... Mr. Gustavus Levick
Baldassare Torrelli (a nobleman) ..... Mr. Charles Harkinson
Gian Ordelaffi (a courtier) ..... Mr. J. Nolton
Bernardi Ascoli (a Florentine ambassador) ..... Mr. J. Daly
Ascanio (page to Francesca) ..... Master Fritz Williams
Francesca Bentivoglio (wife of Manfredi) ..... Miss Kate Meek
Fiordelisa (daughter of Bertuccio) ..... Miss Marion Booth
Ginevra (wife of Malatesta) ..... Miss Irene Worrell
Brigitta (servant to Bertuccio) ..... Mrs. Fred Williams

Tom Taylor's adaptation of Victor Hugo's "The Fool's Revenge" was given at the Grand Opera House last night. The great building was crowded, as it has been on the first nights of the various other pieces in which Mr. Booth has become famous. The actor played the leading part at least as well as ever before, and the audience was uproariously enthusiastic, remaining *en masse* at the end of the performance, and calling the favorite again and again before the curtain.

Mr. Booth seems to play Bertuccio simply to prove his possession of abilities which the other characters in his *répertoire* do not develop. It certainly is his most powerful part, and, repulsive as the play is and should be, it has features which always command a large audience. Perhaps the fact that many of the better class of play goers will not look at such pieces at all and a large number of the lower class gloat over everything of its kind is one reason why "The Fool's Revenge" is so seldom placed on the boards to magnify the actor's fame and the manager's bank balance. Of the rendition of the leading *rôle* last night there is little but good to be said. The easy insolence and venomous tongue of the Court jester; the heavy hatred that comes of long-deferred revenge; the Satanic glee that could not be hidden, even during the subtle trickery that was to humiliate the spoiler of his home of years long gone; the tigerish glare at his supposed victim; the tender, ardent affection of the only parent of a single child; the awful change from joy to wretchedness when he learns that he has mistakenly placed in the power of the dissolute Duke his own daughter instead of the wife of his enemy—all these phases of the character of Bertuccio were strongly presented. The only weak point of the performance was the acting immediately following the fatal discovery. Simulated helplessness at this point is good in itself and preferable to the crazy rant with which some actors have invested the scene, but it is not all that the occasion demands nor is it the best that Mr. Booth is capable of doing. The support was tolerable but far from sufficient. Miss Marion Booth, who in the absence of Miss Muldener played Fiordelisa, was billed as a niece of the tragedian, and made on this occasion, we believe, her first New York appearance. She has a handsome, intelligent face, but evidently her dramatic training has barely begun. Miss Kate Meek was quite strong as Francesca, Mrs. Fred Williams was sufficient to the thankless part of Brigitta and Messrs. Eilsler and Levick made the most of their few lines. One of the encores of the evening was honestly earned by little Master Fritz Williams, who played the Page with a degree of spirit and grace not common to stage juveniles.

GERMANIA THEATRE—THE NARRATIVE OF THE QUEEN OF NAVARRA.

Carl V., King of Spain ..... Herr Ruberg
Franz I., King of France ..... Herr Reinan
Margaret, his sister ..... Fraulein Irschick
Isabella of Portugal, bride of Carl V. ..... Fraulein Necker
Eleonore, sister of Carl V ..... Fraulein Bensberg
Geratilnara, King's Minister ..... Herr Bojock
Henri d'Albert, nobleman of Bearse ..... Herr Meery
Babieca, Cabinet courier ..... Herr Sauer

This interesting depiction of sixteenth century intrigue in Spain was presented at the Germania Theatre last night to an indulgent audience. The play, originally French, gives many opportunities for the display of elegant finesse in the dialogue, which, with one or two exceptions, were last night lost. Irschick, however, made amends for the defaults of her support, and, notwithstanding that the good humored audience was once or twice forced to laugh when the text and business, properly observed, called for no such manifestation from them, an enjoyable evening was afforded. The scene in which Margaret inveigles her imprisoned brother to eat food which he had forsworn was the cause of much merriment, owing to the realistic and peculiarly consistent quality of material on which he broke his fast. It was drawn with great reluctance from a bowl with a spoon, and seemed to be of about the same consistency as fresh pulled toffy. Though the gods seemed inclined to make undue merriment over this frugal