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BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,

PROPRIETOR.

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44TH YEAR.....NO. 342

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—DINORAH.
BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE—STRATEGISTS.
ABERLE'S THEATRE—THE BOY DETECTIVE.
BOOTH'S THEATRE—CAPOUL'S BENEFIT.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—ENCHANTMENT.
WALLACK'S—ESTELLE.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—H. M. S. PINAFORE.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—FRENCH FLATS.
STANDARD THEATRE—FATINITZA.
AQUARIUM—PERFORMING ANIMALS. Matinée.
ABBEY'S PARK—FRITZ IN IRELAND.
DALY'S THEATRE—ARABIAN NIGHT.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.
THALIA THEATRE—EINER VON UNSERE LEUT.
HAVERLY'S THEATRE—THE GALLEY SLAVE.
GERMANIA THEATRE—KOENIGIN VON NAVARRA.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—THOMPSON STREET FLATS.
TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—VARIETY.
THEATRE COMIQUE—MULLIGAN GUARDS' CHRISTMAS.
ACADEMY OF DESIGN—MODERN PAINTINGS.
KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL.
AMERICAN INSTITUTE—DAIRY FAIR.
BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE—A DOUBLE MARRIAGE.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be colder and partly cloudy or fair. To-morrow it will be warmer and partly cloudy, possibly with rains.

THE WALL STREET BOOM seems to have been broken.

HANLAN WANTS his six thousand dollars. We hope he may get it.

OF COURSE Max Maretzek did not run away. He only came home for rest.

THE SLEEPY OLD TOWN OF COLON, now known as Aspinwall, has had a period of stormy weather.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES—The Republican Congressional Committee organizing for the national campaign.

HOW CLEAN OUR STREETS looked yesterday after the storm! Now is a good time to begin keeping them in a decent condition.

MR. PARNELL will, no doubt, have a hearty welcome, if we may judge by the preparations by the Irish residents of New York.

A MAN WHO MURDERED HIS MISTRESS in this city over two years ago is now under arrest for trial, he having been caught in California.

GENERAL GRANT has at last declared himself willing to be a president, but it is the Commercial Club of Chicago, and not the nation, he alluded to.

IF ANY ONE of our readers happens to be discontented with his lot in life let him read the doleful story of "No One to Love Him" in to-day's HERALD.

FOR A THOROUGH ROASTING of Mr. Fernando Wood see Secretary Sherman's remarks upon that gentleman's financial obstructiveness in our Washington despatches.

MR. BEECHER thinks the religious press equally guilty with secular newspapers in being unwilling to acknowledge its errors. Well, religious editors are but men after all.

AN IMPORTANT RAILROAD ENTERPRISE has been completed by which the west side elevated railroads are to be placed in direct communication with New Haven, Springfield and Boston.

THE ABSENCE OF A FLAGMAN at the Fordham crossing on the Harlem Railroad put over seventy lives in peril. As nobody was hurt the accident will, of course, be forgotten until the next one happens.

THE WATER STREET MISSION has been in operation eight years with gratifying results. At the meeting yesterday twenty-five hundred dollars were subscribed in thirty minutes. That is practical Christianity.

THE TENANTS' MEETINGS at Castlerea and Castlebar yesterday were enthusiastically attended, but the proceedings were quiet. This anti-rent question does not need violence to insure success, and it is gratifying to know that the agitators recognize that fact.

MR. TALMAGE is quite indifferent whether he remains in the Presbytery or not. If it wants him he will cheerfully stay in the fold, but if the contrary the whole church will go out together, all of which shows that personal preaching is a great attraction nowadays.

THE WEATHER.—The centre of disturbance moved into the ocean off the Nova Scotia coast early yesterday afternoon and is now crossing toward Europe north of latitude 40 degrees. It was attended during its movement over the Middle Atlantic and New England States by heavy rains and electrical phenomena. The winds, however, did not increase very much except in the extreme Northeast. The barometer rose in the Northwest and on the South Atlantic coast, while it remained nearly stationary in the central valleys and fell decidedly in the Southwest. In the latter district the eastern margin of a disturbance advancing from the regions of Texas and Northern Mexico has become very well defined. Its path is likely to be through the zone of low barometer that extends from the Western Gulf of Mexico to the St. Lawrence Valley, and we shall therefore experience some of its influence as it moves eastward of our district. Snow fell throughout the upper lake regions and the Northwest, and rain in the Middle Atlantic and New England States. In the other districts the weather was generally fair. The winds have been brisk in the lower lake regions, the Middle Atlantic and New England States, and light elsewhere. The temperature fell in all the districts except on the Gulf coast. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be colder and partly cloudy or fair. To-morrow it will be warmer and partly cloudy, possibly with rains.

The Administration and the Legal Tender Notes.

The letter of President Hayes to a private correspondent, written on Thursday last and printed in the HERALD of Saturday, should explode the rumors that the President intended the most important part of his Message as a mere flourish. The conversation of Secretary Sherman with our Washington correspondent, which we print to-day, should in like manner dissipate suspicion that he has receded from any of his financial recommendations to Congress. There has been such an unscrupulous attempt to confuse and mislead the public mind respecting the position of the President and Secretary of the Treasury on a question of the first magnitude that it is proper to set forth precisely what those views are to which the responsible members of the administration adhere.

There are three officers of the government whose duty requires them to bestow special attention on the currency—the Comptroller of the Currency, the Secretary of the Treasury and the President. There is a substantial unity of opinion among these officers. So far as they differ it is only a difference as to how fast and how far the government should move in the same direction. Comptroller Knox, from a modest sense of his subordinate position, merely recommends that the national banks be required to keep all their reserves in coin as a mode of approaching the ultimate result. Secretary Sherman, whose position is more responsible and his authority greater, recommends the divesting of the greenbacks of their legal tender quality and the reduction of their amount from three hundred and forty-six millions to three hundred millions. The President goes still further, and recommends the retirement of the legal tender notes as a debt which the government is bound to pay, and which it has no constitutional authority to keep in circulation in that form. Both in his Message and in his more recent private letter the President is emphatic on the constitutional point. He declared in his Message:—"It is my firm conviction that the issue of legal tender paper money based wholly upon the authority and credit of the government, except in extreme emergency, is without warrant in the constitution." He says even more pointedly in his letter, "The only constitutional legal tender is gold and silver."

It is a question of some interest whether the doctrines laid down by the executive officers of the government on this great subject are of such a nature that they could consistently consent to a postponement of action to some future session of Congress. This is really a question between sincerity and buncombe, which there would be a manifest indecorum in discussing if it had not been so widely raised. We propose to show that the committals of the President and Secretary are so precise and unequivocal as to leave no loophole of retreat if they were ever so much inclined to find one.

The President said in his Message:—"The issue of United States notes with the capacity of legal tender between private individuals was not authorized except as a means of rescuing the country from imminent peril. The circulation of these notes as paper money, for any protracted period of time after the accomplishment of this purpose, was not contemplated by the framers of the law under which they were issued. They anticipated the redemption and withdrawal of these notes at the earliest practicable period consistent with the attainment of the object for which they were provided." This language admits of no interpretation which would countenance further delay. "The redemption and withdrawal of these notes at the earliest practicable period" means their redemption and withdrawal as soon as Congress can take the necessary legislative steps. The whole drift of what the President said on the subject in his Message, and has repeated since, conveys the idea that there is no longer any excuse for postponement. He maintains that the time to pay debts is when we have the means, and that our means are now abundant. "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." That this is consistent with delay, that it can be reconciled to further postponement, that it contemplates inaction, is contrary to the plain purport of the language. It would be irrelevant and stultifying to insist that the present season of prosperity is the most suitable time for paying the legal tender debt if the President desires no legislation to that end during this session. The reported conversations in a different sense were a weak invention of the inflationists.

Although Secretary Sherman did not go as far in his report as the President did in his Message, what he recommended was put in a form which it is equally impossible to explain away. All the reasoning with which he supports his recommendation is based on the present credit of the notes, which he states to be so high as to render the legal tender quality superfluous. He maintains that they would now be received as readily and circulate as freely without the legal tender function as with it. It would be absurd to say that such an argument contemplates any postponement. It is founded on a present state of facts. It derives its whole force and cogency from the opinion of the Secretary that the government notes have ceased to need the legal tender prop. "The legal tender clause," he says, "gives no additional credit or sanction to the notes, but tends to impair confidence and create fears of overissue." That is, in ceasing to be useful it has become dangerous. Mr. Sherman thinks that "now" is the time for repealing it. Observe how the word is repeated in the following passage:—"It would seem, therefore, that now and during the maintenance of resumption it is a useless and objectionable assertion of power, which Congress might now repeal on the ground of expediency alone. When it is considered that its constitutionality is seriously contested, and that from its nature it is subject to grave abuse, it would now appear to be wise to withdraw the exercise of such a power." Not to insist on the thrice repeated "now," the whole scope of the Secretary's reasoning is inconsistent with the idea that the repeal of the legal tender clause is not desired at this session. After further argument he concludes this part of his report with a fourth "now," saying, "The Secretary, therefore, respectfully submits to Congress whether the legal tender clause should not now be repealed as to all future contracts."

We have been thus particular in showing the precise form in which those high officers made their recommendations, because the public does not read documents with sufficient attention to perceive from its own recollection how glaring a departure from their committals it would be for the President or Secretary to disclaim that they had any wish for immediate legislation in respect to the legal tenders. They have said so much more than any possible ingenuity can explain away that they could not retreat without discredit if ever so much inclined. We do not believe that either of them has any such inclination, although they did not perhaps anticipate the amount of opposition they were to encounter in their own party. They cannot afford to show any signs of vacillation now. Since Congress proves recreant the people will take the subject up, and from all the commercial cities there will be a flood of petitions in support of the policy of the administration. The President and Secretary have only to maintain with vigor what they recommended with so much clearness in order to gain a great moral victory over the pusillanimity of Congress.

Neighborly Greetings.

Christopher North, writing about newspapers and their readers, averred that he would give more for the praise of one country clergyman and his family than for the admiration of a whole city, but fortunate is the journal that can command both. This double good fortune our neighbors of the *Tribune* and the *World* enjoyed yesterday, when the former resumed the publication of a Sunday edition after an interval of eighteen years and the latter appeared in a gay new dress. It is an effete delusion that the clergy in city or country disapprove of Sunday newspapers. The experience of the Sunday HERALD always has been that clergymen and their families are its most eager and appreciative readers, and now that the *Tribune* has adventured again we do not doubt that its own will be the same. Since Joshua's time the sun has not stood still on any day of the week, and neither can a newspaper, unless it would make a solecism of the words that combine in that name. As to the *World's* new type, it is as becoming as a winter bonnet of the latest style is to a Fifth avenue belle.

Northers.

The account of the disastrous norther that visited Aspinwall on the 20th ult., which we publish to-day, will give the reader a fair idea of the force exerted by those terrible tropical phenomena. Ever since Aspinwall Bay was made the port of entry for vessels laden with merchandise for the Central and South American trade a constant vigilance has been found necessary to guard shipping against destruction by the hurricanes that are so suddenly developed yearly in that quarter, and captains have now become so used to the peculiar changes of the weather prior to their development that it is but seldom they are caught in the landlocked bay when the storm breaks. Many theories have been put forth as to the cause of "northers" in the torrid zone, and while differing as to minor details they nearly all agree that their development is due mainly to the efforts of the atmosphere to regain its equilibrium both in temperature and pressure. The position in which the Bay of Aspinwall lies with regard to the Atlantic makes it absolutely necessary for vessels to put to sea before the storm begins, otherwise they will surely be driven ashore, as there are no high hills near under which they could take shelter from the wind. It has happened many a time that the seamen of a steamer were in the village or roaming outside along the railroad when the officers detected the dreaded "norther" approaching, and nothing could be done but to cut the lines and run for the open sea with what few hands could be collected at a moment's notice. The damage to the railroad is likely to be very great, particularly when the rivers begin to subside and bring down the heavy "drift" that accumulates along their banks.

Silver Dollars.

In his annual report of 1878 Secretary Sherman asked Congress for authority to suspend the coinage of silver dollars when the amount should exceed fifty millions. In his recent report he renews the recommendation, though not in the same form. By January 1 the proposed limit of fifty millions will have been nearly reached. On November 1 the amount was $45,206,200, and four millions additional will have been coined by the end of the year. But a trifle over thirteen millions of these coins are in circulation, although no effort has been spared by the Secretary to force them into use. The greater part of this silver passes from the mints to the vaults of the sub-treasuries, where it lies as idle as if it had been put back into the mines from which it was extracted.

How long is this farce to go on? The people do not want this form of money, and the banks are unwilling to receive it on deposit. Unless its coinage is stopped it will eventually be worth only its bullion value, and will sink the paper currency of the country to the same level. It accumulates in the Treasury to swell the reserve held against the legal tender notes, and in time the government will have no other means of redemption. The paper currency will then sink to the value of the silver coin in which it is redeemable and be at a greater discount as compared with gold than it was five years ago when the Resumption act was passed. The solid ground crumbles from under us with the continued coinage of these base and dishonest silver dollars.

A Novel Plan of Polar Observatories.

The International Geographical Congress which met at Hamburg in October have given a fresh impulse to Arctic exploration by their efforts to plant a cordon of physical observatories around the polar circle. This is a large and bold undertaking, but the Congress urge all the great Powers to co-operate in executing it. Eight permanent stations are proposed and named as select centres of physical research in the Arctic Basin, and the United States is asked to establish two of these—one at Lady Franklin Bay and the other at Point Barrow. This is an age in which science is extending its outposts to the outmost bounds of the globe and to its loftiest summits. France has recently occupied one of her high mountains for a physical observatory, the Italian government is about building a similar structure on the fiery breast of Etna, more than nine thousand feet above the sea, and the United States has already its weather station on Pike's Peak, over fourteen thousand feet high. But the proposal to gird the Arctic regions with observational stations is an advance upon all former scientific schemes, demanding a high order of observers to make it effective and involving long exposure to the perils of the frozen seas.

Grave difficulties confront polar exploration, and the rigors of a polar climate are deadly; yet it cannot be doubted that within the icy area are to be witnessed phenomena upon the accurate and comprehensive investigation of which depends the solution of many of the most important problems connected with the physics of the globe. There the winds of the globe begin and end their circuit; there the life-giving currents of the sea make their round in the great system of oceanic circulation; there the auroral and magnetic phenomena are studied in their richest developments, and there, too, as Commander Maury said, "in the mazes of that mystic circle terrestrial forces of occult power and vast influence upon the well-being of man are continually at work." It is a "circle of mysteries" into which the restless spirit of an age bent on solving the highest physical problems increasingly presses; and, aside from the question of reaching the Pole itself, it cannot be denied that the most valuable contributions which terrestrial physics has received since Columbus discovered the westerly movement of the equatorial waters have been the fruit of Arctic research. If the extensive scientific work now conducted by the various governments asked to co-operate in the Hamburg scheme of polar observations is to be successfully prosecuted, and the great meteorological questions affecting every interest of ocean commerce and home industry are to be cleared up, systematic research in the high latitudes, such as this scheme proposes, seems indispensable.

One of the polar stations which our government is solicited to establish is on Lady Franklin Bay, north of Kennedy Channel, in about latitude 81 deg. 40 min. This point was selected by Captain Nares, in 1875, as "a secure harbor" for the Discovery. The English officers who wintered there represent it as too shallow to admit of the larger ice masses entering it and crushing a ship, and as being "well stocked with game," but, above all, having a considerable seam of good coal, easy of access and suitable for fuel. The English expedition encountered there as low a temperature as seventy degrees below zero; but it is now proposed to utilize the natural advantages of the place, with improved artificial appliances, to secure the observers a measure of comfort during the horrors of the long Arctic night. Certainly if polar explorations are to go on, as judging by the history of the last two centuries they assuredly will, and if the science work now prosecuted by all the civilized nations is to be developed by observations necessary to adapt it to their highest practical wants, the plan of the Hamburg Congress deserves the most favorable consideration.

Secretary Evarts' Embarrassment.

Some months ago it was said that the reason why successors of Mr. Welsh and Mr. Stoughton were not sent to London and St. Petersburg was because it was desirable to have the confirmations by the Senate immediately succeed the nominations by the President, and assurances were given that the appointments would be made instantly upon the meeting of Congress. But Congress has been in session a week already, and now it is said that they are not made because Secretary Evarts is embarrassed to decide which of a number of excellent gentlemen, all well qualified for each position, is on the whole supremely suitable. The situation suggests what that of Sodom would have been if the difficulty in finding ten good men to redeem the place from destruction had not consisted in a deficiency of so many, but in the invidiousness of making a selection among the large array of respectable citizens. Mr. Evarts, like Childe Harold, wishes that he had only one fair spirit for his Minister.

Grant and Bayard.

The latest Presidential suggestion is made by Mr. Ellison S. Keitt, of South Carolina, in a letter to the Charleston *News*. It is that the ticket for 1880 be composed of Grant and Bayard, who, he adds, would, "with a generous support from the intelligence of the South, give us the most honored government the world ever saw." Mr. Keitt's suggestion reminds us, as Mr. Lincoln used to say, of a story. Some years ago, when the great Agassiz was lecturing at Harvard on entomology, he requested his students to bring him such specimens as they might find in their rambles in the country. To test the great naturalist's knowledge two or three waggish members of the class conceived the idea of manufacturing a specimen and submitting it to him. Taking the head of one insect, the body of another and the wings of a third, they joined the whole nicely together and laid it before the distinguished savant. "This," said he, after carefully examining it, "is not found in Germany or in Italy, or in Switzerland, or in England, or in Russia. It is found only in America." The political specimen which Mr. Keitt has submitted to us is found neither in the North nor the East nor the West. It belongs solely to South Carolina.

Mr. Springer's Views.

We print an interview with Congressman Springer, who denies that his visit to the city is for the purpose of consulting Mr. Tilden. In reply to a question whether Mr. Tilden will again be the democratic candidate Mr. Springer says it will depend on whether Mr. Tilden can have the united support of his party in New York. This does not seem very hopeful for Mr. Tilden. Mr. Springer regards New York and Indiana as the two pivotal States and thinks the first name on the ticket should be taken from one and the second name from the other; or, at least, that the ticket should be so composed as to carry these States.

On the financial question he is confident that there will be no important legislation. The greenbacks will not be retired nor the legal tender clause repealed nor the coinage of silver arrested. The President would veto any bill in conflict with his own policy, and Congress will pass none to carry out the President's views. We have no doubt that Mr. Springer reflects the average opinion of Congress at present, but a strong pressure of public sentiment may effect a change in the course of the session.

They Came to Time After All.

We congratulate Professor Proctor that a lively shower of meteors occurred last evening, sufficient to justify him even if he had positively predicted the whisk of a comet's tail into the earth's neighborhood about this time instead of merely advising watchfulness. Since Thanksgiving night, when the public were disappointed in seeing meteors, less than a fortnight has intervened, and if we can grant three days of grace on temporal notes of hand surely it is not unreasonable to allow at least ten to redeem promises in this celestial business. In astronomical measurements of the movements of comets and their meteoric attendants a few millions of miles, more or less, are of no more relative account than the length of a city block is in a ride from the Battery to Spuyten Duyvil.

Communism in Brooklyn.

It is a novel sensation for the taxpayers of New York to know that in any other city our municipal government is regarded as virtuous and economical by comparison. But that is the opinion which Mr. Scott, the ex-Registrar of Arrears of Brooklyn, expresses in to-day's HERALD, and supports by some amazing statistics of the expenses of tax sales across the East River. In one particular Mr. Scott and Mr. Kinsella agree—that the municipal corporation of Brooklyn is fast becoming seized of all the real estate within the city limits through the joint effect of these sales and of abandonment by the private proprietors. When the process is completed and the whole city is owned in common it will offer uncommon inducements for the immigration of socialists, who then can make a partition and vote every one of themselves a farm.

The Supreme Court in Politics.

The Supreme Court is growing in importance as a factor in current politics. Besides holding on its calendar the legal tender question in the Butler-Chittenden suit our special despatches from Washington explain that legislation touching appropriations to enforce the federal election laws is delayed for its decision upon their validity. These close political relations of the court to questions which are in debate between the great political parties cannot be welcome to the judges. It is true that they are relations plainly contemplated and directly imposed by the constitution, but then it never was designed that Congress should take advantage of them to evade its own duties. There is sound sense in Secretary Sherman's wish, which is expressed in our despatches, that Congress shall anticipate any judicial decision upon the legal tender question by a repealing act of its own.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Increased log cutting in Maine.

Three hundred thousand Mohammedan pilgrims worship in the Kaaba of Mecca every year.

Labouchère says of Salisbury, "His first step is to put his foot down, his next to take it up."

Dennis Kearney is coming East to attend the meeting of greenbackers in Washington January 8.

English writers fancy that France wants to interfere in Madagascan affairs and establish a French protectorate there.

It is understood in Albany that General Frederick Townsend will be appointed Adjutant General by Governor-elect Cornell.

The Board of Regents of the University have secured the services of David Murray as superintendent of advanced collegiate examinations.

Conversation of the young minister with the young ladies of his parish:—"Yes, ah, yes, certainly, oh, fine, yes, delightful, ah, yes, yes, ah, yes—ss—s!"

Sir Julius Benedict holds that England is up to the average standard of musical skill and taste, and that the Germans do not occupy the first rank in music.

Men, and especially fat men, like large, soft napkins. Those served in many restaurants and in most oyster houses might be mistaken for postage stamps.

The hotels and restaurants on their bills of fare speak of "squash pie." It doesn't sound half as well as "pumpkin pie," even though pumpkins be not so fine as squashes.

Preparations are being made at St. Petersburg for the suitable commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Emperor's accession to the throne on March 2, 1880.

Boston *Traveller*:—"Most American authors 'write themselves out' at no very early period of their careers, and not unfrequently there are painful comparisons to be made between their various works."

The *Annales de l'Extrême Orient* predicted that before many years the Chinese question will become as urgent in Europe as it is now in America. The isolation of China is a thing of the past, and in a century, if not sooner, we are told, the Chinese will become the principal workman element, not only in America, but in Europe.

Lieutenant Greene receives well deserved praise from the London *Times*. Speaking of his book on the "Russian Campaign in Turkey," the leading London daily says:—"The book is one which should be in every regimental library. Apart from its value as an epitome of one of the most stirring campaigns ever fought, the chapters devoted to the organization of the Russian army make it acceptable to the British officer, who, as a rule, has some difficulty in obtaining trustworthy information as to the real military strength of the Colossus of the North."

GENERAL GRANT.

SPEECH OF THE EX-PRESIDENT AT THE DINNER OF THE COMMERCIAL CLUB—WILLING TO BE PRESIDENT—OF THE CLUB.

CHICAGO, Dec. 7, 1879.

The dinner of the Commercial Club last night was presided over by Mr. J. W. Doane, who was flanked on either side by General Grant and Governor Long.

President Doane, in opening the speechmaking, welcomed the guests from all sections of the Union, and especially General Grant, now returned to his native State after a long period of travel which had been one continuous ovation. He spoke particularly also of the Boston delegation as representatives of the great commercial centre around which this continent—the globe itself—revolves. He proposed the health of General Grant as one of the members of that "Galena Ring" whose component parts were of such sterling material.

GENERAL GRANT'S SPEECH.

General Grant being called for then said:—

The allusions of your president to myself have been gratifying on the whole and the assurances that he has held out to me that if I would settle among you that I can receive the unanimous vote of this club for its presidency is the most tempting offer that I have had yet. I have heard of numerous places having been cut out for me before, but this is the only one that I have had any assurance of. But in this case I am somewhat embarrassed. My understanding before coming here this evening was that to become a member of this club a man had to represent some industry or other—some one of the great industries which have made our country so great and prosperous, and I am at a loss really to know where I should come in. I do see here one or two of the "Ring" that have been referred to—that "Galena Ring," who, I believe, have the honor of being enrolled as members of this club. How they got in is equally puzzling to me.

Gentlemen—I thank you very heartily for the honor you have done me, not only in this kind offer you have made to locate me in the honorable and responsible place, but for the way you have received me on the whole. (Vociferous and prolonged applause.)

A large number of toasts were proposed and responded to in a facetious or patriotic vein, during which many complimentary allusions were made to the honored guest of the evening, all of which were received with enthusiastic applause.

GENERAL GRANT IN THE SOUTH.

A correspondent of the Savannah (Ga.) *News*, writing from Atlanta, says:—"I have been travelling in several States during the past month, and I have failed to see or hear of the first genuine democrat who proposes to vote for or support Grant for President. In Atlanta, where there are several fat federal offices to be bought, a few half way democrats are leaning in that direction. This seems to be the extent of the present 'boom.'"

OBITUARY.

GABRIEL RANVIER, COMMUNIST LEADER.

The celebrated Gabriel Ranvier, the member of the Paris commune who superintended the overthrow of the Vendôme Column, died in Paris on the 26th ult., aged sixty-two years. He had been a refugee in England, Belgium and Italy since 1871 and had not been amnestied, but had been allowed by the police to visit Paris a few days before to settle some important business. Ranvier was born at Soissons in 1817 and became a decorative painter at Paris. In 1866 he was prosecuted by the art publishers, Goupil Fréres, for reproducing on an article of furniture a design of which they held the copyright, and became impoverished in consequence of the heavy damages he had to pay. He then took to frequenting and violently haranguing the radical clubs of Belleville and was imprisoned at Mazas for sedition in July, 1870. Liberated on the fall of the Empire, Ranvier became commander of a battalion of the National Guard and a close associate of Gustave Flourens, to whom it was said that he "supplied the brains." He took part in the abortive movement of October 31, 1870, as a member of the provisional government then projected by the communists, and was in consequence arrested and deprived of his command on the following day. While still in prison he was elected November 5 *maire* of the Twentieth arrondissement; but his election was declared illegal on account of his being a bankrupt. This declaration increased his popularity among the *ouvriers;* and on February 8, 1871, he obtained above 40,000 votes for a seat in the National Assembly, but failed of an election. Meanwhile he had escaped from prison, had acted as delegate to the Central Committee of the National Guard, and his trial before a council of war had resulted in his acquittal. By the aid of his relations with the National Guard Ranvier was one of the chief organizers of the communistic outbreak of March 18, 1871, which, it is said, he had been preparing for above three months. Being put in possession of the post of *maire* of his arrondissement he issued March 25 a call for the election of members of the commune on the following day and was himself elected by above 14,000 votes. Taking his seat March 30 he was assigned to the military commission, resumed command of his own battalion and accompanied Flourens in the famous sortie of April 2, in which that improvised general was killed. Ranvier urged in the commune the appointment of a committee of public safety which was finally carried May 2, with himself as one of its leading and most violent members. It was he who signed the decree for the destruction of the house of Thiers, of the "Expiatory Chapel" and of the Vendôme Column, and he personally directed the latter act. At the moment of the entry of the Versailles army he signed various violent decrees, including the order to burn the public edifices. He escaped to England and presided over the International Congress held at The Hague in 1872. Latterly he had resided at Pisa, Italy. One of his brothers was the keeper of the Sainte Pelagie Prison during the last days of the commune, and participated in the execution of Gustave Chaudey. Though Ranvier did not become so widely known as some of his companions of the commune few of them approached him in talent or real importance.

COLONEL CHARLES SPENCER MERCHANT, U. S. A.

Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General Charles Spencer Merchant, on the retired list of the United States Army, died at Carlisle, Pa., on Saturday, the 6th inst. Colonel Merchant was appointed to the Military Academy on September, 7, 1812, and on March 11, 1814, was made third lieutenant of the First artillery, and on the 1st of May following was promoted to second lieutenant. He was made first lieutenant on April 20, 1818, and transferred to the Second artillery June 1, 1821. He was promoted to a captaincy in that regiment Nov. 17, 1834, and was made major on the 14th of February, 1849, and colonel on June 10, 1857. He was retired on August 1, 1863, having served over forty-five years. On the 13th of March, 1865, he was brevetted brigadier general for long and faithful service in the army. Since his retirement, which took place while he was in command of Bedloe's Island, Colonel Merchant has resided in Carlisle, where he carried with him all the traditions of an officer of the old school in our army. His death breaks another link which binds our military establishment to the memories of Resaca de la Palma, Buena Vista, Churubusco and Molina del Rey.

JUDGE WINTHROP W. KETCHAM.

Mr. Winthrop W. Ketcham, Judge of the United States District Court for the Western district of Pennsylvania, died at the St. Charles Hotel, in Pittsburg, very suddenly, shortly after twelve o'clock yesterday morning. He was in his usual health on Saturday and held court during the day. Returning to his hotel he ate a hearty dinner and retired to his room, where he was attacked by a sudden headache. A physician was sent for and pronounced the symptoms those of apoplexy. He grew rapidly worse and despite all that the physicians could do he died soon after midnight. Judge Ketcham was born in Luzerne county, Pa., and was fifty-eight years of age. He was admitted to the Bar thirty years ago. He represented the Luzerne district one term in Congress, having defeated Hendrick B. Wright, who in turn defeated him when he was a candidate for re-election. He was appointed Judge by President Grant in 1876. He was in high spirits over the expected visit of General Grant, who will reach there just one week after his death. He succeeded Judge McCandless, who retired on account of old age, and who survives him. He leaves a wife and one son.

MARK NAPIER, SCOTTISH ANTIQUARY.

Mr. Mark Napier, Sheriff of Dumfriesshire and Galloway, died in Edinburgh on the 22d ult., in the eighty-second year of his age. He was a descendant of the celebrated Napier of Merchistoun, the inventor of logarithms, whose works he edited and whose "Memoirs" he published in 1834. He was called to the Scottish Bar in 1820 and became Sherif in 1844. Sheriff Napier was well known for his voluminous historical memoirs of Scottish worthies, including "Montrose and the Covenanters" (two volumes, 1838), "Life and Times of Montrose" (1840), and "Memorials and Letters of the Time of John Grahame, of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee."

J. FRANCIS KING, M. D.

Dr. J. Francis King, a prominent physician of Wilmington, N. C., died at No. 1 North Washington square, in this city, last evening. He had been in failing health for the past two years, and about a year and a half ago he was compelled to abandon his professional duties. He travelled abroad in the hope of recuperating, but he never rallied. He came to this city a short time ago in order to obtain the best medical attendance that could be procured. Dr. King was in his forty-eighth year. His present wife is a niece of ex-Secretary Hamilton Fish.