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JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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4TH YEAR.....NO. 356

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

- THEATRE DE LA VIKINGE—DR. VERKAUPE SCHLAF. HAYESVILLE THEATRE—THE GARDEN SCENE. BROADWAY AMUSEMENT HOUSE—STRAZINSKI. ACADEMY OF MUSIC—LA SONAMBULA. NIBLO'S THEATRE—THE MILK VENDOR. NIBLO'S GARDEN—HITS OF STROLL. STANDARD THEATRE—PHILOSOPHY. WALLACKS—ELECTRA. GERMANIA THEATRE—HARUN AL RASCHID. FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—H. M. PINAFORE. UNION SQUARE THEATRE—FRENCH FLATS. ABBEY'S PARK—FETTER IN HELLAND. DALY'S THEATRE—ADRIAN NIGHT. GRAND OPERA HOUSE—BROTHER SAM. KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL. FONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—VARIETY. NEW YORK CIRCUS—HEPITY DUMPTY. MATLOON. THEATRE COMIQUE—MULLIGAN GUARDS CHRISTMAS. CHICKERING HALL—JOSEPH CONCERT. BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC—PINAFOR. BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE—VIRGINIA.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be cloudy and cold, with snow or sleet. To-morrow it will be warmer and cloudy, with rains in the early portion.

DR. NEWMAN applied the seventh commandment to Wall street yesterday and made it fit some of the brokers very neatly.

HAVE THE SUNDAY RAIDS ON BARRIERS begun in earnest, or was yesterday's work merely a revival of the time-honored farce?

OUR PARIS LETTER is filled with the Odéon and its director's troubles, and suggests many differences between theatres abroad and those of America.

SECRETARY SHERMAN is reported to have the harmonizing of New York republican leaders on his mind. He will find it a greater task than reumption.

STILL ANOTHER MAN is held for trial on a charge of reckless driving. There is no other way of making pedestrianism perfectly safe in a large city.

IS THE APPOINTMENT of Mr. Clephane as Postmaster at Washington one of the results of the reported republican understanding arrived at in Philadelphia two days ago?

IN THE COURSE of a sensible lecture yesterday an old lady advised maidens not to marry young men who had no money, and she was quite right. The man who cannot take care of money is not fit to take care of a wife.

SOME OF THE PROSPECTIVE WORK of the Coast Survey Service is outlined in another column. None of it is of the kind that the public is wildly enthusiastic about, yet the same public will take as kindly to the results as if it had always been looking for them.

THE LAW of the transmission of parental qualities, said a preacher, yesterday, is taught about sheep and horses, but not about men. The speaker might have added that even if taught it will not be listened to until love becomes a virtue instead of an indulgence.

WHEN CHARGES were made against the management of the Milwaukee House of Correction, a few weeks ago, they were denied indignantly, but the State Board that has been investigating the matter find ample proof of brutal treatment of prisoners. Let New York take the hint.

REV. DR. FELTON says that as a rule our hundreds of churches are crowded with worshippers, but to see a theatre crowded is an exception. Evidently the reverend Doctor has not made the round of the theatres lately, and he cannot have visited many churches either.

THE COAL REGION of Pennsylvania is recovering from the quiet and order into which they were thrown by the execution of the Molly Maguires, and murders are being reported at a rate that recalls old times. Surely the Pennsylvanians are not again going to allow fright and carelessness to subject them to a reign of terror such as they endured a few years ago.

PROFESSOR PROCTOR'S OPINIONS of Mr. Edison and his work will be read with great interest by Americans. The Menlo Park inventor has been sneered at so frequently by English prints that it is pleasant to consider an estimate by a man of science who is informed upon the present state of scientific knowledge on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE WEATHER.—The disturbance that was expected to advance from the Rocky Mountain regions, as stated in yesterday's HERALD, made its appearance during the afternoon over the Lower Missouri Valley and is now moving rapidly toward the central valley and lower lake districts. The large area of high barometer which dominated the weather over the northern portions of the country on Saturday is passing into the ocean off the New England coast, and its slow movement causes the gradients for easterly and southeasterly winds to become very steep over the lower lakes. Snow fell in nearly all the territory east of the Mississippi except in the central valleys and South Atlantic States, where the high temperature caused the precipitation to take the form of rain. The temperature fell in the lower lake regions, Middle Atlantic and New England States, remained nearly stationary in the central valley districts and rose slightly elsewhere. The winds have been from brisk to high in the lake regions, brisk or fresh in the Middle Atlantic and New England, and generally light in the other districts. The approaching disturbance is likely to prove very severe along the Atlantic coast north of Cape Hatteras during the next few days. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be cloudy and cold, with snow or sleet. To-morrow it will be warmer and cloudy, with rains in the early portion.

The Nicaragua Canal and General Grant.

There is a well known story of an ancient artist who exerted all his skill upon a picture of which the subject was not announced. When this exquisite work of art had received his last touches and was ready for exhibition the connoisseurs of his city were invited to inspect it, and they paid it an undesigned compliment, like that of the birds who came and nibbled at the cherries in a fruit piece by another artist. The invited connoisseurs sat a long time in front of the masterpiece, gazing upon an exquisite curtain which hung before them, and at last exclaimed, in a burst of impatience, "Draw aside the curtain and show us the picture!" The artist, with a smile of triumph, told them that the curtain was the picture. He had done it so well as to produce the complete deception which he intended.

Have the Philadelphia artists who got up the great scenic display in honor of General Grant been practising a similar artifice? We do not know whether the parallel holds in all respects, but in one respect it is curiously close. During the last week, while the ceremonies of that most splendid welcome were in progress, there has been a general cry on the part of the public, "Draw aside the curtain and show us the picture!" Whether the curtain is the picture or merely conceals it is a point on which opinions differ. There is a persistent belief on the part of many that there is a great deal behind, and there has been no end of prying efforts to find out or to conjecture what it is. It is asserted that the time of General Grant in Philadelphia has not been wholly engrossed by the parade of compliments, and that he has been busy in private consultations with admiring schemers who are anxious to thrust upon him honors which he does not actually seek. One of these proffered honors is said to be the Presidency of the United States; the other the presidency of the Nicaragua Canal. As to the first, we shall be slow to believe, without better evidence, that General Grant has been consulted or even approached. We have perhaps had no public man since Washington who was less tolerant of invasions of his reserve or whose friends would so little venture to take undue liberties. We do not believe that any of his admirers, in Philadelphia or elsewhere, has dared to commit such a trespass upon his dignity as to broach a subject upon which he has given so many signs that he wishes to maintain an impenetrable reserve. If there have been consultations in Philadelphia respecting a third term for General Grant it may be safely assumed that he has not been a consulting nor a consulted party. The style of the man is too well known to permit such a supposition.

Besides being in some respects a sphinx General Grant is a person of solid sense; a well ballasted man, who, with sufficient pride, has no vanity; who is carried away by no sudden impulses and is not given to imprudent confidences. It is simply ridiculous to suppose that a man of General Grant's hard sense and habitual reticence has been parleying with a knot of officious politicians as to whether he will be a candidate for the Presidency. If they had the Presidency to bestow the thing would not seem so incredible. But General Grant was not born yesterday. He knows well enough that a small, secret and self-elected conclave of political busybodies, buzzing about the place where he is staying, is not the Republican National Convention. That body, consisting of delegates from all the States, of delegates yet to be chosen, will determine by its majority who shall be the republican candidate, and he is not likely to abandon his impenetrable reserve until the sentiment of the party is visibly flowing in some definite direction. If there should be an unmistakably strong current—a settled and steady current—in favor of his nomination, he will no doubt speak out unless he is willing to take the office, in which case silence would imply consent. But if the so-called "boom" should die away he will have best consulted his self-respect by making no declaration on the subject. We discredit all rumors that he has permitted inquisitive busybodies to approach him on the question of his nomination. What a few politicians may have done without his consent is of no more consequence than the bumpiness of the three tailors of Tooley street who passed a set of resolves in the name of "we the people."

It is also given out, on much better authority, that General Grant has been consulted in Philadelphia by the promoters of the Nicaragua Canal. This is true. The canal is a subject on which he has been as frank and open as propriety would allow. He is the originator of the project; it has interested him for many years; his name heads the petition which has been sent to Congress on the subject; he expects to be one of the incorporators; he has virtually consented to be made president of the company, if the concessions, capital and arrangements should be such as he approves. It will be a good thing for the enterprise and a good thing for himself if he should see his way clear to take the practical direction of it. He is in the full and ripe vigor of his faculties, and he should naturally desire some useful and honorable mode of employing them. He has no strong love for agriculture, like Washington; no taste for literature, like Jefferson and Adams; no decided parliamentary talents, like John Quincy Adams, who found relief from *causa* by long service in Congress. General Grant is too young a man to be willing that his faculties should rust out and go into slow decay for want of exercise. It is more than pardonable, it is creditable, that he desires a further career. The presidency of the Nicaragua Canal is a position which he could accept without loss of dignity, one in which he could be pre-eminently useful to his country and to the world, and in which he could add to his already great fame and renown. We have no doubt that he will take this position un-

less he thinks he is to be again elected the Chief Magistrate of the country.

As to his political prospects, we do not suppose that he has yet any settled opinion himself. He is not the kind of man to jump at conclusions in advance of the facts, nor to accept a nomination which, on a full survey of the situation, he would not think equivalent to an election. His reputation is too great to be staked upon uncertain chances. He is evidently awaiting the further development of public sentiment, and meanwhile there is no necessity for a final decision as to the presidency of the canal.

We cannot accept the opinion expressed by Mr. Menocal in the interview which we printed yesterday that the two positions are not incompatible. Mr. Menocal says that the offer of the French capitalists is conditioned "upon General Grant being the active or the honorary president of the company." If not elected President of the United States he is expected to take the former position; if he is, "what is there to prevent his remaining as the honorary president?" We answer that his own sense of propriety should be an insurmountable obstacle to his holding both positions. The President of the United States should not be an officer or stockholder of a company whose profits may be affected by the action of the government. It would be proper for General Grant as President to favor this enterprise, but it should be on purely public grounds, without any suspicion of bias from private interest. The shares of the company will go into the stock market and be the subject of speculation, and as their value might be affected by government action, it would not do for the President of the United States to have an entangling alliance with its affairs. We are confident that General Grant has never lent any countenance to the view expressed by Mr. Menocal. So far as he has encouraged the expectation that he will be president of the company he must have intended an active and responsible personal superintendence. It is to be hoped by all well wishers of this gigantic undertaking that it may secure the services of so able and illustrious an executive. What is four years of routine duty in the White House in comparison with the fame and advantage that would come to General Grant from constructing a stupendous and beneficent work which would eclipse all the changes yet made by man in the physical structure of the globe?

The Henriette Safe.

Close upon the report that the yacht Henriette was disabled at sea comes our special despatch announcing her safe arrival under sail at Fortress Monroe. Steam yachts so large and perfectly appointed as the Henriette are very rare, and gentlemen of means, like M. Say, are so little given to seeking pleasure in long ocean voyages that any serious disaster to the vessel would have occasioned unusual regret among people who admire handsome craft and spirited yachtsmen. As the accident was one that can quickly be remedied the Henriette will probably soon again be off upon her two-year cruise around the world, and her owner may feel safer than heretofore, having learned by experience that his boat can take care of herself under sail.

Rapid Transit North of Harlem.

Mayor Cooper has more Rapid Transit Commissioners to nominate in reference to routes north of the Harlem River, and the petitioners have suggested a list to him which seems sufficient in variety to satisfy his most exacting requirements. They ask him to choose among Messrs. Charles W. Bathgate, Horace B. Claffin, Andrew Findley, John B. Haskin, Leonard Jerome, Pierre Lorillard, Daniel R. Kendall, Lawrence Kip, Theodore Moss, W. W. Niles, Charles L. Perkins, ex-Judge Tappan and William R. Travers. If the Mayor is embarrassed by the invidiousness of appointing some of these gentlemen to the exclusion of the rest, he might put these thirteen names on separate slips of paper in a hat, shut his eyes and draw the requisite number. Or he might roll the slips into little pellets, after the fashion of a spiritual medium, and make a selection in that way. By either method upon the rules of hazard he could not fail to secure an intelligent and capable commission. Whichever he adopts, or if any other impartial process occurs to him, he should not long delay its application. In justice to the inhabitants of the northern wards of the city the appointments should be made promptly.

The Repeach of the Republic.

The cable reports that in a speech at Leeds on Saturday Sir Stafford Northcote, Earl Beaconsfield's Chancellor of the Exchequer, took Mr. John Bright severely to task for complimenting a republican form of government in an address of welcome to Mr. Thomas Bayley Potter upon his recent return from a visit to the United States. The details of Sir Stafford's censure are not given, but it is easy to infer them. He has played a very influential part in the modern reforms of the British civil service. Jointly with Sir Charles Trevelyan, in 1853, he made the celebrated report to Earl Aberdeen's Ministry which is the corner stone of the present civil service system of the British Empire. President Hayes transmitted a document to Congress at the beginning of the current session which contains a historical summary of the abuses and reforms of this branch of British administration and a discussion of their bearing upon American politics. We review this interesting and important document elsewhere in our columns to-day. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of it is its exposition how the contrast in respectability between the civil services of Great Britain and the United States is used in foreign countries to disparage republicanism. Probably we do not err in supposing that this contrast furnished Sir Stafford Northcote with the material for his attack upon Mr. Bright. What successful reply to such an attack can be made until the subject of civil service reform in America is revived from atrophy and appreciated at its true value?

Mr. Parnell on His Way.

We are not disposed to prejudice Mr. Parnell's mission and are willing that he shall have an opportunity to explain it to the American public. But if its purpose is what it is stated to be we have no hesitation in condemning it. Mr. Parnell, who has just embarked, is accompanied by his compatriots Dillon and Davitt. They were greeted with no enthusiasm on their departure from Dublin, nor during their journey thence to Queenstown, nor on their arrival and embarkation. The avowed object of the visit to America is to "make collections" from Irishmen in this country, and one Irishman at Queenstown objected to their going on a begging mission. If their reception in this country should be as frigid as their farewell on leaving their own they will have not a great deal to hope.

We are not surprised at the coldness with which Mr. Parnell's departure is regarded by the Irish people. The agitation having proceeded to dangerous lengths under Mr. Parnell's auspices, and some of the more zealous of his followers having been indicted for sedition, this would seem to be no fit time for the absence of their leader. If the agitation is legitimate he is the last man that should be spared. He should stand by his followers to give them heart and courage if they are right, and especially to restrain and direct their zeal when it is likely to overpass prudent limits. Other people can beg in a foreign country if begging is necessary, but the agitators without Mr. Parnell will be like an army deprived of its general in the most critical stage of a campaign. A leader should not fly from danger, but face it. If anybody is to brave the severity of the government Mr. Parnell is the man, and it does not become him after getting other people into difficulty to find safety for himself in a foreign country. If he wants to "make collections" for a sedition fund he will get very little here for pushing other people into dangers from which Mr. Parnell prudently withdraws his own person.

Lighthouse Illumination.

Sir William Thomson, the eminent British scientist, has recently proposed several very important reforms in the system of lighting lighthouses, which he enforces with many pertinent observations made by himself while cruising around the British coasts and investigating the practical operation of their lights. In a letter to the London Times, December 2, he contends very forcibly for an increase in the rapidity of revolution of revolving lights, and argues that they should never be lost to the seaman's view for more than the time required for their complete identification. He adduces instances of revolving lights obscured for twenty or thirty seconds, and one "with its fifty-four seconds of extinction and its niggardly six seconds of visibility," while "three short flashes in three or four seconds with an interval of six seconds of darkness would have an instantly recognizable rhythm" (letter S of the Morse flashing alphabet) intelligible to any approaching vessel. The incoherence of the mariner, when the revolutions of the light are slow and the time of visibility small in proportion to that of its extinction, is increased by the irregularities in the periods of revolution, which Professor Thomson's observations show are too common for safety.

Another reform he advocates is the plan of attaching to all lights which do not revolve a system of eclipsing shutters which would mark time signals, equivalent to the dot and dash of the Morse alphabet, so that each light would constantly spell out its own name, or a letter of the same import, for the benefit of an approaching mariner. Out of six hundred and twenty-three lights on the British and Irish coasts five hundred and thirteen are fixed lights, and these of course can only be distinguished from each other by the conjecture or belief of the sailor with regard to the position of his ship. No doubt, as the Times says, vessels are lost by mistaking lights thus indistinguishable.

A third reform proposed is the absolute abandonment of color as a means of distinguishing between fixed lights. The red and green, with one or two exceptions the only available colors for lights, are easily mistaken for the side lights of steamers, and thus lure the mariner on to the very perils against which they are designed to warn him. Color signals are also liable to be observed by color blind men, and experiments have proved that about four per cent of males have the unfortunate defect of vision which incapacitates them from distinguishing colors.

The high authority whence these reforms (which Sir William Thomson says he has been urging since 1872) emanate entitle them to the careful consideration of our own Lighthouse Board, some of whose lights on the Atlantic coast are distinguished by intervals between the flashes amounting to one minute and thirty seconds and even two minutes.

Eight-inch Party Walls.

Anybody who wants to understand how three hundred buildings have been erected on Manhattan Island during the year 1879 with party walls only eight inches thick, under the sanction of the municipal Superintendent of Buildings, can do so by referring to an instructive conversation reported in the HERALD this morning. The State Legislature, after codifying the building laws into thirty valuable sections, nullified their value by adding one that confers discretion upon the Buildings Department to disregard them in any particular. This discretion has been used in the three hundred cases at the solicitation of builders whose consciences are fully satisfied if their structures only hold together long enough for a sale of them to be effected. What destruction of property and how many deaths of innocent occupants and brave firemen are to result from the insufficiency of these eight-inch walls it remains for 1880 and subsequent years to reveal. And yet a considerable part of the people of New York seem to think that any kind of a pot-

house politician is good enough for an Assemblyman.

A Lucky Horseshoe. Yesterday, December 21, was the winter solstice, when Phœbus Apollo, driving the solar chariot toward the Antarctic Pole, stays his weary steeds for a moment and poises himself for his joyous progress northward. It was also the day set apart in the church calendars for honoring the "doubting apostle" who required tangible evidence before he would believe the latest and greatest of the Christian miracles. The day thus devoted to the prototype of all sceptics coincides very appropriately with the moment when solar light and heat are at their apogee, when the darkness can be felt and almost cut with a knife.

St. Thomas day, St. Thomas day. The longest night and the shortest day should, if our chronology were a really scientific one, based upon the eternal fixity of astronomical facts, be the date of the new year; and indeed it is probable that our year was intended as an approximation to the true solar epoch, minute accuracy being prevented by the fact that the winter solstice occurs in the middle of a month instead of at the end. The philosophers of the French Revolution, in reforming their calendar, attained this object, except that they chose to make the year commence at the autumnal equinox (September 21) instead of the winter solstice, and in so doing they merely reverted to the ancient astronomical year of the Hebrews and the Chaldeans. There are many who believe that the rising of "the Sun of righteousness with healing in his wings" was expressly typified by the assignment of the birth of Christ to this moment of deepest darkness before dawn, when "Light, more light!" is the despairing cry heard from the abyss of cosmoical gloom.

Be this as it may, the renewal of light and life dates from the winter solstice in the social world no less than in the astronomical year. Christmas and New Year's are close at hand, and henceforth we are in full autumnal. Millions of kindly souls are now intent upon the selection of gifts with which they will gladden the hearts of children, friends and lovers. Many and mirthful are the legendary tales, the symbolic practices and the half credited superstitions connected with this period. Books of fairy lore are in especial request by young and old. Ornaments in the form of a horseshoe have ever been exceedingly popular, and this year, as never before, the fashion has set in this direction. It is well known that the horseshoe possesses the magic virtue of warding all evil from its favored possessor and of consoiling to his service the sprites and elves of field, forest and flood. What more appropriate New Year's gift, then, could the master wizard of our time make to his countrymen than a "lucky horseshoe," which should at the same time be a magic lamp more practically useful in this workaday world than the perilous marvels wrought by Aladdin? What more wonderful fairy tale was ever invented by Arabian imagination than the simple chronicle which the HERALD presented to a sceptical generation on St. Thomas' Day of the triumphs achieved by "that marvellous boy, that sleepless soul," Thomas Alva Edison? The record of his fifteen months wrestling with the most hidden problems of the physical universe will forever render memorable the annals of the current year, which is so crowned by an invention "in its simplicity sublime." One of the strongest and most enduring things in the world proves to be the mere cinder of a soap of paper. Henceforth a manual of fairy lore will be as indispensable to the scientific man as his rows of encyclopedias and technical dictionaries. The Wizard of Menlo Park, after

nourishing a youth sublime With the fairy tales of science and the long results of time, takes his countrymen into his secret, and on New Year's Eve will present them with the "lucky horseshoe," the magician's wand which is destined to solve more problems in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in the current philosophies. Great is Cinderella and Tom Edison is her prophet.

The Negro Migration to Indiana.

The interesting despatch we print from North Carolina narrating the beginning and progress of colored migration from that State to Indiana leaves some mystery hanging over the movement. It gives a pleasing picture of the prosperity of the North Carolina blacks, their opportunities for education and employment and their equality with the whites in civil rights, and yet it says they depart in troops. More than four hundred have gone from the neighborhood of Goldsboro alone, which indicates a startling depletion of the population of the State if the same proportion prevails elsewhere. Some of the emigrants write back doleful stories of the unprofitableness of the change from the pine clad Southern highlands to the mud banks of the Wabash, but these are ineffective to restrain the departure of more. The only cause assigned for the movement—the playing of an Indiana editor and a North Carolina preacher upon the imagination of the negroes—seems inadequate.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

- The following Americans were registered at the Paris office of the New York Herald on Sunday, December 21, 1879: Barnes, Richard S., New York, Hôtel Continental. Craig, W. B., Montreal, Hôtel Continental. Clark, G. D., Baltimore, Grand Hôtel. Flint, S. J. B., and family, New York, Splendid Hotel. Griswold, Wayne, Montreal, Hôtel Continental. Humphrey, Miss Eva, New York, Hôtel Continental. Henry, W., New York, No. 50 Rue d'Aboukir. Hines, Harry A. C., and wife, New York, Hôtel de l'Athénée. Irwin, W. B., New York, Hôtel de l'Athénée. Ingham, S. S., New York, Hôtel de l'Athénée. Legg, George, New York, Hôtel Continental. Mott, General S. P., and wife, New York, Hôtel de l'Athénée. Reynolds, Fred. J., Ohio, Hôtel de l'Athénée. Rice, Henry, New York, Hôtel de l'Athénée. Ross, A. G., Cincinnati, Hôtel de l'Athénée. Rich, E., San Francisco, Grand Hôtel. Russell, Mrs. E. P., New York, Hôtel Continental. Thorndike, Ernest, New York, No. 33 Rue de Valenciennes. Taylor, James L., Iowa, Hôtel Continental. Taylor, Miss Clara, Iowa, Hôtel Continental.

Thorne, Miss Mollie, New York, Splendid Hôtel. Van Horn, S. V. A., Ohio, Hôtel de l'Athénée. Wolfe, Mrs. Fred, New York, Hôtel Continental. Young, John Russell, New York, Hôtel Chatham. Wagner and wife will go to Naples this winter. The Russians make a dish of turnips and chestnuts. Sir Francis Hincks, of Montreal, is at the Windsor Hotel. Cardinal Howard and Eugene Schuyler conversed in Russian.

Mr. Henry Waterson, of Louisville, is at the Everett House. "One thing," says the London Herald, "Mr. Gladstone's Scotch campaign has demonstrated is the fact that Lord Rosebery is the most popular man in Scotland." List has gone to Perth. His conversation is very easy, free and cultured. He is superintendent of music studies in Hungary. The Grand Duke of Weimar gives him a summer country seat. And List likes to play Bach. Roman gossip says that the retreat of Queen Margherita to the balmy shores of Bordighiera had its original cause in domestic difficulties that seem to point to the fact that the present King is in more than one respect the true son of his father.

London World.—I hear that the successful example set by the Orleans Club (of a ladies' coffee room) is about to be followed by other clubs, and that two—the Grand and the Berkeley—if they have not already opened their doors to ladies, have in contemplation so doing. London Spectator.—"Hardly anything that had a 'purpose' in it which Dickens ever did was done well. His astonishing genius, his unfathomable stores of humor, his quaint and wild power of caricature, were all apt to go terribly astray directly they were put in harness by that—in his case—most destructive agency, a moral purpose." Painters like Milliet, Walker and Mason obtained their success by contriving to impart a sort of human interest to the aspects of nature; they preferred to represent her always as she appears to persons in an intensely sentimental frame of mind—carrying the "pathetic fallacy" to the utmost limits. Such a style exactly suits the taste of the present generation; it is absolutely opposed to Turner's, who never obtained popularity into his pictures however much he preached in his titles.

SECRETARY SHERMAN AND THE THIRD TERM.

A large number of callers sent up their cards to Secretary Sherman at the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday, but that gentleman attended church in the morning and he was out during most of the afternoon. He told a HERALD reporter in the evening that he had nothing new to say in regard to finances or the currency; he had freely expressed his views in a recent interview published in the HERALD. In speaking of the Philadelphia letter published in Sunday's HERALD he said that several rumors were printed which did him great injustice, because they were untrue. He further stated that, with the assistance of several persons friendly to himself, Senator Cameron was the chief chairman of the National committee because he was deemed the most fit man for the position, without respect to his choice for the Presidency. As for his visit to Philadelphia, Mr. Sherman said that he had not seen Mr. Drexel he attended an evening reception given in honor of General Grant, and he saw General Grant and conversed with him in the presence of other guests; that the subject of the Presidency was not alluded to by either himself or General Grant; that he never had any conferences with any friends of General Grant while there as to the Presidency and was not in Philadelphia at the luncheon of Mr. Childs, but was at that time in New York; that he never was in Mr. Childs' house; he added that while he had always been a sincere friend of General Grant and had in the main supported him during his Presidency, yet he is now, as he was four years ago, of the opinion that it is not wise for General Grant to be a candidate for the third term.

GENERAL GRANT'S MOVEMENTS.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21, 1879. General Grant passed to-day very quietly, as though the troubled political tide which ebbs and flows through the corridors of the Continental Hotel did not exist. He was visited by a few of his friends, and attended services at the American and Breckinridge Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. Dr. Warren, pastor.

At 10 Mrs. George W. Childs called upon Mrs. Grant at the Continental Hotel and lunched with her. This afternoon General Grant remained quietly at the hotel and received but few visitors. This evening he dined with Mr. A. S. Forie at his residence on Spruce street.

ENTERPRISE IN SCIENCE.

THE EXPLOITATION OF AFRICA AND THE ARCTIC CIRCLE AS VIEWED FROM THE PULPIT. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.] NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 21, 1879. The Rev. O. H. Newland, in the Thames Street Methodist Episcopal Church this afternoon, while epitomizing the great progress which had been made in the world of science, art and literature since the birth of Christ, paid a graceful compliment to the American Arctic expedition, which he considered would accomplish all that was intended by the projector of the enterprise. The reverend gentleman, referring to the ordinary work of the evangelist, took the occasion to eulogize Stanley for what he had done while in search of the source of the Nile, in opening up a large and important missionary field.

CONVERSION IN THE PULPIT.

THE FIRST EPISCOPAL SERMON OF A FORMER BAPTIST MINISTER. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.] NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 21, 1879. The Rev. Charles Howard Malcolm, D. D., who for nearly a quarter of a century was pastor of a Baptist church in this city, preached his first sermon in Grace Episcopal Church, Providence, to-day, before a large audience, having recently, to the surprise of his hearers, been ordained and consecrated an Episcopalian. At the time of his change of belief he was secretary of the American Peace Society, and afterwards, at the request of the Society, he was obliged to relinquish that important office. Dr. Malcolm is a son of the late Rev. Dr. Malcolm, of Philadelphia, who was an eminent Baptist divine.

A SUNDAY NIGHT BALL.

ENTERTAINMENT OF THE LAFAYETTE GUARDS AT TONTONIA ASSEMBLY ROOMS—THE LAW NOT OPPOSED TO DANCING ON THE SABBATH. The sickness and need of one of their number recently led the members of the Battalion des Gardes Lafayette to adopt the project of holding a ball for his benefit. Last night was selected for this event, and as the programme indicated that dancing would begin at ten o'clock sharp some concern was felt lest this should be regarded as a violation of the Sabbath, and as such might attract unpleasant notice from the police. The place selected for the evening's festivities was the Tontonia Assembly Rooms, Third avenue and Sixteenth street, and, in anticipation of a possible interruption, a HERALD reporter visited the place at the hour announced for the commencement of the ball. The entire battalion was present in full uniform and the room was handsomely decorated with the French tricolor and private flags of the Gardes Lafayette. Across the room, stretching to the ceiling, were they were attached to a huge floral dome, were streamers of the national colors—red, white and blue. A large number of ladies were also present. A sacred concert preceded the ball. It comprised some excellent selections, and was carried out by members of the Holvreden, Esperance and Orphéon Français societies. At ten minutes to ten the floor was cleared for dancing and soon soldiers and civilians were whirling about in intricate mazes to the inspiring strains of a waltz, rendered by Schwall's band. Supper was served at twelve o'clock, and afterwards to the revelry was kept up until an early hour this morning. The whole affair was marked by perfect propriety.