

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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44TH YEAR—NO. 362

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW.

ABERLE'S THEATRE—POOL OF NEW YORK. NIBLO'S GARDEN—HEARTS OF STEEL. STANDARD THEATRE—PRINCES STOK. WALLACK'S—SHE SToops TO CONQUER. UNION SQUARE THEATRE—FRENCH FLUTE. DALY'S THEATRE—ABRAHAM NIGHT. GRAND OPERA HOUSE—STREETS OF NEW YORK. NEW YORK AQUARIUM—UNCLE TOM'S CABIN. Matinee. NEW YORK CIRCUS—HUMPTY DUMPTY. Matinee. BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE—STRATIGERS. THALIA THEATRE—DEN VIKKAUPE SCHULE. HAYVELL'S THEATRE—THE GALLERY SLAVE. ABBEY'S PARK THEATRE—FAIRFAX. PARKER'S AMERICAN THEATRE—VARIETY. THEATRE COMIQUE—MULLIGAN GUARDS' CHRISTMAS. KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL. TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—MRS. DISCROLL'S PARTY. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—THOMPSON STREET FLATS. CHICKERING HALL—JOSEPH CONCERT. HAYVELL'S THEATRE, BROOKLYN—BROTHER PAPERS. BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE—FRITZ IN IRELAND. NOVELTY THEATRE, WILLIAMSBURG—MY PARTNER. JERSEY CITY ACADEMY—CAMILLE. CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA—DR. CYLBER.

QUADRUPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1879.

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

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were very dull, prices were maintained in all cases, and in most a slight advance was recorded when the market closed. Money was a trifle stringer, a "commission" of 1-16 and interest being at times paid for call loans on stock collateral, but the closing rate was 5 per cent. The bank statement shows a decrease of \$1,644,300 in the surplus reserve. There were no changes of note in the market for bonds.

GET OUT YOUR SKATES and see that they are not rusty.

AGAIN a false alarm has thrown a large theatre audience almost into a panic.

A JERSEYMAN in his hundredth year is being sued by his wife for support and maintenance.

IF YOU NEGLECTED THE HOSPITAL COLLECTION yesterday you can atone for it at church to-day when the plate is passed.

NEW ORLEANS is rejoicing over her reopened mint and plenty of silver; oh, that she would take the surplus from the North.

THE KEROSENE LAMP has been doing the usual thing at Trenton, and to-night thousands of people will do exactly what the victim did.

OFFICER MOIR'S ARRANGEMENT on the charge of causing the death of John Slattery is bad for the officer, but promises greater safety to the public.

STEAMSHIP OWNERS appear to have grown more cautious within a few weeks, at which passengers, shippers and insurance companies will rejoice.

SOME LADIES write the HERALD to ask whether New Year's calls will be made this year. They will unless the breed of men suddenly runs out.

AN ENORMOUS INCREASE in emigration to this port is proved by statistics, and the question of how many of the new comers remain in the city becomes a serious one.

INDOOR ARCHERY is the newest thing in winter sports, and a capital game it is. A twenty-yard range, or even a longer one, may be made in many a hall or parlor floor.

TAMMANY begins to grumble at being managed by a single man, but nothing can destroy her old-time reputation for patience and endurance under such treatment.

A QUESTION OF SANITY is likely to be raised in the case of the Philadelphia vitriol thrower, in which the fine method of some alleged madmen should be fully considered.

WEST SIDE PROPERTY OWNERS are discussing "Taxation and Local Assessments," as they should have done long ago in common with owners of unimproved property everywhere in the city.

STORIES OF CLIPPING by policemen were flying about at Madison Square Garden last night, but probably members of the audience may be found who will swear they didn't see anything of the kind.

THE HOWARD FAMILY, which had such a pitiful Christmas, is in comfortable circumstances, but will the tender hearts that have sympathized with these people learn by the family's experience that the most deserving cases of charity are not always found in the usual manner?

THE WEATHER.—The disturbance that advanced from the Northwest on Friday is now moving slowly over the central valley districts. Its energy was somewhat dissipated during the early portion of the day, but toward night there were indications that it would reorganize a storm centre when it reached the lower lake districts to-day. The slow movement of the area of high barometer which overlies the Atlantic and Gulf coast districts causes the gradients for southerly and southwesterly winds to become steep over the central sections of the country. Snow fell throughout the lake regions. The weather was generally fair in the other districts, except in the New England States. The temperature rose decidedly in the lake, central valley districts and the West, remained nearly stationary in the Middle Atlantic and New England States and fell elsewhere. The winds have been from fresh to brisk in the lake regions, Middle Atlantic and New England States. In the other districts they were light. The weather over the British Islands is becoming stormy. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be warmer and partly cloudy, possibly with occasional snow. To-morrow it will be warm and cloudy, with snow or sleet.

Dirt and Yellow Fever in Memphis.

The persistent obscurity of the origin of yellow fever, notwithstanding the vigor of the investigation that has been pursued for many years, is ascribed by the ignorant as a reproach to physicians and sanitarians. They are impatient of the long delay and improve the occasion to deride science. In our Southern cities of late it has not been uncommon to find men, otherwise intelligent, who regard pestilence with the fatalism of Mohammedans. While their neighbors disperse for safety they stand their ground because what is to be will be. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and if death has marked them for his own his shaft will strike the mark whether it is set up in the Arctic zone or the tropics. But these fatalists confound two very different things—the source of the disease, with the conditions necessary for its manifestation. The origin of sin likewise is as obscure as ever, notwithstanding the labors of theologians ever since the appearance of man on earth. But the circumstances conducive to its practice are better and better understood in the progress of civilization. The Lord's Prayer beseeches relief from temptation as well as deliverance from evil to secure safety from mortal death. So a sound-minded man should pray for wholesome physical surroundings no less than mercy from the pest itself if he would not die with black vomit.

Three important documents have been printed this month recording scientific observations concerning the prevalence of yellow fever during the year that is closing. The first is Dr. Joseph Holt's analysis of all the cases of the fever which occurred in New Orleans, treating each in detail. The second is the report of the committee, of which Dr. John S. Billings is chairman, appointed by the National Board of Health to make a sanitary survey of Memphis. The third is a preliminary report of the commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Stanford E. Challé, which was sent to make a similar survey of the Island of Cuba. What is most significant in these documents is their agreement upon certain necessary conditions for the manifestation of the disease, whatever may be its original source, and one of these essential conditions is dirt. Dr. Holt "challenges any man to cite with corroborative evidence one single instance of yellow fever occurring de novo and spreading in a community where there did not exist bad hygienic conditions due to the massing of human excretions and other filth in close proximity to habitations." Dr. Billings and his associates report that by a thorough cleansing of the city and the introduction of pure water and the adoption of a proper plan of sewerage "Memphis may soon become one of the healthiest cities in the Valley of the Mississippi." Dr. Challé and his fellow commissioners report that "the whole truth certainly has not been fathomed; but this much of it is indisputable, that wherever in Cuba a town exists which has the greatest commercial intercourse, the most numerous unacclimated population, the least exposure to the winds, and houses the most crowded together, densely inhabited and filthy, the worst ventilated and drained, there a town will be found where the endemic prevalence of yellow fever is most marked." The stress which each of these authorities lays upon the peculiarly noxious character of human filth as distinguished from all other varieties also requires remark. In Memphis it appears that it is common to find privy wells "from fifteen to fifty feet in depth, filled with fecal matter," in the cellars and basements of dwelling houses, and many other extraordinary details of disgusting habits of the inhabitants in this particular are narrated. In New Orleans Dr. Holt ascribes the death of General John B. Hood and his wife and two children—the most notable victims of yellow fever during the year—directly to the fact that their house, "although apparently complete and elegant in all its appointments, was really in an unsanitary condition of the worst character, due to the existence of a closed and unventilated privy vault in the basement." In Havana Dr. Challé avers that generally in the dwelling houses "the privy is almost a part of the kitchen, and consists of an excavation which often extends for several feet under the stone flags of the court, and never is emptied till it will hold no more, generally in from five to ten years." In the summer, he adds, "a fecal odor prevails generally, and is distinctly perceptible as it oozes from the doors and windows of almost every house.

If dirt, then, is an invariable condition of the appearance of yellow fever, what is the best application of money that can be made for the relief of the afflicted localities, and when is the best time to make it? The answer as to the cities in our Mississippi Valley is perfectly free from doubt. Take Memphis for the immediate example. Cleanliness is the most practical object, and now is the true time for the expenditure. The same sum spent during the last two summers for care of the sick and aid of the helpless in that city in periods of the stagnation of business could have been more economically applied during either of the preceding winters in averting a condition essential to the appearance of the disease. If the municipal Corporation of Memphis has not credit enough to raise the money to cleanse the city immediately and thoroughly let the Mayor and prominent citizens appeal at once to the benevolence of the American people to help them do it, instead of provoking a return of the pestilence next summer and relying then for the third successive year upon the sympathy of outsiders. At least let the householders of the place reform their personal habits in the details of domestic life to which we have alluded, for the sake of decency, if not of health. It is unreasonable for them to sit inactive on their dung heaps during the winter and pray for pity when a July sun raises the spectre of pestilence again out of the ordure. A complete plan for the restoration of their city to health has been framed for them at the national expense, by a very competent committee, including military and civil engineers as well as professional sanitarians of the first rank in reputation

and competency. Careful estimates of cost accompany most of the details, by which it appears that they scarcely can exceed half a million dollars. The total of the estimate for sewerage and subsoil drainage is only two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. If the people of Memphis, who recently numbered nearly seventy thousand, are unequal to this disbursement, now is the time for them to confess it and entreat assistance. The first case of yellow fever in New Orleans this year occurred on June 16. The date of the first case in Memphis is not officially mentioned. Like all the other relations of the municipality to the disease carelessness pervades the public records. But doubtless it was nearly at the same time. More than five months therefore probably intervene for Memphis to purify itself against the recurrence of the pest. Half the time ought to be sufficient for the completion of almost every requisite except the sewers, and upon those also shovels ought to be already at work.

The capacity of the inhabitants of the Mississippi Valley to help themselves in this matter this winter has other aspects than those merely sanitary. It is a practical test of their comparative intelligence and energy—in one word, of their civilization. The official narrative of the sanitary state of Memphis, as ascertained by the National Board of Health, would reflect disgrace upon a town in Asiatic Turkey. Pride should combine with prudence to apply the remedy. It is in no grudging spirit that we say it will be something akin to fraudulent imposition if she beseeches New York again for succor without doing anything meanwhile for reform. The charity of New York is boundless, and even such an entreaty will be bountifully answered. Our people also are well aware that in the matter of cleanliness their own city is far from superiority to reproach. The filling of the Harlem flats with garbage was as monstrous an invitation of disease as anything Dr. Challé reports from Havana. It becomes us to be modest in administering admonition on this subject, but even within the narrow limits of that modesty we have a right to exhort Memphis to purge and be clean. We are not quoting the language of a stranger to the South, or of any one out of cordial sympathy with its distresses, when we adopt and apply to Memphis the rather florid sentence of Dr. Holt concerning New Orleans, that "if ever we discover the talisman whose charm shall save us from yellow fever we will also discover upon it a few cabalistic characters, the spring of its magical potency, and these, when arranged, will spell one word—Cleanliness."

The Trouble in Maine.

In the HERALD to-day we print a statement from Governor Garelson of his view of his imperative duty in respect to defective returns of election. He holds, it will be seen, that he has no discretion and must act on the law as he understands it, and that the only point at issue is whether he shall do this or shall yield to popular clamor. This issue appears to be approaching a solution on the point in reference to the guns at Bangor. Governor Garelson and his Council are apparently determined to have these guns and to make the orders of the Executive respected when given on a point within the proper sphere of Executive authority. If the people of Bangor, therefore, continue as excitable and bellicose as they were on Thursday, and the Governor persists in the intention with which he is now credited by the despatches, the disturbance which is imminent will actually occur on a point on which the people have not the least color of justification—on which the Governor is indubitably right. The arms are the property of the State and are in the custody of the State officers, and as the Governor is ex officio the head of the armed force of the community, nothing can be clearer than his right to order the removal of arms from one point to another, and to enforce this order if it is resisted. The people might as well interfere with him in any other recognized function of his office as in this. If a community, outraged by an act of official treason—amazed at a disregard for the principles of republican government by which the expressed will of the people is set aside on flimsy pretenses—have determined that they will not look on with folded hands at the consummation of such a villany, it is just as well that they should fight their Governor on a point on which they have a show of right on their side. There ought to be enough Yankees in Maine to discover this by Monday, and, therefore, it is possible the removal of the arms will not be resisted.

From the way in which opinion seems to be already shaping itself we are inclined to believe that the men of Maine do not mean to "condone" Governor Garelson's coup d'état. Maine evidently does not feel that she is ready to have official jugglery decide for her those points which her constitution supposes are to be decided by the will of the people. There is a little difference in cases of this kind between an old, well organized State, where opinion is not demoralized on questions of common right, and one of the new Southern States, whose ancient system was torn up in the war, half of whose people were slaves a few years since, whose government is in the hands of adventurers, and in which a distinct conception that one act may be more villainous than another does not exist. Both parties in Maine should be and apparently are of the same opinion on this case, because a distinct issue of right and wrong rallies all fair minded men on one side. But if the Maine people determine not to stand it, what can they do? That is a point on which it does not yet appear that there is a common agreement, and they may conceive in fact that it is a detail. It cannot be impossible to find a fair legal method of getting around the difficulties of this case unless the Governor's plot goes so deep that he is determined not to facilitate such a settlement. In some of the cases in which cities have been deprived of their representative the informality upon which the Governor has acted is

that of State officers; and if a State administration may take advantage of its own shortcomings thus to set aside the result of an election, and there is no legal remedy, then the people must adopt some other. Civil war is a great evil; but the American people have always thought it preferable to the loss of liberty.

The Afghan War.

Apparently the British government would like to be safely out of the Afghan difficulty, for the article in the London Times which counsels an immediate retreat has very much the air of a feeler thrown out in the government interest. "We can now," says the Times, "retire from Afghanistan with honor and with safety. By and by the choice may not be open to us." If this were only the expression of an individual opinion it would be of less moment than we take it to be, though no instructed opinion on such a point is without weight. But if the government has inspired this method of feeling the public pulse—if it wishes to test by this expedient how the country would receive an official statement of retreat from Afghanistan—the result will perhaps encourage it, for it does not seem to have provoked any extravagant declarations. If this is, in fact, an official hint, it is characteristic of the real timidity in difficult occasions of a government that has swaggered furiously where there was no reason for it.

As to the rapidly increasing complications of the situation in Afghanistan the Times was right and even prophetic. It foretold immediately after the defeat which forced General Roberts into his fortified camp, and already the difficulties are very much greater than they were then. The simple demonstration that the fatalistic spirit of Mohammedanism is to be counted as one of the factors in the case has within a few days made it apparent that England will not only be fortunate if her soldiers can hold their own through the winter, but more than fortunate if she ever gets a man of them out of the country. England is now face to face with the one Asiatic force that has in its turn overwhelmed and annihilated all empires and governments and authorities which it had reason to regard as its enemies. Divided by collisions of interest the various Asiatic races of men may be easily enough subjected by a few thousand such troops as England sends against them, but if all these men are united and moulded into one mass by the spirit of a great common passion England does not possess military power enough to conquer them. And the passion that can thus gather into one focus all the barbarian courage of these naturally fierce people is already active, and has been just now especially stirred by the senseless British policy of attempting to awe the country by a few executions of men whose persons are sacred under the laws of Islam. The risks thus wantonly incurred may be appreciated by consulting the elucidation of the "great Mohammedan revival" which appears in our columns this morning.

It would be an act of great moral courage to withdraw the British troops at this moment, but one that would excite contempt for the government, since it would admit practically that the invasion of Afghanistan had been undertaken heedlessly and without proper consideration of the difficulties. Therefore it is very unlikely the step will be taken. There is not enough moral courage in this Minister to face the cry that would be raised over a precipitate retreat from a campaign undertaken with such lofty contempt of much contrary advice. Her Majesty's Ministers can better endure the blotchy of all the troops at or near Cabul than face the political consequences of saving them by a retreat.

Farthing Candle Science and the Electric Light.

Mr. Morton, of the Stevens Institute of Technology, is the last "great" man who has favored the world with his opinion on the electric light. He is satisfied that it is a failure. He has always been satisfied to that effect since he examined the subject. In fact, he will not have it on any terms, and when a man of his eminence actually refuses to consent to the electric light it is but little short of impertinence for Mr. Edison to invent it, and apologies are due from him to the Professor. Instead of apologizing, however, he simply denies what the Professor says. Both gentlemen's words are given in to-day's HERALD as we find them printed in the columns of the Sun. Mr. Morton pities Edison and protests against the harm the HERALD's account of his invention must do his reputation, assuming as he does that the account is grossly false; but Mr. Edison says "every word that was printed in the HERALD article was literally true," and he seems to intimate that he does not regard Professor Morton's knowledge on topics related to the electric light as superior to that of all other men—a point on which apparently he and Professor Morton are at odds. Professor Morton is apparently one of those average men of science who are amply endowed to fill one little circle and are pretty thin outside of that circle. He believes that the world is finished and that there is no room for new inventions. As Lord Russell was willing to consent that the progress of the British people might be admitted to go so far as he approved, but held that the point so gained must be a finality, so this professor will not admit that there may be any movement in the progress of invention beyond his finality; which is gas.

Pulpit Topics To-day.

The sermons to-day will treat very largely of Christmas or New Year topics, in which the incarnation or the social customs with which we begin the year or the events which have taken place during the year past will be discussed. On the latter Mr. M. Collier, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Strobbridge, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Cross, Mr. Lloyd and others will speak. Mr. Hatfield will also point out to young women their duty on New Year's Day, in view of the temptation and danger that beset young men at that time. Mr. Hull will interpret the voices of the departing year. Mr. Cross will take account of stock for

the new year and Mr. Lloyd will recall the mercies of the past and be thankful. Among the Christmas themes is the promise of the first Christmas and the world's response to Christ by Mr. Dodge, the meaning and outcome of the Advent by Mr. Martyn and a general talk on the subject by Mr. Ackerly. The last night of the Assyrian army will be described by Dr. Burchard and its lessons emphasized. How to remove obstacles to the progress of Christ's work in the world will be told by Mr. Knapp, and death as a reformer and revealer of the individual will be portrayed by Mr. A. J. Davis, and what heaven and hell are within us will be told by Mr. Goss. Mr. W. R. Davis will tell us what men think of Christ; Dr. King will tell us whether He should be admired or adored; Dr. Bevan will show the relation between religion and law; Dr. Newman will maintain the supremacy of law, and Professor Adler will warn his people of the danger of religious persecution. Other subjects will relate to the care of the sick, in view of the concentrated efforts for the hospitals to-day.

Maine's Army.

It is somewhat confusing to turn from the hints at fire and blood that are conveyed by despatches from Maine to a consideration of the army of that determined State. The entire force numbers about eight hundred men, but as the most patriotic army seldom has more than half its numerical force ready for duty it is hardly likely that the serried columns that will march against the ruthless foe of liberty, whoever he may be, will display more than five hundred muskets, or about one to every sixty square miles of State territory. True, the force is thoroughly commanded and managed, for aside from company officers there appears to be, besides Commander-in-Chief Garelson, one major general, two brigadiers, two colonels, five or six lieutenant colonels and two majors. These, of themselves, if properly mounted, might make a not ineffectual cavalry force, and we must say that the service appears quite feeble in the important branch of mounted troops. How many of the companies have ever assembled under a battalion commander is not reported; but it is to be feared that in a State of such magnificent distances the opportunities for battalion drill have been few. There is also some uncertainty about who would obtain possession of the State's arms and ammunition in case of a conflict. Assistant Adjutant General French's late experience in removing arms from an arsenal is not very satisfactory on this point. Maine has thousands of veterans of late wars, but the trouble is that these are seldom or never found in militia organizations. In short, Maine's army would probably prove as valiant and unsatisfactory as the great force which, according to Diedrich Knickerbocker's "History of New York," Governor Peter Stuyvesant collected for his great expedition against the Swedes. Still, Maine has nothing to be ashamed of—unless she fights. Her militia force is as large as that of any but four States at the outbreak of the rebellion; as large, indeed, as the present combined force of a dozen States that we could name.

Reporters as Detectives.

The young man Scannell who last week successfully maintained the reputation of his family for shooting is again in New York, and has a HERALD reporter to thank for his change of base. The police seemed to have given up the search, yet the man was all the while within twenty miles of New York, and apparently making no attempt at concealment. The method of his capture is explained in another column, and the entire story shows how easy the capture of other and similar fellows might be if the officials were to take at least as much interest in the matter as a man did who simply read his newspaper intelligently. It is a noteworthy fact that the attention of the HERALD's attaché to the case was not attracted by any official information, but merely by our own published account of the affair, and that the Paterson officials seem to have overlooked the matter entirely, instead of being on the alert to discover who and what strange barroom loungers are.

Obstructed Streets.

Is nobody charged with the duty of maintaining streets and sidewalks in their proper condition? The liberties that builders take are bad enough at any time; flagging is torn up, bricks, lumber and other building material encroach upon one side of the footpath, while scaffolding extends into the other; long timbers are moved in so leisurely that pedestrians have to take to the streets for a passageway, while bricks, slates and splashes of paint fall so frequently that those who have not already suffered by them are apprehensive whenever they pass a building in course of erection. At this season of the year the rain, snow, ice and slush make matters infinitely worse, as nobody knows of it better than the policemen who pass the houses and such Building Department officials as happen to call in the discharge of their duty. There is no need that the encroachments above mentioned should exist at all. In all but very rare cases the material can be delivered and prepared on the ground which the house is to occupy. On the other hand, however, it is quite certain that the public patience and safety will be compromised by almost every builder unless the persons annoyed by any particular obstruction visit the station house of their own precinct persistently until something is done by way of remedy. A few vigorous complaints will settle the question of responsibility, which all officials are at present disposed to treat gingerly.

Hatch and Oray.

At latest advices Chief Oray had brought in only a part of the guilty Utes for whom he started, while General Hatch has refused to start for Washington with the chiefs unless he receives all the braves he has asked for. Evidently Oray has attempted more than he can accomplish, although his success in bringing in any prisoners at all is greater than many men who know the

Indian character have expected. Of what does General Hatch suppose the Utes are made? There is nothing whatever to prevent any man who is "wanted" from leaving his fellows and remaining away from them until the affair has blown over or the not improbable fight begins. Oray's ability to bring in any man whom he can find has never been doubted, but hunting an Indian who prefers to remain hidden is mere child's play. Commissioner Hatch has changed his own location, we hope from motives of prudence; the snow is already heavy, the prospect of any more Indians being brought in is bad and that of the Commissioners getting out with such prisoners as they have is little if any better. So the outlook is anything but pleasing.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Sir Francis Hincks, of Montreal, is at the Windsor Hotel. Senator Henry W. Blair, of New Hampshire, is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Eugène Labiche, the author of "Box and Cox," has officially presented himself as a candidate for the French Academy. The Duke of Edinburgh is a home body. He is never jolly in a boisterous way, but he is always pleasant and cheerful. Short dialogue from L'Espresso:—"Combien d'Académiciens a-t-il?" "Cinq." "Tu mets un tiro de coffre." "Jamais autant qu'il y a." Coffish balls should have very little codfish in them. Some landladies leave out the codfish altogether, and so nobody is disappointed. Perhaps no other writer gives a better idea of the life of an English tenant farmer than George Eliot does—especially in her novel of "Adam Bede." France is like a runaway horse. Every once in a while she smashes everything all to pieces, and then has a new and stronger set of harness put on her. Secretary of the Navy Thompson, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Jeanie Thompson, left Terre Haute, Ind., last night in a special car for Washington. Kinglake, the historian, is a lawyer as well as the heir to a large property. He has all his life long studied plans of battles in war, and he rode beside Eugene and patron in his work, and while reading him one cannot help thinking that he must have been partially asphyxiated by the gas from the mid-night oil.

According to the law pronounced by a Western judge a man who is waiting has as much right to be in the road as a horse has. The driver of the horse, having plenty of room, deliberately refused to turn out, saying that the road belonged to him and his horse and wagon. The man who was injured took ordinary precaution, but the driver, who was a farmer in good circumstances and a deacon in the church, insisted that the man ought to be run down. The judge thought differently. London Truth—"Russians may be roughly divided into two species; one is patient, secretive, thanks Heaven by word of mouth for everything befalling him, and keeps everything that forms in the brain and troubles it, well out of the tongue's way. The other type is mercurial and nervous; it is easily elated, easily depressed and easily fired up with what appears to be enthusiasm, but which is more often than not the oppression of the brain by the nerves. The Russian of this category is the aristocrat, and is to be met with in gambling houses, salons, the grand hotels of Continental watering places, and also sometimes in the lecture rooms of the Sorbonne and the noisy cafes of the Quartier Latin."

From the Paris Gaulois:—"L'annonce de l'arrivée de la flotte à Paris nous est venue d'Amérique, le 4 décembre, par dépêche. C'est un bureau météorologique du journal le New York Herald que nous sommes redevables de ce funebre et trop ponctuel avertissement. Notre confrère américain, le créateur de tant de choses pratiques et utiles, frappé des avantages incalculables que donnait le service des météorologiques établi aux Etats-Unis, créa un bureau météorologique local, qui devait donner le préavis du temps pour la région avoisinante, et mit à la tête de cet établissement M. J. Collins. M. Collins, étudiant la marche des tempêtes à travers le continent américain, arriva à cette conviction que certaines d'entre elles pouvaient traverser l'océan et aborder l'Europe. Son opinion ne trouva bientôt confirmée par un certain nombre de faits probants. Le 14 février 1877 il envoya par le câble transatlantique la première dépêche relative à ce sujet, et la prévision, à laquelle on n'avait guère ajouté foi en France, se réalisa au jour indiqué, le 19 février. Il est assez curieux de voir la météorologie officielle dépassée de vaincu par les observations météorologiques d'un journaliste."

Mr. Proctor writes from Hion December 26:—"The idea that Sodom and Gomorrah may have been destroyed by meteoric downfall is not altogether a new one. I advanced it, but not very seriously, several years ago in the English Mechanic, and it was taken up quite seriously by an ingenious, though rather feeble correspondent of that journal, Mr. E. L. Garbutt, the well known architect. He took up the theory precisely in the form in which I had, half jestingly, suggested it, viz., that the meteor system which produced the destruction of the cities of the Plain, was the so-called November system which at that remote date would have been a September system. It can be shown that Tempel's comet, in whose track the November meteors travel, must have passed near, and may have passed very near indeed, to the earth, at about the time which tradition assigns to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Moreover there can be little doubt that the comet's meteor train was then far more compact than it is at present. Again, it is certain that among the meteors of the November system are many which far exceed in size those seen during the display of November 13-14, 1866; for during the display of November 13-14, 1866, some of the falling stars were bright enough to cause distinct shadows to be thrown. Supposing the meteors forming the comet itself, or very near to the comet, to be larger yet, they would probably be able to break their way through the air as the larger meteoroids do, and if strewn with proportionate density, so as to fall in the form of a compact stream, they would descend as a very destructive shower upon whatever part of the earth's surface happened to be most fully exposed to them. Now it happens, strangely enough, that at the time mentioned in the verse you quote—"The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar;" then the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven—"the destroyed cities lay almost centrally on that disk of the earth which was turned toward the "radiant" of the November meteors. If over a special and not very large district of the earth could be so rained upon by meteors that towns in it could be destroyed the catastrophe would unquestionably be attended by just such circumstances as these—that is, the region would be as fully as possible exposed to the hail of meteors, and this hail would be as heavy as possible, which would require that either the comet itself or a part of its meteor train very close to the comet should be the source of the meteoric hail. In the case supposed, the velocity you have mentioned would be far exceeded; for not only does the earth herself speed along round the sun at the rate of 1,100 miles per minute, or more than sixteen miles per second, but the November meteors travel with a greater velocity—about twenty-four miles per second—meeting her almost full tilt, so that we have for the velocity with which the meteors rush through the air, something like forty miles per second. Add to this that when the meteors of November 13-14, 1866, were examined with the spectroscopic, the element which was found to be most largely present was sodium, the chief component of our common salt, whereas it may be detected as a "naturalized" explanation of the fate of Lot's wife. Those who take interest in this theory of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah might possibly manage to find some evidence of heavy meteoric downfall in that part of the earth. The search would be as likely to be rewarded with success as that which my esteemed friend the Abbé Moigno has suggested should be made for the chariots, &c., of the destroyed army of Pharaoh.