The Sunday Herald.

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GATH'S LETTER.

President Monroe and P's Doctrine—His Death and Refuge in New York City.

From Our Own Correspondent.

MARBLE CEMETERY, March 21, 1880.

President Hayes has within a week or so revived the Monroe Doctrine, or the shadow of it, for it is at best an opinion—an impulse rather than an opinion.

About 1823 George Canning became jealous of what was called the Holy Alliance of European sovereigns, made up of Austria, Russia, France, and Spain. A liberal revolution had broken out in Madrid, and these sovereigns forcibly interfered in the affairs of that country to put the Bourbon back on the throne. England and America, as two leading Protestant countries, looked sullenly on this result of the suppression of Napoleon. James Monroe, the President, a man almost illiterate and wholly dependent on Jefferson for his views, communicated to the latter at Monticello the fact that Canning desired the United States to recognize the young Spanish-American republics, and to declare against the interference of the Holly Alliance in the matter of the revolted colonies of Spain. Monroe, instead of going to his Secretary of State, notified Jefferson of this proposition from Canning, and the result was a long stump-speech letter from Jefferson, laying down what was called the Monroe Doctrine, when, five weeks afterward, Monroe put it in a message to Congress. The Monroe Doctrine, therefore, while it bears Monroe's name, was the hint of Canning, the formula of Jefferson, and finally the earnest labor of Henry Clay.

MONROE'S GOTHAM HAUNTS.

It may not be generally known in New York that James Monroe died in this city on the 4th of July, 1831, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, near the rear of the present Metropolitan Hotel. His house was on the corner of Prince and Elm streets, not more than half a mile from where his body was interred, at the Marble Cemetery on Second street, a little east of the Bowery. Monroe came to this city as a young member of Congress, under thirty years of age, before the formation of the Constitution. He had very little native ability and has left few or no traces in the strong labor of organizing the Union. But he had been wounded in the Revolutionary War, in which, however, he cut no figure, and was reputed to be a large Virginia landholder. Indeed, his father imported the Scotch tutor who taught Thomas Jefferson. While in New York Monroe courted Miss Eliza Kartright, of an old Dutch family. Her sister married Mr. Gouverneur, also of Dutch stock. In course of time Monroe's daughter married her cousin, Sam. L. Gouverneur. After he had received upwards of $400,000 in public salaries, and taken every office in the people's gift, from Governor of Virginia down to justice of the peace, which he held after being President, James Monroe found that he was a beggar. Like many men of small ability, he had been forward with his purse where he was short of counsel, and he had to accept his daughter's invitation to come to New York at the age of seventy-two and inhabit this house. We can understand how, even at that day, office-grabbing was the rule of the Virginia school, when it is mentioned that Monroe's son-in-law had been postmaster of New York, and the last of his line, his grandson, was a Treasury clerk at Washington even when they removed the remains in 1858.

In New York Mr. Monroe was scarcely known, Winfield Scott and a few old Virginians used to call on him, but he was afraid of the ringing of the door-bell, lest it might be a creditor or constable. He strolled out to the Centre Market sometimes, and looked at the fish and vegetables, and was pointed out to people as "old Monroe." John Quincy Adams, who delivered the only eulogy of note over him, said that his miserable latter-end was due to his own instructions, the Jeffersonian junta to which he belonged having steadily inculcated among the people jealousy and parsimony with their public stewards.

It was this most mediocre man, with hardly an independent principle, who was chosen by Jefferson to arraign the Federal Government in respect to his attitude toward France.

Monroe was recalled from the French Mission by John Adams, and when he went to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs to get his letters of recall that worthy said that "he must lay the matter before the Directory, and meantime he would give Monroe a letter of hospitality, without which no stranger could remain in Paris." A day or two after the Minister notified Monroe that the Directory would not receive another Minister from the United States until "after the redress of grievances." His successor, Pinckney, our first international lawyer, was studiously insulted, and was actually allowed to cool his heels in Paris long enough to get his baggage, while Monroe was considered the ally of France, and Barras, the patron of Josephine and Bonaparte, covered him with compliments.

When Monroe arrived in Philadelphia the opposition to Adams's administration gave him a great welcome. He had a public dinner, with Chief Justice McKean at the top of the table and Thomas Jefferson alongside. Immediately Monroe asked the State Department in a public letter why he had been recalled. The State Minister, Pickering, refused to explain, saying that the President could remove from office without giving any reasons for it. Thereupon Monroe, without leave, published his entire diplomatic correspondence to show that the French Directory would have borne with us if we had not made a treaty with the British. The Federalists at once accused Monroe of being willing to see the United States reduced to a dependant like Holland and Spain. Monroe then was drawn into a conflict with Alexander Hamilton, which resulted in Hamilton's confessing the celebrated Reynold's scandal. For thus serving Jefferson he was made President in course of time, having been twice Governor of Virginia.

VIRGINIA REMINISCENCE.

William Wirt, though a native of Maryland, lived in Virginia when Madison and Monroe were competing for the succession at Jefferson's death. He was on closer relations with Monroe than Madison, but knowing where Jefferson stood, he made haste to support the older candidate. Wirt wrote to Monroe: "I have said that I much feared that if your friends persisted in running you that it might have a permanently ill effect on your political standing. Though I myself, and the friends here in Richmond who are in the habit of intercourse with you, might know the truth, yet I feared that there was danger that the people of the United States might be led to incorporate and identify you with the minority in Congress—the opposition party of the present administration (meaning Jefferson's,) and if they should take such an opinion in their heads I feared that you were gone irretrievably."

This letter from a man like William Wirt sufficiently shows the cast-iron political rule under Jefferson, the mildest mannered man who ever cut a throat. Poor Monroe wrote to Wirt: "I really thought that my conduct had in no instance given the slightest cause for such a suspicion. Let me ask has it done so in regard to you? Did I not consult you on some important topics after I knew that you were not in my favor, and have I ever returned to town after an absence from it without calling on you? Have you ever returned those calls?" This whine from a man who had been twice Governor of Virginia and Minister to France, England, and Spain!

After Monroe became President he offered the Attorney Generalship to Wirt, who took it and wrote the following letter to his wife, showing that already in our Government private business was no bar to public place:

"My beloved wife: The die is cast; I have accepted the office. Mr. Monroe and such of the Cabinet as I have consulted were clearly of the opinion that there was no kind of necessity to give up my connection with my iron friends. They all assure me that there is nothing in the duties of the office to prevent the general practice of my profession in this place (Washington, D. C.) and attend occasional calls to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and elsewhere."

Cheer up, Mr. Evarts!

William Wirt was an acquisition to Monroe's Cabinet, because he had made a literary reputation, though on somewhat slender performances. At that moment he published his life of Patrick Henry, which, though it has been through many editions, is probably the weakest piece of biography, considering the subject, ever made in this country. Wirt recommended Monroe to nominate Chancellor Kent, of New York, a Justice of the Supreme Court. He aimed to get Monroe to throw away a political ally to the extreme which Jefferson continued to impose upon his pupils—hating John Marshall, the head of the Bench, with such intensity. Wirt wrote:

"Federal politics are no ways dangerous on the Bench of the Supreme Court while the Federalists who may fill that Bench are in their characters mild, virtuous, patriotic, and enlightened. I admit that it is highly probable Kent's appointment would at first produce some excitement, but it would be very short lived. The very first opinion that he delivered on the Bench would extinguish and prove that his appointment was in perfect harmony with all the great and bold measures of your administration. I expressed these opinions to Mr. Calhoun and he concurred in them."

Jefferson's influence was potential and the appointment was not made.

Hildreth says of John Armstrong and Monroe, who were rivals in Madison's Cabinet: "Armstrong was appointed to the War Department; his pretensions to military knowledge were high, but an invincible indolence nullified him for so laborious a station. Nor did he enjoy the confidence of President Madison and of Monroe, by whom he seems to have been looked upon as a future New York candidate for the Presidency, likely to interfere with the Virginia succession."

After the British burned the Capitol and everybody ran away, Madison, Monroe, Armstrong, and all, and Congress had to meet in the only remaining public building, the Patent Office, Mr. Monroe, who had replaced Armstrong and filled at once both the War and State portfolios, proposed a conscription and filling up an Army of 100,000 men. He received the votes of all the States for President except Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Delaware, which voted for Rufus King, of New York. Daniel D. Tompkins was elected Vice President, and while Monroe died a pauper, Tompkins died an irrecoverable drunkard.

Monroe's inaugural address, according to the Federal historian, repudiated every principle of that old Republican party of which he had once been so ardent a supporter, adopting to their fullest extent all the ultra Federal doctrines of the new school, of which Clay and Calhoun were the leaders. He advocated fortifications on the coasts, the building of a Navy, the systematic and fostering care of the Government for our manufactures, and improvements of rivers, military roads and canals. Andrew Jackson had urged him to put some Federalists in his Cabinet, but he was still afraid of the Virginia ring. On account of his address, Monroe was received in New England soon after his inauguration with elaborate processions. Immediately on Monroe's inauguration the New York Legislature abolished slavery in the State, to take effect within ten years, and the new State of Mississippi adopted the Constitution.

CLAY THE MONROE DOCTRINEER.

Henry Clay had more to do with the Monroe Doctrine than any person of Monroe's period. He did not formulate it, but his boldness as Speaker of Congress and the leader of the War party, when the President and the Secretary of War ran away and trembled in their places, had such an influence over Madison that he had offered to make Clay Commander-in-Chief of the American Army at the commencement of the war. Clay opened the debate in 1816 in favor of the South American republics, and the Mexican Congress voted him thanks for his "manly and generous sentiments." He also said:

"We can tell with certainty how far it may be proper to aid the people of South America in the establishment of their independence." John Randolph answered: "As for South America, I am not going a tilting for the liberties of their people. They came not to our aid. Let us mind our own business and not tax our people for the liberties of the people of Spanish America."

Clay also opposed a bill to prevent our citizens from selling vessels of war to a foreign power, because it would prejudice the young South American States. With respect to the nature of their struggle, he said: "I have not now for the first time to express my opinion and wishes. I wish them independence. It is the first step toward improving their condition."

Madison under Clay's influence appointed three commissioners to go to South America and look into the condition of the country. Clay moved to send a minister to the States on the La Plata river. He was almost alone, as, both Congress and the President were opposed to any recognition of the independence of the South American States. Clay met the anti-Catholic argument thus:

"Is there anything in the Catholic religion unfavorable to freedom? All religions, united with government, are more or less inimical to liberty. All separated from Government are compatible with liberty." How clear and brief are these sentences, compared to Mr. Jefferson's diffuse, self-complacent arguments! Clay came very near enunciating the Monroe Doctrine in 1817, when he said: "Are we not bound upon our own principles to acknowledge this new Government? If we do not who will?"

The cowardly element in Congress hung back, even when Clay, in 1821, offered a resolution that Congress would give its constitutional support to the President if we would recognize the independence of the Spanish American provinces. He finally carried through this resolution, though he had been opposed by the whole weight of Monroe's administration. Epes Sargent says that when Clay was appointed chairman of the committee to present the resolution to President Monroe, Monroe's friends regarded it as a personal insult, and Mr. Nelson, one of the warmest of them, retired from the Capital after the adjournment of the House, "denouncing the act in the largest tones of his remarkable voice." Three weeks afterward Monroe sent in his message recommending recognition.

It is defectly clear that Henry Clay was the cause of the Monroe Doctrine which Jefferson took out of his mouth, and with superior political finesse recommended Monroe to make a reputation on it.

General Simon Bolivar was not to be deceived, and, he wrote to Clay: "All America, Columbia, and myself owe your Excellency our purest gratitude for the incomparable services you have rendered us by sustaining our course with a sublime enthusiasm."

"Clay, intrepid in friendship as in opposition, wrote to Bolivar that "ambitious designs had been attributed by his enemies to your Excellency, which have created in my mind great solicitude. I cannot allow myself to believe that you will abandon the bright and glorious path which lies plainly before you, for the bloody road passing over the liberties of the human race, on which the vulgar crowds of tyrants and military despots have so often trodden."

From the advent of Henry Clay in constructive statesmanship the dogmas of Mr. Jefferson were of no effect, even with the party he had raised. The scales fell even from Monroe's eyes as far as possible, and during his administration occurred that divergence which led to a National party, the building of roads, and a Continental policy.

By a vote of ninety to seventy-five in the year 1818 Clay got Congress to recognize the constitutional power to make appropriations for internal improvements, "carrying it over the prejudices of Jefferson's and Madison's administrations, and the active opposition of Monroe's." Monroe entangled in the sophistries and suspicions of Jefferson, had claimed that even with respect to post roads the General Government had no other authority than to use such as has been permanently established by the States, and that even to repair such roads was not within the constitutional power of the Government. Monroe even maintained that the States were at full liberty to alter and shut up post-roads at pleasure.

"Is it possible," asked Mr. Clay, "that this construction of the Constitution can be correct—a construction which allows a law of the United States, enacted for the good of the whole people, to be obstructed or defeated in its operation by a county court in any one of the twenty-four sovereignties?" Clay thereupon carried out the views of Monroe, Jefferson, and Madison the national road to the West.

During Monroe's administration, too, Clay carried the first tariff bill with the words: "The war of our Revolution has effected our political emancipation. The last war contributed greatly toward establishing our commercial freedom; but our complete independence will only be consummated after the passage of this bill shall have been recognized and adopted." With Daniel Webster in opposition Mr. Clay prevailed.

END OF MONROE.

When Mr. Monroe's bones were dug up at the Marble Cemetery, New York, not even the newspaper men were notified. Three persons were present, one being a Congressman, who was killed on Bloody Island during the Civil War. Monroe's son-in-law, Gouverneur, was not much of a speaker, but he gave the following points in 1858, when he must have been an old man:

"You will deem every word I say on this subject is from true sentiment, when I inform you that my mother was the sister of James Monroe's wife, and that my mother and another near relative now sleep beside him in his tomb. Now, there is a rumor that has been circulated in the public press the impression of which I should like to remove. Let any one come and see where the remains lie, and then they will be convinced that they do not lie in a place like a Potter's Field, like a pauper, but one filled up in as pretty a little burial place as there is in the world. He has there in a vault for which I paid $500, when he hardly left enough at his death to be called an estate. At the time of his death he was amazed at the disinterestedness of his friends in the country, who, under circumstances of interest, until the poor old man sunk under the trouble they caused him and died—yes, he died on the 4th of July here, while the chimes of bells, the booming of cannon, the exultation of the inhabitants, were announcing the anniversary of the greatest day America ever saw."

The White House, which had been burned while Monroe was Secretary of State, was rebuilt in his administration, but it was not completed. The building was surrounded with heaps of stone and brushwood. The furniture of the East Room was purchased by our Consul in Paris during his administration, and it is said that every piece bore the Royal Arms of Louis XVIII, which was cut off and the American Eagle substituted. Mr. Monroe paid very little attention to company while in the White House, being in poor health. GATH.

Hancock in the South.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, March 20, 1880.

To the Editor of the Sunday Herald:

SIR: The grand excursion connected with the opening up of the Cincinnati Southern railway, which arrived here on Thursday morning, brought to this city a large crowd of representative men from all parts of the South. As the Democratic National Convention is to be held here, the subject of candidates has been considerably discussed on the streets, in the hotels, and through the daily press. I have been surprised to see how strong the feeling is in favor of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock for the candidacy of the Democratic party, as but little effort has been made to get up a boom in his favor. For months past leading papers in Kentucky, Georgia, and other Southern States have been liberally compensated for services rendered in the interest of the Tilden boom. Impecunious publishers rush off to New York, tap "Uncle Sam's" bar'l of money, and come home enthusiasts for the "Sage of Gramercy Park." But I find here among the best men of the South, who come to Cincinnati as representatives of their section, a quiet though strong feeling in favor of Hancock. Gen. Chalmers, of Mississippi, and Gen. Forney, of Alabama, are openly in favor of the gallant soldier against whom they fought so bravely, as are other noted Confederate officers.

So far as the military men of the South are concerned—and few men of any age are not of that class—Gen. Hancock is the favorite. Only let his name be presented fairly to the convention and this fact will speedily be made apparent.

Unlike the Tilden boomers, who are paid to get up opinions and statistics in favor of their candidate, the friends of Gen. Hancock are quietly awaiting the assembling of the convention, at which time they will modestly but firmly press his claims to recognition.

I am one of those persons who do not believe in booms, nor do I think a candidate is fortunate to have a hurrah created for him in advance. My observation in previous conventions has taught me that in eight cases out of ten the most silent and least be-puffed candidate secures the nomination. On this account I have opposed and still oppose a Hancock boom. Let him stand upon his real merit, not upon any man's bar'l of money, literary bureau, or office-seeking ring. Then should he fail he and his friends will have nothing to be ashamed of in the campaign. But I do not think he will fail, for no other man possesses the same element of success at the polls. MODERATION.

General Hancock's Record.

Norfolk Landmark, (Dem.,) March 11.

When a general in Virginia could send an editor to prison, when military courts could take prisoners from civil tribunals, when the President's Bureau was withholding large tracts of property from private owners, when, in short, we felt ourselves to be literally, and in fact an oppressed people on all the Atlantic coast, Gen. Hancock, at the risk of his commission, maintained the principles of American liberty to be the lawful inheritance of the people under his command, and we are amazed that so many of those in whom he was a benefactor in those days should seem to forget his noble declarations and his still nobler acts. It seems to us that, apart from any feeling of gratitude, a just appreciation of his statesmanship should make him a popular favorite; for it is only by preserving the rights of minorities that the Republic can be preserved; and those rights were boldly announced and justly vindicated by Gen. Hancock under circumstances which gives us assurance that he is emphatically the man to do justice to North, South, East, and West at any time and under all circumstances.

The Palmer Boom.

Chicago Times (Ind.,) March 29.

Mr. Tilden should keep an eye on his man John M. Palmer. The latter is prone to overdo the part assigned to him. It is liable to forget that what is called the "timber boom" is gotten up in the interest of the Gramercy Park claimant, and is manfacture himself into the absurd notion that it is really a little boom for himself. This is apparent from the bump upon his forehead, which he wears with the start before a little mutual-admiration society at Springfield called "The Palmer Campaign Club."

Chicago Tribune (Rep.,) March 29.

Before dismissing Mr. Palmer's "boom" it is worth noting that while he was making his speech Gen. McClernand was organizing a club in the same county to promote the nomination of "tried, true, capable, and available Democrats," and that the first two adjectives were evidently designed to discriminate against Governor Palmer. Such is the brotherly love of the Equivocal Democrats.

OLIVE LOGAN.

Once More in London—Club Life—The Famous Regent Street Club for Both Sexes—Its Wondrous Luxury and Its Probable Doom—The People Who Gather There, and the Scandals Which Have Been Breathed.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Enquirer.

LONDON, February 28, 1880.

Whenever you hear an American say that he likes Paris better than he does London, you may make up your mind to this: that he knows as much of Paris as an American tourist ever can, and he simply knows nothing of London. Given the street life only of the two great cities, and it is easy to understand why the superficial observer should prefer Paris. The stroll on the Boulevards, the drive to the Bois, the dinner at the Maison d'Or, and other cafés, the evening at the theatres—these make up a round of diversions which, taken at the bright summer season when Americans usually come over, are unparalleled anywhere; as unattainable in London as they are in any commonplace town in America or England. But live in London for awhile. Get behind some of those gloomy house-fronts, which seem so dreary, seen from the outside. Become a member of some of the palatial clubs, where you are thrown daily in contact with men of birth, breeding, polish, education, refinement, even genius, sometimes. Be invited out to dine three or four nights a week at those hospitable boards, such as have been celebrated in English literature since the days of the Saxon rule. Enter the inner arcana of London life, all the more delightful because difficult to penetrate. Be man and man with men, speaking your own language, with whom you have a common literature, a unity of view respecting morality, religion, and all the vital issues which go to make up life, and then tell me if you prefer Paris to London. Unless you are an abnormal creature, who would rather live in a circus tent than inhabit a well-made brick house, I have small doubt what your verdict will be.

I have alluded to the clubs, a casual reference, but all I feel empowered to make. They are the counterpart of the seraglios of the Orient, the sacred precinct where only one sex may enter. An odd anomaly, a bit of Chinese barbarity and woman-exclusion surviving in the midst of a superb civilization whose foundation stone is the untrammeled intercourse of the sexes in the promenade, the market space, the temple, the theatre, the race-course, the festal board. Yet the spirit of the age is making itself felt even here. I understand that the hitherto unheard-of proposition of inviting ladies to dine and lunch at the most rigid clubs is now under discussion. Meantime, you have heard, perhaps, of certain so-called ladies' clubs which within the last two or three years have sprung up in London? The probable dissolution of the most celebrated of these, the Russell, leads me to give you some insight into its internal workings. I speak by the card, for I am a member. This club, like so many of the London clubs which have been born within the last generation, is what is called a proprietary club. That is to say, certain persons are its proprietors, who have gone into the speculation of keeping a club just as a man might go into any business. Several of the finest London clubs for men are run in this way, and have made fortunes for their proprietors. It is not indispensable that these men should be what are here called "gentlemen;" for they do not associate with their patrons any more than a London hotel-keeper forces his society on those gentlefolks who frequent his inn. But the first essential for a club's success is that it should have persons of refined breeding to put at the head of its affairs, and committee of its affairs. What inducements, besides free membership, are held out by the proprietors to persons of distinction I am not informed. The Russell has been—from the first under royal patronage, with a nobleman as bishop of the established Church, and a countess of blood than which none in Debrett is bluer, its presiding officers; a major general of unimpeachable social status its secretary. Its first lady patroness was a very catalogue of brilliant nomenclature. The premises are delightfully situated. They bear the number 316 Regent street, next door to the superb residence which Lord Hertford has recently completed. What he was having his great succession of dramatic strokes of luck at the Princess and other theatres. Directly opposite the Polytechnic Institute, just before the Langham Hotel, and just above Oxford Circus, this little bit of Regent street is preferable to all the rest for anything like a residence. The fitting up of the Russell Club is exquisite. Behind the plate glass doors, at which a neat Buttons stands unceasingly, to save members even the slight trouble of pushing them on their swinging hinges for entrance, there is a floor, of which I should like to remove a bit to a Persian carpet dealers the footfall, its faded pink hieroglyphics winding on a ground of softest browns and tarnished golds.

Luxurious lounges of dun Eastern stuffs stand at every angle. Tropical plants in rare Tokio gigantic vases flourish almost as splendidly as in the improved hot-houses at Kew. Fronting the main drawing-room leads to private dining-rooms above, as well as to smoking-rooms, billiard-rooms, and private rooms for gentlemen.

At this Russell Club, hang, for convenience of members, the bills of the play for all the play-houses of repute in London, as well as various posters giving information relating to trips to the Continent—"Paris in three days and a Quarter of an Hour;" Rotterdam, Brussels, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Cairo, and the Nile. Here, too, are displayed the names of candidates for admission to membership. This is the form used:

"Candidate, Mrs. O. L. S. Profession, literature. Residence, United States Consulate. Cardiff. Proposed by the Countess of C., Hyde Park. Seconded by Mrs. E. F. T., D. Priory, Devon."

This hangs two weeks, open to all inspection, and to give full opportunity for intending black-balliers to prepare for the fatal "pilling." Then a beautiful handsome livery receives letters, cards, ushers in visitors who call on members, and enters in a ledger the names of all members and visitors who come to the club each day.

We are as yet but in the entrance-hall. From it opens a suit of rooms fit for the habitation of persons of any station, however exalted. Deep purple velvet portieres hang across archways treated according to high art's best canons. A long drawing-room, whose central point is a monumental chimney piece upon which stands a great onyx and brass clock, Louis III style, beneath which, in a massive grate, a splendid ruddy fire is glowing, serves as library, study, and writing-room. A number of small ebony and brass desks fitted up with luxurious stationery, bearing the name and address of the club, are about the walls, the which are brilliant with fine paintings, a frieze with figures running just beneath the tastefully decorated cornice. On the large tables are strewn not only all the journals of importance published in England, but also a great many standard works of reference, dictionaries in various languages, directories, several vitally interesting annuals to a certain class, beginning with the royal red-letter, the Almanacs de Gotha, and ending with the genteel babbler, "Who's Who in 1880?" Deep, roomy arm-chairs of a padded luxuriousness never achieved anywhere so perfectly as in England, stand about on cradle-like rocking-chairs in the American style, but made of the Viennese twisted cane, sofas, broad divans, *Causeuses* of every description, are ready for all and each, for music or chat. Not much of the latter, however. This is the reading-room, and "members are respectfully requested to keep silence!" there. Beyond is a very fairy of a conservatory, a tinkling of canary satin boudoir and green-leaved conservatory beautiful to behold. This leads into the wonderful Japanese room, which was the talk of all London for months. Save and except the grand piano, stretching its massive bulk across one corner, there is not one article in this room which did not come from Japan. It is not simply Japanese, this room, it is really Japanese. The walls are hung with pictures in Japanese embroidery, thickly set in, in lieu of paper; Japanese lanterns conceal the gas jets; the rare objects used for decoration, and the trays brought in by the maid servants when serving tea, are all real Japanese. Opening out from this is a substantial dining-room, in which repasts are served to members at club rates, which are below the rates demanded at restaurants of an equally good grade. On ordinary occasions the men servants who wait here are in the usual evening dress of waiters—swallow-tails, white ties, and that sort of thing, but on gala days this is exchanged for a rich livery of blue and gold with pink silk stockings. The maid servants are in black dresses, with mob caps and embroidered aprons.

Aristocracy of birth, the church, literature, painting, sculpture, the bench, the bar, the army, the navy—all are represented in the membership. The Countess of Charlemont chats amid the flowers with a colonial bishop; Annie Thomas, the novelist, is listening to what Joseph Hatton, the correspondent of the New York *Times*, is saying to her about America. That lady yonder, a private person whose name is of no importance, has given delightful Friday afternoon tea ever since the club has been opened. She will give them no more for the present. She has bestowed her hand, her heart, and, what's more, her £60,000 fortune on a poor country clergyman who was brought to see the "Russell" as one of the ladies's guests. In the most casual manner, by a member, and who had the good luck to please this dashing widow, whom he met there. We shall see if she will be as happy in a country parsonage as she has been in London, surrounded by gay friends at the club.

At the present moment the fate of the Russell Club is trembling in the balance. Some of its members have resolved to carry it on, or it will have been reorganized on a different plan. There has been a tremendous deal of gossip about it of late, and with the usual three-cross sort of exaggeration of the charmed circle, when they came to be sifted, have been magnified into quite horrors. For instance, you, yourself, copied the statement that a lady had been stricken off the rolls of membership for kissing her husband in the club drawing-rooms. I have been on the Continent all winter, and, therefore, am not fully posted on all the details of this circumstance. But from one reason or other, kissing one's brother, or even one's husband, is a breach of good manners. "Gushing" behavior being always bad form, it follows that to kiss our male kin in public is decidedly indecorous. This vigorous measure was probably a counter-stroke to the license which, by a fatal mistake, was allowed members by the proprietors at first, in the hoped-for relief from the effect of the frightful bulletin which usually hangs like a pall over these caste-ridden assemblages.

These were the Saturday dances to which members were allowed to bring friends, for so much more than sixpence a head. Lately, however, they have quickly sent out for a physician, and Dr. R. Offutt, living in the vicinity, was soon on the spot, but the principals, fearing detection, had put the wounded man into their carriage and conveyed him to Washington. The wound, by those who saw it, is not considered fatal." The affair is kept so quiet that it is impossible to get any but this meagre intelligence at present.

A GENTEEL CONFIDENCE MAN.

He Claims Aristocratic Parentage, and Swindles one of our Avenue Merchants.

Scandals affecting a young fellow well known in society here have been circulating for some time relating in the curious way he has of obtaining goods from merchants. One of his latest exploits, while not exactly coming under the head of false pretences, was the next thing thereto. He went to a prominent milliner near Ninth street on the Avenue and bought an article of dress letting the merchant believe that he was the son of a lady who unfortunately bears the same family name, and who resides on West La Fayette Square. The article was charged against this lady, who, when the bill was presented, quickly explained to the merchant the wrong done him. The youth has been cited to his father's door, and has so far to make good his share in the transaction. This is said to be a specimen of several doings of the kind.

THE CONFIDENCE GAME.

Two Females Engage in It.

A couple of ladies whose names are unknown drove up last week to the store of one of our Avenue merchants and requested the proprietor to come to the carriage door and then represented that Mrs. Judge ——— wanted a pair of kid gloves, which were furnished and the bill sent, when Mrs. Judge ——— declared the gloves had been obtained by imposters. The merchant has since discovered that these parties have played this confidence game successfully with other merchants, in each case representing the purchases for the same party, who has repudiated all these bills.

The Bulls and Bears.

NEW YORK, March 27.—The foreign commerce of the port of New York for the past week was as follows: General merchandise imports, including dry goods, $8,832,761, and produce imports, $3,146,413. Money loaned up to 6 per cent. per annum, and 1-32 per diem, and closed at 3 per cent. on call. Prime mercantile paper, 4@5 per cent. Sterling, 4 8½ for sixty days and 4 8½@4 8¾ for sight. Gold, 1½@1¾ per cent. premium. Exchange was steady and fairly active at 484½@485, and 487½@488 for short sight. Governments were strong and generally a little higher, railroad bonds quiet and fairly active, railroad bonds firm on a moderate volume of business. Erie Consols, seconds, were firm at 93@93¼, and funded fives at 86. Kansas and Texas firsts rose 10¼, and seconds 6 69-1[illegible] but the latter afterwards declined to 68½. Denver and Rio Grande firsts rose to 104¼. Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern firsts to 91½. Milton and Pierre firsts became to 93. St. Paul and Sioux City firsts to 104 and Great Western firsts to 108. C. C. and I. C. supplementary declined to 81; do. incomes to 40. Chesapeake and Ohio, series B, to 6⅝. Union Pacific to 112. Mobile and Ohio Consolidated firsts, debs., to 34½, and iron Mountain firsts, preferred, incomes to 90½. The stock market opened 1@6¼ per cent. higher for the general list, which afterward declined ¼ to 3 per cent., the latter Manhattan. During the afternoon a recovery of ¼ to 2 per cent. took place, the coal shares and St. Paul and Northwestern alone showing improvement. Lake Shore, Cedar Rapids and N. advanced 8¼ per cent. to 79½; Nash. and Chat. broke from 91 to 85, rallied to 87½, and later dropped to 82½. Investment shares were generally strong and higher especially for New York Central and Chicago and Alton. The market closed strong, with an upward tendency. Sales aggregated 210,000 shares including Del. L. and W., 28,700; Erie, 10,900; Iron Mountain, 5,600; Illinois Central, 5,000; Lake Shore, 82,000; Manhattan, 13,000; N. W., 7,400; Nashville Chattanooga, 10,200; New York Central, 11,700; O. and M., 9,500; Pacific Mail, 22,900; St. Paul, 7,000; Wab. Pacific, 5,400; W. and U., 10,900.

The Groesbeck "Boom" for President.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, March 27.—The letter which was addressed to Hon. William S. Groesbeck, of this city, signed by Jonah R. Taylor and purporting to be sent by the chairman of a conference of Democrats in New York, reached Mr. Groesbeck this morning although it was printed here yesterday morning. The letter asks Mr. Groesbeck if he would accept the nomination for President and also his views as to the best man to nominate. Mr. Groesbeck regrets the publication of the letter and declines to give any information touching his answer, which will probably be written in a few days.

AMUSEMENTS.

Mr. Bronson Howard's "Banker's Daughter" is announced as a drama of American upper-tendom, and warmly commended as such. It deals with the worship of the almighty dollar here, and the destroying effects of the thirst for wealth. Against this is set the working of pure and strong emotion, and the sacred cause of love and human happiness. The plot is powerfully worked out, and in the hands of the superior New York company which will present it, holds the audience enthralled to the end. Even the well-conceived locality of the scenes, especially the brilliant American legation in Paris and the snow-covered chateau where the duel is fought, are made to conduce to the general impression. Mr. Louis James plays the part of *John Mrebelow* with his accustomed dignity and intelligence, and Miss Wainwright enacts the heroine with corresponding spirit and grace. Mrs. Waloot, Mrs. Farren, Messrs. Wilks, Haughton, Fosberg, Walcot, and other favorites are in the cast.

Two of Bartley Campbell's plays were produced here last week, an unusual event for such a young writer. "My Partner," by the Aldrich-Parsloe combination at the National, "The Galley Slave" at the Opera House by Mr. Ford's company.

Mr. Campbell appears to have vivid and tender fancy and a good faculty of composition, but his style lacks originality or finish in some respects. He would suffer by the application of the Paris rule against stock phrases, such, for instance, as "That name shall never *cross my lips!*" which occurs prominently in both plays of last week. To put it plainly his dialogue is at times either commonplace or trite. Or Mr. Ford's company Miss Rosa Rand, Mr. Denham, Mrs. Germon, and Mr. Downing (who shelved his hair down in most un-artist-like fashion) met with their usual acceptance. Miss Mackenzie is perceptibly more at home on the boards, and only Mr. Galloway (*Baron Le Bois*) was seriously overweighted by his part.

The Theatre Comique announces another grand bill for this week, embracing a variety show that cannot fail to please the patrons of this popular place of amusement. The very best attractions of the stock company are retained, and with Mr. Alf. Wallace as stage manager the performances are well put upon the stage, and everything is conducted on clock-work principles. The new comers are the great Marlett troupe, said to be the greatest acrobats in their line in this country; Dilks and Wade, the great musical team; Harry Clifford, the popular comedian; the Powers, Jen and Georgie; the Russells, Williams and Sully, Howard and Coyne, and Nellie Germon. The Tuesday and Friday matinees are becoming very popular and draw good houses, and as long as the entertainments are kept up to the present high standard and this theatre cannot but prosper. We advise all to go early and secure good seats.

The announcement of another play by Mr. Bartley Campbell at Ford's Opera House this week should, it seems, be sufficient to crowd the house. "Fairfax" is pronounced by some whose opinions are entitled to weight to be written more in the author's own line than any other of his pieces now in vogue. It deals with life in the Southwest, and opens impressively in a lonely cabin on the banks of the Mississippi, where, in the gloom and sickness of that region, starting from this, the action is conducted boldly and naturally into wider fields, still hanging upon the theme of the first act, until it is roundabout and symmetrical in completeness. It is presented at the Opera House it will be what is most deserving of patronage, a good legitimate drama well acted.

The benefit tendered to little Eva Henderson, which takes place next Thursday evening, at Odd Fellows' Hall, under the auspices of Gen. Sherman, Secretary Ramsey, Secretary and Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Gen. Lander, Mrs. Gen. Ricketts, and many others of our well-known society leaders, should prove a success. Little Eva has been the main support of her family for some years past, and the ladies and gentlemen heading this article are determined to reward Mr. Henderson, as a just and fitting recognition of this wonderful child's talents. Among the many volunteering for the occasion are Nissen Tollock, Hoss, and Riley, Messrs. Randolph, Joyce, Jefferson, Sparks, Harkins, Mulligan, Mrs. Lander, and others well known in our amateur circles.

The announcement of a grand concert by Miss Emma Thursby, at Lincoln Hall, Tuesday, April 6, though unexpected, is none the less welcome. Washingtonians have learned to love Miss Thursby for her beauty, her peerless voice and style in concert singing, and her estimable personal qualities. The performance is sure of success, even without further details which are promised in future advertisement.

Our readers must not forget the last of the Athenæum Club Concerts at Congregational Church Tuesday evening next. The following is the array of talent: Theodore J. Toedt, tenor; Miss M. A. Hunt, soprano; Mme. Theresa Careno, pianist; and Mr. W. N. Burrows, violinist. We predict this last concert will be more popular than any of its predecessors, and that Congregational Church will be crowded Tuesday night.

Mr. Jerome Hopkins, composer, pianist, and organist, two lecture-concerts, to be given under the auspices of a number of our local musical talent. The first will take place at Metropolitan M. E. Church this afternoon, to-morrow afternoon, at 2 o'clock, and the second at Calvary Baptist Church, Wednesday evening.

Yielding to the popular demand Manager Ford will allow the "Pirates of Penzance" to cruise here next week. Seats can be had at the box office Thursday.

MYSTERIOUS SHOOTING AFFAIR.

Duel or Attempted Suicide?

For several days rumors have been rife in the neighborhood of Cabin John Bridge of a mysterious shooting affair, or a prearranged meeting, as some think, between parties unknown. Whatever it is it shrouded in a cloud too deep for penetration. The only information was published in the *Montgomery Sentinel*, as follows: "A party of two gentlemen arrived at Cabin John Bridge, near Washington, on John Bridge, and ordered dinner for themselves. While the dinner was being served a pistol shot was heard, and soon after a heavy fall. The inmates of the house hastened into the room and found one of the gentlemen lying on the floor with a pistol ball in his head and a revolver by his side. Messengers were quickly sent out for a physician, and Dr. R. Offutt, living in the vicinity, was soon on the spot, but the principals, fearing detection, had put the wounded man into their carriage and conveyed him to Washington. The wound, by those who saw it, is not considered fatal." The affair is kept so quiet that it is impossible to get any but this meagre intelligence at present.

SOCIETY CHAT.

New York *World*: Great scandal was caused in aristocratic circles in the Faubourg St. Germain a few months back by the elopement of a rich heiress to London and her clandestine marriage with a gentleman bearing a name well known in the diplomatic world at the Court of St. James. As this adventure has now given rise to a suit, brought by the young lady's mother, to have the marriage declared void on the ground that it was contracted in a foreign country without the publishing of banns and without her consent, there are no longer reasons for withholding the names. They are those of Mlle. d'Inecourt and Mourad Bey, son of the Turkish Ambassador in London. The parties were married in the county of Middlesex, but, after they had cohabited for a fortnight, friends of the two families intervened to put an end to the scandal. A separation was brought about and the lady is now reflecting on her folly in the calm retirement of a convent.

The bevy of Congressional families at Mrs. Rines' were entertained last Tuesday evening by the young ladies and gentlemen of the house, performing the laughable comedy of "My Mother-in-Law." The acting of Mrs. Tucker (the charming daughter of Senator Logan) and Miss Burrows (the fascinating little Lotta of the house) was especially marked. Mr. Lockwood Rines had a perfect con