

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET. JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT. UNION SQUARE THEATRE—FRENCH ELIAS. AQUARIUM—UNCLE TOM'S CABIN. MARIANA. ABBEY'S PARK—PRIZE IN HOLLAND.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were duller and prices suffered a further decline. Money was easy on call at 5 to 7 per cent. Government and State securities were quiet and steady, while railway bonds were less active and more irregular.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity today will be colder and fair. To-morrow it will be clear, with a slight increase in temperature.

THE DAILY FAIR is a great success. SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS in favor of taxing churches, colleges and banks are given under "Taxation in Jersey."

THE PROPOSED Isthmus CANAL is to be fought by a new railroad across the narrow neck between ocean and ocean.

THE SENATE will not suffer from cold weather at present. They are getting ready for a talk over the Kellogg-Spofford affair.

TO THE MAN OR WOMAN who went out of doors on Sunday the statement that the rainfall did not amount to one and a quarter inches must seem an intentional insult.

THE SONS OF NEW ENGLAND are over twelve hundred strong, with a prosperous treasury, showing the old time thrift of our New England brethren is still a marked trait in their character.

THE ENGLISH appear to have plenty of troubles yet before them in Afghanistan. Ayoub Khan is advancing from Herat toward Cabul, and the English forces are being concentrated around that city.

THIS SEASON'S CORN CROP is now reported to be the largest ever grown in this country, and it should be remembered that corn brings farmers several times as much money as it did a few years ago.

THE VOLKREISERS go to prison for twelve years for attempting to poison Blair, while their intended victim probably goes home with a new sense of the advisability of having acquaintance preceded by proper introduction.

ANOTHER PROPELLER has been dropped from a steamer. Fortunately the disabled vessel was not compelled to trust to her sails, for the experience of the Circassia several weeks ago shows how insufficient the sailing rig of steamers is.

VERA SASSULITCH has published a letter admitting that her attempt to kill General Trepoff was made at the instigation of the Russian Revolutionary Committee. She and one of her friends had to draw lots and fate put the deed on her.

"OUTIDA" says the Italians have lost all appreciation of art, and that Garibaldi should have died after Mentana. Funfola says, in retaliation, that the English tourists in Italy who rave about art are mostly Cockneys and snobs. The discussion is getting lively.

YOUNG MACVOY, who had his brain severed by a circular saw in Paterson a few days ago, is dead. The case naturally attracted wide attention among the medical profession, for the tenacity of life displayed by the patient was anomalous in the history of surgery.

THE CANNON STREET house which burned with such sad results a month ago is reported to have been without a scuttle to the roof. How many more residences are in the same condition, and in those that have scuttles how many people are there who know where they are and what to do when they emerge from them?

THE WEATHER.—The disturbance that affected the Atlantic coast districts on Sunday passed rapidly northeastward yesterday morning, attended by copious precipitation and brisk winds. It was followed later in the day by the depression that moved over the lake and central valley districts, and that is now passing into the ocean off the Nova Scotia coast. The barometer rose rapidly throughout the western, southwestern and central sections of the country. In the Northwest the pressure has again commenced to decrease, and it is probable that a depression will make its appearance in that region this evening. Rain fell in all the Atlantic coast districts from Florida to Nova Scotia, and snow is reported in the lake regions. The weather in the West and Southwest was fair. The temperature fell in all the districts except in the northern portion of the New England States and in the extreme Northwest. The winds have been brisk in the lake regions, brisk to fresh along the Atlantic coast and generally light elsewhere. The weather in New York and its vicinity today will be colder and fair. To-morrow it will be clear, with a slight increase in temperature.

Politics in France.

In November last the President of the French Republic assured a HERALD correspondent that it was a mistake to suppose that the French Ministry as then constituted was not of one opinion on all points of public policy at that moment on the carpet, and was not in full harmony with the Executive. "For reports to the contrary," he said as to the first point, "there is no foundation." Upon the second point he explicitly declared "the President of the Republic and his Ministers are perfectly agreed as to their policy." He further believed that the Ministry could command a majority on the only measures on which it was in opposition to energetic elements in the Legislature. As a Ministry can only go to pieces through internal differences or the opposition of a majority to the policy upon which it is agreed, it followed from this that the position of the administration in France was impregnable and that President Grévy was not well informed as to the relations of his Cabinet to public opinion. It was an almost inevitable conclusion, therefore, that the Cabinet was safe, and this fact was demonstrated by the vote of "unqualified confidence" given December 4 by 243 against 147.

And yet the telegrams from France which touch upon politics constantly deal with the subject of an impending dissolution of the Cabinet. From all the ordinary channels of public opinion may be gathered a general conviction that would only be justified in the view of practical politics if the vote above stated had been given to the exactly contrary effect—a conviction that the Ministry is not a vital organ of the popular will, and stands at the edge of an abyss into which it may be plunged by any trivial parliamentary accident. Here it seems to us an unusual, if not altogether novel, circumstance in the tactics and moralities of representative government—the existence of some other standard of validity than the support of a majority on issues actually made and brought to a vote; the supremacy of an opinion that is the issue of intrigue in the face of a contrary declaration from the legitimate organs of the popular will. This is as if upon a point of legislation in our own Congress the voice of the lobby should be accepted as authoritative on a point which Congress had by vote previously determined in the other way. M. Waddington scarcely went too far when he said that the attitude of those who hold that "the government is at sea" rests upon a total misconception of parliamentary government.

But it rather appears to us that the parties in the French Assembly are somewhat confused in their political reckoning through confounding two different methods in free government—that by party lines as it exists in this country and that by ministerial responsibility as it exists in England. In this country parties lay down their presumed principles by platform. The platform is the statement of their creed. Its paragraphs are the several articles of a political faith, more or less ingeniously set forth. As a party is presumably an aggregation of the men of the country who take one side or the other on points of public policy the platform is a summary statement of what these points are and what side is taken. Upon this "platform," therefore, the party stands, and in so far as the party is logical and honest it is inseparable from its declaration of principles. It comes into power on these issues and is responsible to the country for its conduct with regard to them. The Cabinet is chosen from regard to the known relation of public men to these issues. In short, a whole campaign and the whole activity of an administration are framed on a programme thus set forth. But the method by which prevails in France, and which is assured by the constitution, is that of Ministerial responsibility to the vote of a majority on a defined issue, or more generally on a declaration of confidence or the want of confidence; but the republicans are endeavoring to subject the government to the will of their party as declared by programme or platform—this platform being a declaration of the principles upon which several factions of republicans are able to agree. And it is because the government declines to recognize the validity of this proceeding that the republican factions fill the air with vaticinations of its doom. It is held by the press and the public that the government which the republicans are against must fall, and, further, that the republicans must be furious against this government because of the want of harmony on this point; but the truth is that while the republicans denounce the government for its refusal to accept responsibility to a caucus or to any other fact than a vote of the Chamber on a well defined point, they cannot force to a legitimate issue the hostility they pretend, for if their very programme could, as a whole, be brought to a vote it would be beaten. They want, therefore, to force upon the government by irregular methods points of policy that they cannot force by vote in the Chamber.

Between the government and the republicans there is therefore involved a point of dignity and a more substantial point of constitutional right. President Grévy and his advisers hold office without subjection to party dictation. They are republicans, but they administer the government in the general spirit of republican theories, and rightly hold that they themselves are the judges of how or when or in what circumstances any given republican theory shall be applied to the facts. The republicans say, "Remove the reactionary judges and appoint in their places men who believe in the Republic;" and the government answers, "We are the Executive; we remove and appoint, and we are responsible for the proper discharge of our duties on that score, not to a caucus of four shades of republicans, but to the Chamber." We shall remove officers whom we deem unfit, and replace them as in our judgment is becoming. We were

appointed for that, and must be trusted in the discharge of our own duties. On any other ground we will not hold office. If you do not like our way move a vote of confidence, and if we are beaten on that we shall be happy to give way to men who will satisfy you more completely."

Tried by that test the government has already come out victorious on one vote. Nearly all the points of the republican programme which it is sought to foist upon the Ministry are properly administrative measures—measures that could be practically enforced by the government without new legislation, and several of them would doubtless not command a majority vote if presented as measures of legislation. The government, therefore, resists intelligently this step toward the application in France of bull-dozing processes.

The Presidential Electors of New York.

We publish interviews with New York members of Congress, in which they express their opinions of the project for dividing the State into districts for the choice of Presidential electors. It will be seen that many of the republican members, as well as all the democratic members, look upon the scheme with disfavor. We are confident that nothing of the kind will be seriously attempted by the Legislature. In the first place, the chances of the republican party for carrying the State are not so desperate as to impel it to such a daring experiment. In the next place, the republican members of the Legislature would be as much divided on the question as the republican members of Congress; and to make the attempt and fail would put a potent electioneering weapon into the hands of the democrats which would enable them to carry the State. In the third place, a change of that magnitude should not be made without the sanction of the people, expressed through an election, and the people have had no opportunity to pass upon it. In the fourth place, such a change would be inexpedient unless simultaneously adopted by the other States. If the democrats of New York are to be weakened in the Electoral College by the district system, the republicans of Ohio, Illinois and all the States should have their strength cut down by the same rule. What is sauce for the democrats should be sauce for the republicans. Without this equity it would be an infamous political trick. The district system might be better if universally adopted. But the people of no State will sanction it for their own State alone, leaving the other States to count all their Congressional districts as belonging to one party. Virginia first set the example of a collective vote, and the other States were compelled to follow in self-protection. If there is to be a return to the district system it should be done through a constitutional amendment making the rule uniform throughout the United States.

The Williams Experiment.

Nobody can prudently predict the consequences of the transfer of Captain Williams from the Twenty-ninth police precinct to the Street Cleaning Bureau. Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson once mislaid a sheet of his manuscript while he was lecturing. A whist player, in the audience, observing his way of handling the remainder of the sheets in a struggle to find it, remarked that he was resorting to the desperate experiment of shuffling. The rather complicated transfer of police captains which has been ordered for the purpose of substituting a broom for a club at Captain Williams' waistband looks like a desperate shuffle to find the right man for a very difficult place. If Captain Williams only will swing the broom with the same freedom he has swung a club the man is found. But will he? Perhaps that depends on whether he can extract a fierce pleasure from bruising sah cans and smashing garbage barrels equal to what he used to derive from punching the ribs and cracking the skulls of his fellow citizens. But the experience of pugilists is pretty uniform that there is much less satisfaction in battering a dummy than there is in a real fist fight. Therefore we do not put absolute confidence in Captain Williams' contentment with his new duties. Still it is an experiment worth trying, and we have what the camp meeting revivalists call a "trembling hope" that it will give us cleaner streets. If it does we will cheerfully give Captain Williams the credit. At the worst it cannot make the streets dirtier. That is impossible.

Dead Letters.

The unique catalogue of the auction season is, beyond doubt, that which the Postmaster General has just issued of articles accumulated at the Dead Letter Office. From this it appears that about twelve thousand cases of hope deferred have been occasioned by incorrect addresses, this number not including those caused by non-receipt of money letters. The catalogue also shows what a general carrier the government has come to be, for the articles specified are, as a rule, of the class which is supposed to be entrusted only to express companies. True, there are no trunks or packing cases on the list, but when one reads of steam engines and iron castings being found among mail matter it does not seem impossible that the postal service may yet be expected to bring the Western wheat crop to the seaboard and transport cold to water in such a way that the public may learn what the actual cost of moving these products is. One peculiarity about the catalogue is the number of entries that may be classed among articles of personal adornment. Rings, pins, scarfs, handkerchiefs, gloves, lace and ribbons, are numerous enough to stock a notion store, while umbrellas, shawls and whole suits of clothes are not lacking. The preponderance of such material inevitably suggests a suspicion that the addresses in most cases were not written by masculine hands, and that tens of thousands of post office employes have been unjustly berated for the sins of beings more admirable but less methodical than themselves. Whoever has blundered, the fact remains that the list presents about twelve thousand warnings against careless addresses, insecure wrappings and underpaid postage.

Grant Sentiment in the South.

The letter which we print to-day from our correspondent who is making a tour of observation through the Southern States confirms the impression made by his previous inquiries. As he penetrates further into the South he finds the democratic sentiment toward General Grant not materially different from what it is in the border States. Writing from Charleston he reports conversations with prominent citizens of South Carolina, and they all bear in one direction—namely, the absence of any marked interest in General Grant on the part of the Southern democrats and a prevailing indifference to federal politics as compared with local questions.

There is indeed evidence enough that the Southern democrats would more easily reconcile themselves to General Grant than to any other republican President, but they will support the democratic ticket unless the candidates should be offensive to their section. Nothing seems more certain than that the Presidential battle is to be fought on the old party lines in the South as well as in the North. But if General Grant, running as the regular republican candidate—as he will if a candidate at all—should be elected, the South will accept the situation and hope for the best. There is an impression that his extensive tours in foreign lands have strengthened his inclination to cherish his country as a whole, and they would expect from him a broad and patriotic administration, moderate in its partisanship so far as it would be partisan, and treating all sections with impartial justice. If this expectation should not be disappointed there will arise a conservative Grant party in the South after the election which will grow in strength with the growing prosperity and tranquillity of that section. But they nevertheless desire the election of a democratic President.

Previous information is also confirmed as to the almost universal preference of the Southern republicans for General Grant. Among the negroes the Grant sentiment is unanimous and enthusiastic. The white republicans of the South, who are but a small minority of the party, share this decided preference, with the exception of the federal office-holders, who are for Sherman. This is natural enough, as the office-holders know on which side their bread is buttered and were expected to act after their kind. The attachment of the small office-holding brigade gives Mr. Sherman a seeming advantage in the election of delegates to the National Convention, if activity and intrigue are to control the choice. But General Grant's journey in the South may upset all plans for packing the delegations by official influence. The colored population, who regard General Grant with a feeling little short of adoration, will flock in multitudes to every city and town which gives him a reception and to every railway station where the train stops in which he makes his journey. After the pleasure of setting their eyes on the man whom they regard as the greatest hero that ever lived, and as their own deliverer, they will talk of little else for months, and in the midst of this ferment the Southern delegates will be chosen to the Republican National Convention. The attempt of the Philistines to bind Samson with green withes was not more vain than will be the attempts of a few Southern office-holders to restrain the preference of colored voters for the man to whom they believe they owe their freedom. The Sherman men are not numerous enough to circumvent and bull-doze the negroes like their democratic neighbors, nor can they quietly steal a march on them by packing secret caucuses after the lively awakening which will attend General Grant's Southern tour. But if the Southern republicans send delegates who really represent their wishes it is as certain that Grant will have the whole 138 Southern votes as it is that a Republican National Convention will be held. With a general belief that Northern delegates enough will be added to make these a majority the friends of the other candidates will feel that resistance is hopeless, and the other States will vie with one another in falling into line for the inevitable nominee.

Things will take this turn unless some plan can be devised for getting up sham delegations from the South who will misrepresent the overwhelming, the unanimous preference of the colored population. If the Republican National Committee, which meets to-morrow in Washington, has caught the Grant fever and makes choice of Don Cameron for its chairman, it is safe to predict that there will be no lack of ability or money for so organizing the Southern republicans that their delegates to the National Convention will express their real preference.

What is Operatic "Indisposition"?

When Mr. Mapleson's season first opened this winter there was much uncomplimentary comment made upon some of the material composing his Italian opera troupe, and the public dissatisfaction was so marked and the attendance at the Academy so materially declined that radical changes were necessitated in the company, and, according to the manager's statement, a large sum of money was expended in securing a prima donna to strengthen the troupe in its weakest point. The public, especially that portion of it that had, as it were, paid in advance for goods it has not received, were in no frame of mind to be further trifled with, and expected that such amends as could be made for the disappointments of the earlier opera nights would be offered during the remainder of the season in the prompt and perfect rendering of every promised opera. But the past fortnight has witnessed a series of failures in keeping good faith with the public—it seems necessary to put it in this way—that reflects, seriously, not alone on the management but on the artists themselves. True, the announcement is repeatedly made that Mlle. Marimon or Mlle. Valleria or Miss Cary or Signor Campanini—in fact, the list would include almost the whole company—is "indisposed," whatever that indefinite term may mean, but, with few exceptions, there has

been no return made to the public of the money which had been paid for that which was promised but was not given. Were the merchant or banker to advertise certain goods, accept full payment and furnish the confiding purchaser with any other article, he would be held in commercial and legal circles to be lacking in honor and in honesty. Why should the manager or artist be exempt from this ruling? It is urged in these cases that an artist who is "indisposed" is by that fact relieved of his or her obligation, although it seems that the rule does not work both ways and release the public money in the box office as well. "Indisposition," when genuine illness of positive vocal incapacity is the basis of the announcement, will be accepted by the public, but such wholesale "indisposition" as has of late broken out in Mr. Mapleson's troupe—as the measles might run through a nursery—is truly alarming. Mr. Mapleson's greenroom is no nursery, his artists are not children—neither are his patrons—and it is as unlikely that the artists have all caught this operatic measles as it is unlikely that the public will believe it.

"Indisposition" has a treble meaning according to Webster:—(1) "A slight disorder of the healthy functions of the body;" (2) "The condition of wanting affinity, as the indisposition of two bodies to combine;" (3) "Disinclination." Which definition is correct? If it is the first, the public will grant its indulgence readily, with the suggestion that its money be returned in such cases, and that the artists avoid draughts. If it is the second, suggesting that some personal disagreement is at the bottom of it, the HERALD would advise the settlement of private disagreements outside the opera house and after the performance of public duties. Is it the third? We are very much afraid that it is the third, and we would simply say to Miss Cary, Mlle. Marimon, Mlle. Valleria, Signor Campanini, Signor Galassi (we place the names in about the order of their proportion of failures to keep their engagements), that they are not alone loosening the ties binding them to their American public by these frequent disappointments, but that such facts are carefully regarded in operatic markets abroad and lessen the financial value of their services elsewhere than here.

To the Brevet Brigadier General of Her Majesty's opera troupe we would say, that the commander is always responsible for the failure of his forces, and we suggest that the Quartermaster, Paymaster and officers generally of his command so conduct themselves and their departments that good feeling and good discipline may be observed at all times in the camp and the full effectiveness of the force be thus made available in every campaign.

The Duke of Argyll's American Sketches.

When the next Yankee press prints impressions of Europe derived from a sojourn of six weeks the sketches of America which the Duke of Argyll has begun to furnish to the press after no longer a visit to this country last summer may serve him for a tasteful model. We print an abstract of the first of them, relating to the novel aspect of American woodlands to an eye used to the careful plantations of the British Islands, with some episodes touching the Indians and Niagara Falls and Canadian salmon fishing. These are comparatively safe topics for a stranger of good general information to handle after brief acquaintance, but even in respect to some of them the Duke falls into occasional errors of fact and advances inapt comparisons. For example of an error of fact, in lamenting the disfigurement of the banks of the Hudson River by the paint pot and recommending its prohibition he is unaware that there is a stringent statute of this State against trespasses to deface natural scenery with advertisements, and that wherever they are visible it is by consent of the land owners, which we fancy that he would find difficult in restraining. So that law has done almost all it can in this direction. Again, in respect to his theory that the decay of the red race is not due to contact and collision with the civilization of white men, but is solely the consummation of a process that began long before the white settlements, he is as plainly unaware that the number of Indians on the continent is as large now as it ever was. If it has not increased it also has not diminished. His argument in this connection from the slight impression European contact has made upon the survival of the native races of Hindostan will not stand a very simple test of figures. Hindostan has, by the most recent statistics, only a hundred and twenty-one thousand residents of non-Asiatic origin (and sixty-three thousand of these are British soldiers, not voluntary settlers), against two hundred and thirty-eight millions of the native races; while in the United States the proportion of white and black to red men is about fifty millions to less than four hundred thousand. The relative capacity of a higher civilization to extinguish an inferior race by contact is therefore vastly unequal in the two countries, and must operate much more powerfully here than there. But aside from these slight errors and debatable assertions the Duke's sketches are as thoroughly pleasing as it is natural to expect from a trained observer and excellent scholar.

Revenue Troubles in Georgia.

At last the revenue officers are said to be intending a determined raid into the "moonshine" distillery district of Georgia. Resistance is of course expected, for the illicit distillers have already driven the officers out of their country at least once, and know that they will get little mercy from the courts if caught. It must also be admitted that a more unpleasant variety of duty never afflicted revenue officers, for the transgressors are about as hardy, alert and vindictive as an equal number of Indians; they are, as a rule, ignorant enough to regard enforcement of the law as persecution, and will therefore be animated by a sentiment somewhat resembling patriotism. As they are perfectly at home in a country of which

the officials know very little, the "moonshiners" seem to have the odds in their favor, yet there can be little doubt that the government will finally succeed in breaking up the business if raiding becomes a general instead of a fitful practice, for informers can get more money from the government than from distillers, and the latter are doomed to be betrayed. By our letter from Gainesville it appears that Governor Colquitt, of Georgia, has hopes of some better method being devised for stopping the violations of law concerning distilling; but for the revenue officials to defer their manifest duty while other officials discuss new ways of improving matters would be poor policy in view of the fact that little or nothing was done by the State authorities before the intended demonstration was announced. Meanwhile the offenders are setting up a defence, which will be found outlined in our letter, and experiences of the other side also are described.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Chinamen belong to the great tea party. Philadelphia detectives go for "Gopher Bill." A heavy Christmas stocking makes a light pocket-book. Bishop Haven continues to be very ill at Malden, Mass. James T. Field likes Tennyson almost as much as Tennyson likes himself. Senator Jones will return to Washington with his family after New Year's Day. There are grounds for believing that boarding house coffee is not always good. Lord Rosebery describes Mr. Gladstone as the leader who is to lead the liberal party to victory. The pig world, according to the scientists, live to be twenty years old, but he is not permitted to do so. Six years ago had were introduced into California waters. They may now be taken there every month in the year. Charles Francis Adams is building at Schooner Head, Mount Desert, a cool summer cottage, which he will occupy next summer. At the dinner which will be given to General Grant by Mr. George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, this evening, the following guests will attend:—Hamilton Fish, A. E. Borie, George S. Boutwell, John S. Morgan, John Welch, James W. Paul, Dr. De Costa, Edwards Pierpont, Senator J. Don Cameron, George M. Robeson, George Augustus Sala, A. J. Drexel, General Phil Sheridan and General W. T. Sherman. Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd, formerly of this city, last week celebrated the fortieth anniversary of their wedding at their home near Wilkesbarre, in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania, in the midst of many children and grandchildren. Among the exhibits of the occasion was a twelve-year-old file of the New York HERALD which has been loyally saved by Mr. Shepherd, who will probably exhibit another dozen volumes in the year to come. In the article which appeared in the New York HERALD in a day or two ago, in which it was stated that Professor Piazzi Smyth, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, had predicted the cold winter of 1878-79. He predicted an intensely cold winter for 1877-78. I remember well, in a lecture which I delivered before the Royal Institution, Manchester, in October, 1877, calling attention to the prediction as one in which I placed no trust whatever, as I have no faith in the hopes which some entertain of connecting terrestrial weather with the solar sun spot period. As I then said, there might or might not be a very cold winter in store for us; but I invited my audience to notice that if there were such a winter it would by no means establish the theory that terrestrial weather can be predicted from an spot, although should the winter be mild it would prove inconsequently that Professor Smyth's principles of prediction were unsound. (This because of the exceedingly definite nature of the prediction, which set 1877-78 as the very latest at which the cold wave could come—never, even limited it to the end of 1877—setting 1880 for the warm wave, so that if the eleven year sun spot period synchronised exactly with these alternations, the cold should have come in 1874 or 1875). Toward the end of the lecture season, 1877-78, I again addressed an audience at the Royal Institution, Manchester, and reminding them of the prediction, called their attention to the fact that the winter of 1877-78 instead of being exceedingly cold had been one of the mildest on record. The winter of 1878-79 was exceedingly cold in Great Britain, and the cold has continued with scarcely any interruption until now. But I need hardly say that if the crest of the warm wave should be reached in 1880 we ought now (if there were a real law connecting weather and sun spots) to be high on the slope of the heat wave, instead of being still in that part of the hollow which corresponds with temperature far below the average. This, of course, all relates to British weather. I take no note here of the absurdity of supposing that the exceptional cold in Europe during the last twelve months, and the exceptional warmth in America can be due to one and the same cosmical cause. By the way, we must be careful not to offend official susceptibilities by speaking of the Astronomer Royal for Scotland. I remember how severely I was once taken to task for so doing. It was suggested by the Astronomer Royal for England—viz, there is but one Astronomer Royal!"

GOVERNOR CORNELL'S STAFF.

ALBANY, Dec. 15, 1879.

The Evening Journal announces that Governor Cornell has made the following selections for his military staff:—

MAJOR GENERALS—Adjutant General Frederick Townsend, of Albany.

BRIEFING GENERALS—Inspector General, Robert S. Oliver, of Albany; Engineer-in-Chief, Lloyd Aspinwall, of New York; Judge Advocate General, Horace Russell, of New York; Surgeon General, William H. Watson, of Utica; Quartermaster General, Charles F. Eaton, of Albany; Paymaster General, Jacob H. Orin, of Albany; Commissary General of Subsistence, Charles J. Langdon, of Elmira; General Inspector of Arms and Ammunition, Alfred C. Barnes, of Brooklyn.

COLONELS—Adjutant-General, James M. Varnum, of New York; Henry M. Watson, of Buffalo; Francis N. Mann, Jr., of Troy; Charles S. Francis, of Troy, and John T. Holt, of Troy.

GENERAL TOWNSEND was Adjutant General under Governors King and Morgan. He served in the regular army during the war and was brevetted brigadier general.

General Oliver served as a volunteer during the war and then became a captain of the regular army. General Aspinwall commanded the Twenty-second regiment during the war and was afterward brigadier general of the National Guard.

Horace Russell is a well known lawyer.

Dr. Watson is a prominent homoeopathic physician. General Eaton is a leading business man and president of the Board of Education.

General Hoyens is president of the Hudson Iron Company.

General Langdon is the head of the McIntyre Coal Company.

General Barnes is a member of the publishing house of A. S. Barnes & Co., and major of a Brooklyn regiment. Of the same name, Colonel Varnum is a member of Assembly; Colonel Watson, now of Buffalo, has served in the military at Albany; Colonel Mann and Francis are on the staff of General Carr, and Colonel Holt is a banker.

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI.

The alumni of the Wesleyan University, at Middletown, Conn., set down to their eleventh annual dinner at the Westminster Hotel last evening under the name of the Wesleyan University Club. Old men exchanged the greetings of alms men with each other, and the young men heard the songs that made them all boys again. Wesleyan is, like all other universities, a literary curriculum, sitting its students not only for the pupil, but also for the bench and bar. It will soon add to its faculty a chair of medicine, and the faculty will be in uniform as Yale, Harvard, and Princeton. The company, numbering fifty-two, sat down to the table at half-past seven P. M., and after the removal of the cloth, in which was a ruminaceous whist away the hours, parting at midnight to meet again in 1880. The chief addresses were made by George E. Reed, least marked of the speakers, and by George A. H. Whitney, of Hackettstown; Rev. Dr. J. Van Benschoten, Professor of Greek; Oliver Lloyd, President of the Connecticut State Senate; Rev. Dr. Daniel Curry, Rev. Emory J. Hayes, Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley, City Judge Hoyens, of Brooklyn, and General Fiske.