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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: DAILY CALL—10 cents per copy by mail, by carrier, 15c per week.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1895

Jimmy, get your veto.

The revolution in Cuba is only a blow-hole.

The Governor has a chance for a ten-strike.

Third street is bad, but some other streets are worse.

We must have clean streets as well as clean politics.

Leave the flower-stands alone and move the cobblestones.

If the General Government has no use for Goat Island, we have.

If there is any sermon in a cobblestone it preaches damnation.

For the present at any rate, the flower of the period is a daisy.

No city can put on metropolitan airs that tolerates sewer gas.

We expect Los Angeles to stand in with us on the competing road.

Don't forget that we must have proper sewers to have healthy homes.

Nevada proposes to touch the button of frigate and blossom like the rose.

About the best move we can expect from the Legislature is a motion to adjourn.

Street improvement would be a cure for present evils and a prevention of worse to come.

The Governor will find his seat more comfortable if he sits down on extravagance.

Candidates for the Legislature hereafter should be put under bonds to keep their pledges.

There are some men who never get into a combination without making it a complication.

Since oleomargarine under its own name smells just as sweet, it might as well be sold under that name.

It may be constitutional, but it is certainly un-American for a Police Commissioner to hold office for life.

Let us get the work of municipal improvement started before the Republican National Convention comes.

From what some Assemblymen say, it appears that certain reformers have been talking more than they knew.

The common saying that California got nothing from the deficit Congress is in itself a proof that she got a black eye.

Although there are only two Democrats in the Kansas Senate, they have been disturbing the State with a faction fight.

When the Democratic Congressmen get home he will have a hard time trying to explain what he has been doing all winter.

The reason why a scandal circulates so rapidly is that while everybody wishes to get hold of it, no one is willing to keep it.

Brazil is making progress in republican government and has got far enough along to substitute election riots for revolutions.

Legislators who wish to evade a moral responsibility for broken pledges will probably plead an immoral irresponsibility.

The appeal of the bimetalists for a third party comes in good time to be discussed, decided and laid aside before the next campaign begins.

In consenting to reduce the misappropriations a little the Senators acted with as much benignity as if they were forgiving people.

Now that the war talk between Mexico and Guatemala is over, Corbett and Fitzsimmons have resumed their long-distance tongue punching.

The Goulds can meet any boasting on the part of the Astors and the Vanderbilts by the quiet remark that they own a count and have no scandals.

Every step of the San Joaquin road thus far has been wisely taken, and the election of Alexander Mackie to the office of secretary was one of the best.

Mrs. Vanderbilt is now in a position to prove that marriage is not a failure and divorce is a success, for by the double operation she has cleaned up \$100,000 a year.

The report that the American Church Missionary Society is short in its accounts leads to the conclusion that some of the members must have been introducing politics into religion.

When a week goes by without the successful working of the gold-brick swindle in some part of the United States, it is a very exceptional week, and yet the American people are intelligent and "all-fired smart."

President Worthington of San Jose Grange says that if every man, woman and child in California would eat only ten pounds of dried fruit annually, the entire product could be marketed in this State, and the suggestion as well as the fruit is good enough to give everybody a taste for supporting home industry.

It is reported in Washington that in the next Congress Mackie is likely to be chairman of the Postoffice Committee, and Mr. Bowers of the Committee on Military Affairs. These positions would be well deserved on the double count that the men are worthy of them and that it is high time for California to be taking her rightful place in Congress and getting her share of the honors.

The silver men who are thinking of leaving the Republican party in order to start a bimetalist party, evidently overlook the fact that in addition to free silver coinage we need the Nicaragua canal, the Hawaiian cable, bounties to shipping, the rearrangement of the tariff on the protective principle, and the irrigation of arid lands. A party cannot stand on one issue alone.

The people demand many things and from the Republican party they can get them all.

A POLITICAL BLUNDER.

The address of the Bimetallic League, published in the CALL of yesterday, was undoubtedly the most important political document of the year. Its importance was due partly to the greatness of the subject, partly to the skill of the argument embodied in the address, but mainly to the signatures attached to it.

With all due credit to the document and with all respect to those who signed it, however, we cannot regard it as other than a political blunder. The fundamental principle upon which it is based is an error in politics. Starting with the unquestionable statement that the money problem is now the dominant issue in the United States, it proceeds to argue that neither the Republican nor the Democratic party has taken a decided stand in favor of the re-coinage of silver and therefore a new party is necessary to advocate the cause of bimetalism and bring about that change in monetary affairs which is necessary to the welfare of the people.

Conceding the dominant importance of the re-coinage of silver, we cannot admit the conclusion drawn from it. Political parties cannot be founded upon a single issue, no matter how great and far-reaching that issue may be. Many things are to be done by the American people in the near future. The tariff must be reformed on the protective system, the Nicaragua canal must be constructed, the Hawaiian cable laid, American shipping fostered and promoted, and a vigorous foreign policy enforced in all quarters of the globe.

No statesman nor any party is a more earnest or steadfast advocate of silver coinage than the CALL. Nevertheless we can neither follow nor approve of the proposed movement. There is no need of a third party. The Republican party is firmly pledged to bimetalism. The great leaders of the party have espoused that cause and the rank and file are in hearty accord with them. The surest and speediest way to return to bimetalism is through the return to power of the Republican party.

The way to win on this issue, as on all other issues, is to remain true to the party that saved the Union and maintained its prosperity unbroken for thirty years. That party will give us the Nicaragua canal, the Hawaiian cable, the protective tariff, a subsidy for American ships and free silver as well.

OUR SHIPPING INTERESTS.

San Francisco has a fine fleet of coasting vessels. Some of them were built in the East and have come here on deep-water voyages have been put in local service. The greater number are the product of our own yards. We have ample facilities for their construction. Our fir timber is excellent in quality and cheap in price. Pacific Coast spars are in demand the world over. Our coasters are stanch, large carriers and good sailors.

When we turn from our coasting to our deep-water trade we find it mostly in foreign bottoms. We have some vessels of domestic build, but the big ships that gather here each season to carry away our wheat crop are under foreign flags. They are mostly British iron ships. Our navigation laws secure our coasting trade to American-built vessels. There is no such protection for our ships engaged in foreign trade. The postal subsidy law gave a small measure of encouragement to American-built steamers. It was originally intended to foster the building of American sailing ships, but democracy was then strong enough in Congress to knock that provision out of the bill.

As the emporium of the Pacific Coast San Francisco should build and own a large part of its deep-water tonnage. Wooden ships are by no means obsolete. Where the advantages are so great for their construction as here, they can continue to compete with steel and iron for most purposes. For that matter we have built some of the best steel men-of-war in the world and can do the same for the merchant service on demand. As a commercial and manufacturing community we should develop our resources in the ocean paths of peace. By steam and sail, with wood and steel, we should do our own transportation to our own profit.

The next Congress will be strongly Republican. It will favor the extension of American manufactures and the development of American carrying trade. It will be in a position to offer encouragement to American ship building. This turn in our National legislation comes in opportunity with the movement now in progress in California for increased industrial activity.

A day or two ago a Puget Sound built whaleback steamer came into port on her first voyage. Ships of her class have proved very successful in the navigation of the Great Lakes. They are an illustration of the facility with which American ingenuity adapts means to ends. As steam is becoming displacing sail power, especially on comparatively short voyages, the development of this type of steamer may have its influence on the commerce of the Pacific. With a little temporary Government encouragement, cheap coal, which we are in a fair way to get, and the enterprise to strike out for ourselves, we may soon see a fleet of sea-going whalebacks plying between San Francisco and Mexican, South American, Hawaiian, Australasian and Oriental ports. They will be built in our own shipyards, fly our flag and earn our own money.

THE NEW MINING ERA.

The sale of a placer mine near Yreka to a firm of capitalists moves a press correspondent to predict that Siskiyou is about to enter upon a new era of mining development. This will not surprise pioneers who remember when Yreka was one of the lively placer camps of California. There can be little doubt about the mineral wealth of Siskiyou. Compared with some other mining counties, it has been neglected. Yet the judgment of the most experienced miners is that even in the more developed mining districts of this State there is more gold in the ground than has ever been taken out. How much more there is likely to be true of a county like Siskiyou. During the depression of late years in California gold mining there have been plenty of indications that a revival would follow. The war against silver has in-

creased the demand for the yellow metal. Improvements have been made in mining processes. The cost of labor has fallen. Communication and transportation are easier and cheaper. Supplies are more readily obtained. All these things make for the cheapening of production and the profitable working of ground that some years ago offered few inducements to capitalists.

Hydraulic mining is on the way to renewed activity under conditions designed to guard against injury to other interests. We may never have another boom in placer mining and "poor men's diggings," but it is very certain that capital and enterprise have a great field before them in our mining counties. Distance lends enchantment to the mining prospect, but South Africa holds out risks as well as inducements, which may be avoided within a day or two's travel from San Francisco. The mining population of our mountains have no need to leave civilization behind them. Orchards and vineyards find their most favorable conditions in the foothills within sight and sound of monitors and stamp-mills. The miners' ditch offers facilities for irrigation to the horticulturists. The grain fields of the valleys are within a few hours' ride. The farm, the orchard, the mine, the home, the school and the church will all be in touch in the new California.

A PRIMARY ELECTION LAW.

There are several bills now pending before the Legislature having for their purpose the amendment of the existing primary election laws of the State. There can be no doubt that our primary election laws in their present form require amendment. The reason they do so is principally because the adoption of the present ballot law so changed about the number of the code sections referring to elections in general as to make unintelligible the chapter of the code which provides for primary elections and which refers back to those sections. The issue, therefore, is not whether an amendment of the primary elections law is necessary, but rather what amendment among those suggested is the best.

Two conflicting ideas are to be found in the proposed measures amending the primary election law. One aims at making primary elections compulsory, and requires that all parties shall hold their primary elections on the same day, and that all shall be governed as to the time, place and manner of conducting said elections by the same rules and by a non-partisan board of election officers, selected in some non-partisan way. The entire scope and object of this measure seems to be to eliminate party organization, abolish party control and banish party spirit from primary elections.

The very statement of the scope and object of this measure embodies the strongest objection to its success which could possibly be urged. It is a grave mistake to attempt to discourage and destroy party spirit as an element of political organization. The existence of parties is a vital feature of our social system, and their maintenance an indispensable element of healthy political life. They are to the State what the keel is to the ship. They are to the waters to the sea—essentially to its purity and a preventive of stagnation and decay. There has been already too much interference on the part of recent statute-makers with the rights of men to ally themselves in parties and to advance their political views by means of party spirit. The primary election ought not to be subjected to the disintegrating influence of non-partisanship. Every party, in the selection of the men who shall compose its own conventions and nominate its own candidates, should be free to adopt its own mode of action. There may be some general provisions laid down by statute which shall so regulate the conduct of primary elections as to guarantee to the majority membership of a party the right to rule it, and which shall encourage party spirit to organize along lines of honest politics. Further than this, however, the law should not attempt to go.

The former statutes of this State, as embodied in the Political Code, contained a simple and satisfactory way to conduct primary elections which parties might or might not adopt, as they saw fit, but which, if selected, insured a reasonably honest primary. The insertion of the Australian ballot system into the code, as we have already stated, disarranged the sections which contained this primary election. The Republican State Central Committee has had a measure drafted and presented to the Legislature for passage which proposes to restore the former law, with certain additions which would more completely insure the honesty of elections held under it. If a primary election law is to be adopted at all by this Republican Legislature it should be this one or one similar to it, which preserves party organization and party spirit at the very foundation of political activity, the primary election.

NO MORE SECTIONALISM.

Our Los Angeles friends are gratified at the interest taken by San Francisco business men in the coming election of the City of the Angels. They accept it as an indication that the sectional feeling which has been supposed to exist between Northern and Southern California is wearing away, and that the people of both sections are going to work together for the upbuilding of the State. That is as it should be. There is, not and never was, any good reason for sectional feeling between Northern and Southern California. There is no reason even for a phraseology which so divides the State. There is nothing in the topographical, climatic, political or social conditions to warrant any such distinction. Tehachapi Pass is not a division, but a connection between two watersheds.

Some temporary considerations have in times past created a certain, or rather uncertain, amount of sectional sentiment. The question of irrigation, riparian laws, etc., raised what was once supposed to be an issue. We know now that irrigation is just as necessary in some parts of Northern California, speaking geographically, as in the southern section; and that in some parts of Southern California it is not needed. There is no issue on that subject. A few politicians and would-be office-holders made this a handle for an agitation in favor of State division. Then the building of two overland railroads into the southern part of the State, the multiplication of minor branches, and a rapid growth in population and business, created in the minds of some the idea that the south was progressive, the north stationary, and that the vigorous new section wanted to set up for itself.

The first indication of a determination on the part of San Francisco and the Northern part of the State to throw off the fetters of monopoly, and grasp and utilize its facilities for development, has put a new face on the situation. A few months ago when the valley railroad proposition was languishing for want of support, Southern California talked of tapping the upper San Joaquin Valley and drawing it away from San Francisco Bay. To-day the talk is,

and soon the action will be, for a through line that will develop the valley and tie San Francisco and Los Angeles together in business bonds. Within a few weeks brains, energy and co-operation have shown the people that California is one State and one community, with a common interest in the present and a glorious prospect for the future.

There is no sectionalism in business. When the construction of competing railroads under the control of our own people, the clearing of our rivers, the revival of our mining industries, the multiplication of our farms and orchards, the development of our manufactures, and the rapid and cheap exchange of our products in domestic trade become accomplished, there will be no more talk of sectionalism. The sense of solidarity and the pride of statehood will silence it. The only rivalry between the North and the South will be in the promotion of the interests of California; the noble emulation as to which can best work and best agree.

Baron von Gotta is reported to have submitted to the German Husbands' Council a resolution demanding the refusal of the most favored nation treatment to countries outside of Europe competing with Germany and the eventual establishment of a customs union of the European husbandry states. This, of course, is designed to exclude American agricultural products from Continental Europe, and while the design is not likely to succeed, the consideration given to it is sufficient to impress upon our farmers the importance of building up a home market for their products and thus making themselves independent of Europe.

The good ship Progresso, that sailed yesterday with 108,000 gallons of wine and 18,000 cases of canned fruit, carried with her a mighty evidence of reviving prosperity and also a proof of the need of the Nicaragua canal.

STAGE ADVICE.

When a man knows what his own line is, either theatrical or literary work, the best thing he can do is to stick to it, lest worse befall him. At least that was what I told Archibald.



SELDEN WILL STICK TO COMEDY.

Gunter when he proposed that we should write an opera in collaboration, and he would probably own now that it was sound advice. At the time he made the proposition though, he was infatuated with the idea of winning lyric honors—an idea he had got hold of from a song he had written for Annie Pixley, called "At the Washb'gton." The refrain was "Wash, wash, wash," a sort of parody in fact of Tom Hood's "Song of the Shirt." I set the song to music, and Gunter laid great stress upon the fact that it must be rendered in a pathetic enough manner to bring tears from the eyes of the audience.

Novel Archibald is a successful and original novelist, but he is as heavy as dough outside his books, so knowing that his pigmy could not be relied upon in the matter of stage effect, we persuaded him to let Annie Pixley sing "The Washb'gton" for the first performance, in a lively, spirited way, that was in accordance with her part. The thing caught on splendidly, and Gunter was so delighted he wanted to write the libretto of an opera right away. "You promise to compose six melodies," said he, "and I'll make the book."

"Yes, and who will produce it when the opera is written and composed?" I asked, for I knew that sort of thing very seldom happens. "You want a company of fifty or sixty people to bring out an opera, and even if it is a success you cannot do more than pack the theater, and a play that has only five or six principal characters and does not cost a tenth as much to produce is just as likely to do that. Besides, though I did not tell Gunter so, I knew that his specialty was novel-writing, and mine Irish comedy."

When I was a little fellow, only 4 years old, I remember being severely trouped for showing the first germs of that passion for interpreting Irish character which has followed me all through life.

They had taken me to a panorama where a man named "Barney, the guide," had a good deal to say.

After coming home I looked around for a suitable costume for re-creating the part of Barney, and remembered that in my father's study was a handsome green table-cloth that he got great store by. Half an hour later when my father went in to think over some mathematical problem he found me draped in his table-cloth, declaiming with a rich Irish brogue, and he gave me a whaling that he thought would cure me forever of trying to act character, but the passion was too deeply rooted for that.

Well, it was no use arguing with Gunter, he was determined to write the book of an opera. When he found I would not go in with him he set to work on the libretto all the same, and in time got set to the Palace. The work was called "Debs of Chicago."

Dixie produced it. The work was a great and glorious failure, and I expect that Gunter has learned now to let well enough alone and be content with the novel writing for which he is so pre-eminently fitted.

PERSONAL.

Dr. G. Heussy of Sutter is staying at the Lick. Dr. R. W. O'Bannon of Hollister is at the Palace.

Dr. A. S. Niffin of Trenton, N. J., is a guest at the Grand.

T. G. Yancey, a merchant of Newmans, is a guest at the Lick.

D. D. Whitbeck, a capitalist of Sacramento, is now at the Grand.

E. C. Farnsworth, an attorney of Visalia, is registered at the U. S. C.

H. Prinz, a lumberman of Monterey, was at the Grand last night.

F. A. Schneider, a capitalist of College Park, is at the Lick with his wife.

J. Marion Brooks, an attorney of Los Angeles, is registered at the Grand.

T. J. Pescey came down from Angels Camp yesterday and is at the Grand.

Montenegrin T. G. Phelps Jr. of the cruiser Olympia is a guest at the Palace.

D. B. Hall of the Land of Sunshine Company, Merced, is registered at the Palace.

Captain A. W. Thompson, a prominent resident of Everett, Wash., is at the Palace.

Thomas G. Peachey and M. Rose, of Angels Camp, are in the city on mining business. They are staying at the Grand.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

"I noticed in the CALL," said Captain Theodore Nieleum yesterday, "a statement that the distance from San Francisco to New York by Cape Horn is 7827 miles. While the figure is probably correct when used to designate the air line distance, they are unsatisfactory to the mind of one who does not know what a vast difference there is between an air line and the track of a steam or sailing vessel. Here are the fastest records ever made by sailing vessels between New York and this city around the Horn:

"From New York to San Francisco: 1852, Flying Cloud, 13,610 miles, 89 days 19 hours; 1854, same vessel, same route and distance, 89 days 19 hours; 1857, Swiftdrop, same route and distance, 90 days to the inside of the Farallones, where the vessel was becalmed; 1853, Flying Fish, same route and distance, 92 days; 1860, Andrew Jackson, same route and distance, 90 days 20 hours.

"From San Francisco to New York: 1853, Contest, 13,610 miles, 79 days; 1853, Trade Wind, same route and distance, 75 days; 1870, Young America, same route, 13,580 miles, 80 days 20 hours.

"All these vessels were built with one object in view—speed—and carrying capacity was sacrificed to that end. Of course a modern skipper wouldn't have these vessels as a gift, but the money in shipping during pioneer days was made by the man who got here first."

James A. Murray, banker, mine-owner and pioneer of Montana, is at the Baldwin. He is on his way home to Butte, from a tour of Mexico and Central America.

"The development of transportation in the West is remarkable," said Mr. Murray, as he sat in the brilliantly lighted hotel corridor last night, studied the motion of the elevator and talked Spanish with John Maguire. "You know the night and reach Salt Lake the next day, Denver the fourth, and Los Angeles five days later you arrive in the city of Mexico. Within thirty days one can travel from Montana, do Mexico and adjoining republics nicely and return home by way of San Francisco. The present system of transportation is really wonderful."

"Do I think Mexico and Guatemala will fight? Well, no. The fact is neither country is seeking war very badly. One well disciplined American battalion could clean out both Mexico and Guatemala in a week, and has passed away and the two nations are worshipping before the altar of peace. They are really in no condition, financially or otherwise, for hostilities."

Murray is a keen observer and student of affairs, he travels extensively and talks entertainingly on all the great issues of the day. He is particularly interested in silver legislation and believes that the white metal will eventually get justice.

"In the several trips I have made to San Francisco I have encountered some difficulty in getting the run of your streets," said S. E. Williams, a Chicago electrician, at the Grand yesterday. "I was in Salt Lake City, the streets, or rather the manner of running them, is enough to drive a visitor distracted. The street system of that city originates at Temple Square, within which stands the tabernacle, and the streets fanning out from there are numbered East Temple, South Temple, West Temple, North Temple, but East Temple being the principal business thoroughfare its name has been changed to Main street. The first street south of and parallel to South Temple street is named First South street, an east of Main it is East First South street and so on. The street which crosses Main is numbered in rotation—Second South, Third South and so on, all being further divided into East and West. The system is the most confusing in existence, I believe."

R. S. Whitney of Los Angeles, who is at the Lick, says that the desert mining country north of Indio has recently been making some very large yields. "Only a few days ago," said he, "I was in Salt Lake City, and a prospector named McHoney brought a lot of gold amalgam in to have it retorted. It produced about \$700 in the precious metal. Mr. McHoney said that it represented the product of four tons of ore, and he mined it in only nine days. The property from which this ore was taken is located about ten miles north of the Lost Horse mine, in the Pinon Mountains. The location has undergone no development and the results obtained are entirely the product of surface prospecting. The good news is that the prospecting in the locality mentioned this season, as reports indicate that there are very rich and promising grounds there."

S. S. Marshall, who is at the Occidental, and who attended the recent Mardi Gras at New Orleans, says that the festivities there were the means of bringing to that city at least \$9,000,000 in money. He estimates that there were 200,000 strangers in the city during carnival week, and that the average amount of money spent was not less than \$30. "It has always been a source of surprise to me that San Francisco did not attempt something of the same character," said Mr. Marshall. "Your climate and your people are splendidly adapted for it. Market street would be then what an advertisement it would be for the city!"

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

Professor Lucien I. Blake has succeeded, it is said, in establishing electrical communication by wire between the land and a vessel anchored several miles out in the ocean. Professor Blake is a Kansas man, and occupies the chair of physics and electrical engineering at the Kansas State University.

Ten thousand dollars has already been raised by the Greek committee on the Olympian 2000 meters race, which will be held at Athens, in order to clear the rubbish and put in order the Stadium, the ancient racecourse at Athens, where the international games will be held.

During his four months' sojourn General Booth has traveled 18,453 miles, spent 1847 days in the cars, has written 216 letters and in 111 articles on his work as a 429 hours in a business and made 47 short and 293 long addresses to 437,500 persons.

In Paris it is said that France is now governed really by the President's daughter, Mile. Lucie Faure, who has already nicknamed Mile. Lucie. She is clever, ambitious and determined, rules her family completely, and has published a book.

Mile. Rejane receives \$1600 every time she plays, and her expenses are paid, besides which she is allowed a maid and dressmaker.

SUPPOSED TO BE HUMOROUS.

"I," said her father, "you succeed in making \$50,000 during the next two years out of your business you shall have my daughter. If you fail!"

"But shall not fail," interrupted the youthful son, enthusiastically.

"Will you kindly tell me," queried the old farmer, coldly, "how you intend to make such a sum of money without?"—New York Herald.

Visitor—I am the Populist member of Congress from the Stearns, Kansas district. I yesterday's paper you called me a demagogue. Editor—Well, sir?

Visitor—What would you charge me to mail 500 marked copies of that paper to my constituents.—Puck.

"I wouldn't swear that way," said the kind-looking old lady, mildly. "Bless your soul, mam, you couldn't. It takes years of trial and error to come to the point where you sponged the gentleman whose name had been crossed the car track.—Cincinnati Tribune."

"Do you intend to pay an income tax?" "No; I've been a salary man since \$3000." "Then, of course, you'll expect a Christmas present about \$500 or \$600 from your employers." "Yes, that is about the size of it."—Boston Budget.



WALTER DAMROSCH, CONDUCTOR.

Walter Damrosch is, musically speaking, a very important personage to-day. He has outgrown the youthfulness which was once charged against him as a crime, and his gifts have found recognition in spite of the proverbial stigma which attaches to the sons of German opera which he is conducting at the Metropolitan Opera-house, New York, he is enjoying one of the chances of his life. Damrosch has succeeded in gathering together a company of really great Wagner singers, and though his conducting has not so far created a sensation it has given general satisfaction. New York has rallied round him, and the performances are paying well, although opera, instead of being a social function, as it was during the Abbey and Grand season, is now a serious business; almost a Lenten devotion, in fact. It is only the obstinate devotees of "bel canto" who listen

her of other opera-houses. Mascagni's much-talked-of "William Tell" has not been produced in Berlin, as all but the Scala, Milan, Humperdinck's new opera, "The Royal Children"—another fairy story—will see the foot-lights at Munich under Hermann Levi's direction, and Sullivan's "Ivanhoe" has been brought out in Liverpool instead of Berlin. Meanwhile the disappointed Berliners are bitterly complaining that they are dosed either with Wagner or the eternal "Hansel and Gretel."

According to a new theater edict issued in Berlin, agencies for singers are classified as servants' registry offices, and the "servants" when registering have to give their age, religion, amount of wages required, etc. The standard remarks which might imagine one of the Berliners as Elizabethan agents when "play actors" were proud to be designated as "Her Majesty's servants." The leading agencies have protested, but with small prospect of success. Will a Nordica, a Lillian Russell, an Alboni, a Patti, let alone the great artists who have been in the hands of these agencies, use their influence in force the Berliners have little hope of receiving first-class foreign artists who have any respect for themselves.

A visitor to Japan says the most curious thing he saw during his travels was the band maintained by the town of Hakodate, which played every evening in the public square and won the applause of large and enthusiastic throngs. In the band were just five performers. They knew only one tune, "Marching Through Georgia," and that they repeated innumerable times every night, and night after night. Neither the musicians nor the auditors seemed to tire of this stirring melody, and even the Emperor and Empress were in the thoroughness of the "new civilization."

The World says of the first night of German opera in New York: "All the Wagnerites were present. The society that bears the great master's name in its entirety are the German musicians and professors, the rhapsodizing maidens, all those who have learned to understand Wagner, the emotionalists of his music, his psychologues, his physiologists. And the others were also there—converts of the lyric and romantic opera, the devotees of the art of bel canto, the lovers of melody pure and simple, of mere vocal exhibition. The former came to applaud, the latter to scoff."

Massenet's works, which were very little admired in Italy a few years ago, are now becoming popular. "Mignon's Portrait" has just been produced with great success at the Pergola Theatre in Florence. In the presence of Naples and his suite, as well as all the rank and fashion of the popular winter city, were present, and the music was continually applauded and encored by the whole assembly.

Montenegro is the most fashionable spot at present in which to lay the scene of a lyric drama. The latest libretto written with Montenegrin local coloring is by Axel Delmar, and is entitled "Suzanna." Carl von Kugel, a German musician, is writing the music.

The Treble Clef Quartet will make its debut at Golden Gate Hall on the 11th inst. It is composed of Miss Beatrice Priest, Miss Jeannette Wilcox, Miss A. M. Noble and Mrs. J. A. Birmingham. Miss Alice Ames, a society violinist, will assist at the concert.

The Musical Courier is authority for the statement that the pianist, Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler, will remain in this country for another year, and may possibly begin her season in San Francisco next September.

Saint-Saens is traveling in the Orient, and a dispatch from Cochinchina states that he is in the hands of the French consul. The work will be produced in Paris during the autumn.

The municipal authorities at Bayreuth have decided not to purchase Herr Oesterlein's Wagner Museum, and in all probability the collection will come to America.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Our needs would seem to require cheap freight rates from West to East and high freights from East to West, whereas the interests of the East are quite otherwise. Still, if we can get cheaper power on this coast, means of harnessing our waterfalls and transmitting electricity to where it is wanted,