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EDITOR OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN,

and all communications appertaining to the *Business department* should be addressed to the

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National Republican.

W. J. MURTAGH.....PROPRIETOR.

SUNDAY.....APRIL 29, 1877.

HON. SAMUEL J. TILDEN has gone actively into the railroad business again. Well, something must be done to get back a portion of that barrel of money.

MR. JOHN D. DEFREES, who is to succeed Mr. CLAPP, is a gentleman whose administrative capacity, together with long practical experience, eminently fits him for the position, and his appointment will meet with great satisfaction from every quarter.

MAYOR ELY, of New York, has difficulty in selecting some one to appoint a police commissioner to fill a vacancy. If the Mayor wants a commissioner who knows "how not to do it," and how to evade carrying out a reform, we will make him a present of GATCHELL or either of his four colleagues.

IF ENGLAND should be dragged into the war now waging in Europe the exigencies of the service will demand the Duke of Cambridge to give place to a more efficient commander-in-chief. All the correspondents in London agree that the noble Duke is a mere figurehead; that he knows he is incompetent to be at the head of the army, and that for that very reason he is jealous of and hates competent men. The British service has no abler man than Sir GARNET WOLESLEY, and on that very account Sir GARNET has no more implacable foe in England than the Duke of Cambridge. It is said that he has no other claim to stand at the head of the service than because he is the cousin of the Queen. Mr. JENNINGS, writing to the New York *World* on this subject, says the conclusion among real soldiers has been reached "that the present figure-head style of business is destined to come to an end at no distant day, and that 'royal dukes' will have to get back to royal palaces and leave the hard work of a nation to be done by men who have a little more brains in their heads than a canary bird."

THE OBJECT OF THE WAR AS DECLARED BY THE GRAND DUKE.

It is unfortunate for the cause of religion that it has been made the excuse for so many of the bloody contests among men. Throughout all the past, as in the present, in the great majority of instances, its interests have been put forward to cover the efforts of ambition to aggrandize nations and individuals. The latest profession of such inspiration is that of Russia in setting forth her reasons for marching against Turkey. The Grand Duke nerves his troops for the rigors of the campaign by recitals of the oppressions of the Christians by the devotees of Islam, declaring that there is no other recourse for the amelioration of their condition but the persuasive power of the engines of war. And while the charges made against the Porte are true, and all the world sympathizes with the victims of its intolerance and tyranny, still there is no one to believe that this is the actual cause of the hostility of the Czar, or that the result of the conflict will materially improve the condition of the sufferers. The real truth is that, like a disobedient serf, the Sultan has forgotten the stripes of the last drubbing, and requires to be brought back to a proper sense of the superiority of his neighbor and of the power of his sword, to the end that he may again feel the necessity of permitting the Russian Cabinet to dictate his foreign policy and domestic dispensations. He has been in the tutelage of the Romanof the greater portion of the time, since the peace of 1774, concluded at Kuchuk Kainarji, notwithstanding his many attempts to shake off the yoke, and but for the intervention of foreign Powers he would now become the vassal of that crown, as a part of Poland is to-day. And this recalls a singular circumstance in the history of the Eastern question.

Sultan MUSTAFA III declared war against CATHARINE II of Russia, with the avowed purpose of saving Poland from ruin through Russian interference in her civil troubles. But finding himself unable to check the increasing power of his great rival by this undertaking, he subsequently proposed to JOSEPH II of Austria the dismemberment of Poland and its partition between himself and that ruler. The proposition was, however, rejected, and soon after the unfortunate country, whose destiny was already sealed, was parceled out in such a manner that the Empress, whose ambition was to be restrained by the division of the spoil, came into possession of the richer part of it. And it would be a strange development of time if her successor to the crown should at last acquire the European domain of the descendant of him who connived at her humiliation.

So did the representative of a religion which has been promulgated by the sword, under the pretense of assisting Poland to resist the domination of Russia, attempt to carry the shrine of MOHAMMED into the heart of Europe. Here was the same zeal in the cause of religion which, because interested in its advancement, against the public detestation, was disguised by a pretense that now, because its object is in accordance with the popular will, itself becomes a pretense to disguise the ulterior purpose. But in proclaiming it as the real cause of the contest the Russian Grand Duke announces the disclaimer the parties to the tripartite have professed themselves anxious to hear, as an assurance against their fears of projected enlargement of boundaries. His Grace specifically declares that the march is not to conquest, but simply to the relief of those who suffer for CHRIST's sake. If this be accepted as true, it ought to be sufficient to allay for a time at least the excitement in England and Austria, and cause them to desist from present interference, if not from armament. But it is doubtful whether such an incidental announcement, although by authority, will suffice to arrest the fears of the people of these countries or to satisfy their Governments as to the intent of the CZAR; and the result will probably be a formal demand upon him for an explanation of his omission to be thus explicit in the manifesto. Should this course elicit the full purpose, and, as so stated, it turns out to be in the interest of the oppressed alone, the campaign will doubtless go on unmolested, but closely observed, until the object sought is attained.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICES.

As we have had occasion to remark heretofore, we are opposed to the system of the distribution of the clerkships in the gift of the Government on mere geographical lines. We are especially opposed to it when the system involves the discharge of experienced and efficient clerks, because the quota of a particular State happens to be overfull. Because Ohio or Pennsylvania, or any other State, has more clerks in office than they are supposed to be entitled to, is no reason, if they are good clerks, why they should be displaced to make room for some one from some other State that has not its quota. Our idea of conducting the service on a just plan would be to fill vacancies as they occur from States that did not have their quotas, but not to make the vacancies for that purpose. Take the case of Ohio, for instance. It is said that there are twenty or thirty more clerks in the Treasury Department from that State than it is properly entitled to under the law of Congress providing for an equitable distribution among the States. Now, how are the twenty or thirty that are to be lopped off to be selected? In the dismissal some of the very best men in the Department may be compelled to go, for, talk as we will, political influence and perhaps personal preference of the higher officers will have something to do with it. Then these places are to be filled by new men drawn hither from other States. So long as the law does not make their positions permanent these men had better stay at home, even if they are getting but small salaries. Six or seven hundred dollars a year in almost any of the interior towns of the United States is much better pay than twelve or fourteen hundred dollars in Washington. There is more money in it. We hold that it is no kindness to bring a young man to Washington to give him a subordinate position, unless after he has been found qualified he is assured by law of a permanent position so long as he remains efficient and of good character. Let the "ins" who are in, and who are efficient, stay in. As vacancies occur by death, resignation, or dismissal for cause, put in clerks from the States that have not their full quotas, and in a few years an equitable distribution will come about of itself.

Many of the clerks here who have been in office for years have purchased homes. They own the houses in which they live. This very fact is an evidence of thrift and industry, and should of itself go far as a recommendation for retention in office. Is it right to deprive such men as these of their offices simply because they came from a State that has more than its quota? It is in effect a suggestion to the clerk not to purchase a home and get around him family comforts; but instead to drag out his existence in a boarding house. The clerk who will build up a home for himself is a much more desirable employee to be sought after by the Government than one who does not.

We have not that fear that some express of creating an aristocracy of office-holders. The business man who has an efficient, trustworthy clerk or other employee keeps him as long as possible, for he knows that his interests are safe in that employee's hands. The Government will be the gainer by acting on the same business principle. Weed out the drones and the inefficient because they are drones and inefficient, but don't dismiss the faithful and efficient because they come from any particular State, or because they have not dabbled in State politics, or have lived in Washington long enough to have become interested in municipal affairs here.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

Some of the Southern Democratic papers are getting wiser as they grow older, and admit now that there is a possibility of the election of a Republican as Speaker of the next House of Representatives. The Richmond *Dispatch*, which has advocated the re-election of Mr. RANDALL, says in its issue of Friday:

> We do not feel so confident as some of our contemporaries that the Democrats will elect the Speaker of the House of Representatives which is to assemble in Washington on the 4th of June, or about that time. The majority claimed by the Democrats is not large, and even this may be larger than the facts justify.

The last clause looks to us very much like a sly dig at our friend the Clerk of the House. But the *Dispatch* continues as follows:

> Those members of the next House who were filibusters in the last cherish a good deal of resentment towards Mr. RANDALL, and it is not altogether certain that he can count upon the votes of all the Democrats in that body even after his nomination in caucus, which latter event we think there is but little reason to doubt. Then there are Democrats from several of the Southern States who may take a notion not to go into caucus, but to vote for some representative of the policy which freed Louisiana and South Carolina from military rule.
>
> These are important admissions coming from a Democratic source, and are points that THE REPUBLICAN has contended for. There is no doubt that Mr. RANDALL made enemies among the Bourbons by his rulings as Speaker. They won't forget it soon, and as a consequence there will be a bitter fight in the caucus. The other suggestion, that many of the Southern Democrats will stay away from the caucus, has a great deal of force in it. The Southwestern members will certainly do so if they see a prospect of that wing of the party winning which is opposed to granting Government aid for internal improvements in the South. Mr. RANDALL is one of the leaders of the opposition to that movement. Besides, despite the statement of the *Dispatch* that Mr. RANDALL—

so ruled in the House of Representatives during the last days of its last Session as to secure the succession to the Presidency to Mr. HAYES, he is not the sort of man to be trusted by the South for carrying out HAYES' Southern policy. No Northern doughface is.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. KILBOURN.

The omission of the report of an interview with Mr. HALLET KILBOURN on the prospects of District real estate from yesterday's REPUBLICAN was a source of regret to us. An editorial article referring to the interview was printed, but the interview itself was left out. The second or editorial page is made up and goes to press much earlier than the first page, on which it was intended that the interview should appear. Late at night, after the editorial page had gone to press, important European dispatches arrived, on account of which much interesting matter was crowded off from the first page, including the report of the interview. It is printed this morning, and commended to the perusal of every person interested in the prosperity of the District. Mr. KILBOURN's shrewdness and experience gives value to any views that he may entertain regarding District real estate, and in this case he furnishes such sound reasons for his faith in the inevitable growth of the Capital city, and the consequent increase in the value of real estate, that it is difficult to dispute any of his statements. Not only has he given utterance to his faith, but he has proved it by investing his means in District property, trusting to the certain growth of the city for a return. He has been closely identified with all the improvements made in the city during the past seven years, and has become intimate enough with the affairs of the District to be competent to judge of its future. Washington is bound to grow with the country. Its prosperity does not depend upon local causes. Cities might spring up and grow in population all around it, but Washington would still prosper and increase in wealth. No one, and certainly no American, will believe that America has reached the height of her prosperity. There are a million of acres in the West yet to be cleared; there are hundreds of rich mines yet to be opened; there are scores of cities yet to rise; there are dozens of great railways yet to be built. As the nation grows its capital city will spread out and prosper and grow beautiful. Mr. KILBOURN's logic shows clearly why that result is inevitable. The city must increase in wealth and population as the business of the Government increases. Every immigrant that lands at Castle Garden gives Uncle Sam more business; every clearing made in the vast plains of the West increases his cares. The people of Washington need not be jealous of the prosperity of any other city. Their prosperity directly benefits us. Investments in Washington will not only be safe, but a sure and rapid enhancement of value is certain. The city is fast becoming what it should be, the social as well as the political capital of the nation. Persons of wealth and refinement have discovered that this is a most delightful place to live in, and they are investing in property here and improving the District. The day is not far distant when it will become in truth the pride of the nation. National schools and universities will be established, and it will become a seat of learning. This is the time to take advantage of these bright prospects and make investments, which will surely repay handsomely in the end.

SCHUYLER COLFAX was lifted to prominence by his association on the Presidential ticket with ABRAHAM LINCOLN.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

Overhaul your political history and see if it was not GRANT he was associated with.

THE JURY yesterday, after being out one hour and a half, returned into court with a verdict of guilty of manslaughter against WM. STANT and SAMUEL MORRIS, indicted for the murder of the pencil peddler, CHARLES BOGUE, in February last. Those conversant with the circumstances attending this tragedy will regard these criminals as escaping with light punishment, and they should rest content without importuning for a new trial.

SIR ERSKINE MAY, K. C. B., an authority on Parliamentary law, has been requested by the Sultan to proceed to Constantinople to draw up rules for the guidance of the Turkish House of Commons, but has declined the honor.—*Exchange.*

If the Sultan wants a parliamentarian real bad we could recommend him one. For instance, there's S. S. COX, or J. C. S. BLACKBURN, or SAMUEL J. RANDALL, or WM. M. SPRINGER. Come to think of it, we would rather send RANDALL. That would relieve us of our Speakership question amazingly. Besides, he could best teach the Turk how to twist and tortue the rules into the most convenient shape, to suit a given purpose. Yes, we can best spare RANDALL.

Characteristic Anecdote of Mr. Lincoln.

A new story of Mr. Lincoln is related by a correspondent of "Harper's Magazine." This gentleman called upon Mr. Lincoln soon after he was installed, and awaiting the President's leisure in walked several officers of the Spanish navy to pay a visit of courtesy to the American ruler. They mistook the visitor for the President, and while they made their pleasant speeches to the former, the latter shook with laughter, and motioned to his caller to go on with the farce. The correspondent concludes: "I thought now I had paved the way to win the position I had come to ask. I made up my mind to address the President in a new way, and thus add to the hold I already had upon him. So, when my time came, I stepped up to Mr. L. and said: 'Sir, I have seen the annoyance to which you are subjected by so many and often-repeated requests for innumerable positions, etc. Now, if you will permit me to shake hands, I will try and smother my desire for a certain position which I had come to ask from you.' Mr. L. jumped up, and grasping my hand said: 'Sir, you are one man in a thousand. I am doubly indebted to you. You have been the means of conveying to those Spanish officers that the President of the United States is a very handsome man, and then you do not even ask an office. But,' he added, 'hurry home. You may repent.'"

INCORPORATED.

The Baumgarten Seal Engraving Company.

S. and Wm. Baumgarten, of Baltimore, Md.; Julius Baumgarten, of Philadelphia, and Henry Baumgarten, of this city, have filed a certificate of incorporation in the recorder's office in the name of "The Baumgarten Seal Engraving Company." The object is to elevate to the highest degree of perfection the art of engraving seals and the development of the highest standard of workmanship in this art, availing themselves of the individual skill and experience of each member of the corporation for the benefit of the company. Mr. Herman Baumgarten is appointed manager for the first year.

A BOARDER'S BURR.

Mr. Ambler Gets Drunk, Raises Ned About His Lodging-House, and Pretends that He Has a Toothache.

When Augustus J. Ambler was called in the Police Court yesterday, a tall man, rather well dressed, with gray hair and whiskers tossed about in great disorder, came to the dock window with one hand pressed against his jaw, and with the other holding a dilapidated and badly-used plug hat. He was charged with disorderly conduct. Mrs. Ada E. Spurgeon was the witness against him. She said that Mr. Ambler had boarded with her about a month, during which time he has been constantly intoxicated. Friday she told his wife that they could retain the rooms no longer, and that night Ambler came to the house with two or three friends, all of them in an interesting state of intoxication, and banged away at the door, breaking out a panel, and also shattering a window. Yesterday morning Ambler came back, hurled rough names at Mrs. Spurgeon, and she had a policeman move him away. Mr. Ambler was found reposing at full length on the steps of his late boarding-house, and Mrs. Spurgeon sent to police headquarters. An officer came over and bore Ambler off, and he appeared in the Police Court dock.

"You know I've been suffering for the last six days with raging toothache," said Mr. Ambler, looking fondly at Mrs. Spurgeon. Then he remarked to the Court, "I have taken some opium to allay it, and that's what's the matter with me" and Mr. Ambler pressed his hand still harder against his jaw, and an expression of agony flitted across his face.

"There are ladies in the house," continued Mrs. Spurgeon, "and one day he went around the house with nothing on but his undershirt."

"A boarder has no right to make a nuisance of himself about his boarding-house," observed the Court, and he fined Mr. Ambler $5.

"God knows how I'm suffering," remarked that gentleman with a long sigh, and dropping his hat to put both hands to his jaw.

"I am sorry," said the Court.

"What did he say?" asked Mr. Ambler, who did not catch the remark, of the officer at the dock.

"He says he's sorry," bluntly responded the officer.

"Oh, b'thai all," said Mr. Ambler, losing faith in the human heart, and he turned on his heel and walked to the back of the dock.

How the Sultan Looks and Lives.

[From the London Truth.]

The present queen of the harem is now, and a new love is strong; but it never retains the Sultan in his harem beyond the hour of his habitual appearance in the Imperial study. By 10 o'clock in the morning, clad in a fez-lined *ustori*, the Sultan takes his place in the cheerful little room in the right wing of the palace which he has made his own—a little gem in its way, furnished in ebony and green velvet, its only adornments a select library, a number of maps hung on the walls, the busts of his father and uncle and the portraits of his father and grandfather. The first person he sends for in the morning is Said Pasha, grand marshal of the palace, with whom he draws out the programme of his day; he then calls for the other Said Pasha, his first secretary, with whose assistance he carefully examines all the papers sent to him from the Porte. Occasionally, while still in his dressing-gown, he receives ministers on pressing business; otherwise he works at his papers until about noon, when he breakfasts, and shortly after he appears in his study, dressed in the Quaker-cut black frock-coat, called *stambulee*. Then commence the official receptions, generally followed by a second interview with his grand marshal, after which he either takes a walk in the palace grounds or a trip on the Bosphorus in his yacht. He dislikes driving, but on Sunday he drives over to Stamboul, where I saw him, to inspect the arrangements of the new Chamber of Deputies. He dines shortly after sunset, takes no raki before his dinner and no wine with the meal. Once or twice a week he invites some members of the Cabinet to spend the evening with him, and talks to them upon public affairs; other evenings are devoted to music; he has a special pianist, an Italian, attached to the palace, and sometimes the palace troupe perform a pantomine for his amusement. About 11 or earlier he retires to his harem, which, expressed prosaically, means goes to bed. He is perfectly conscious that his constitution is not robust, and his physicians say that he adheres most faithfully to their advice for the preservation of his health. No one who saw the Sultan on Sunday examining with interest every detail of the new chamber, visited the Imperial lodge, mounting the tribune, nothing the silk stuffs which cover the benches and jaunttily descending the broad staircase of the *Bera-el-fe-nawn* with Said Pasha, could unintentionally conclude that the new sultan was decidedly a thin slender frame, although the frame is undeniably slender and the expression of the face anxious and sorrowful. So much for the Sultan.

Aged Beauties.

History is full of the accounts of the fascination of women who were no longer young. Thus, Helen of Troy was over forty when she perpetrated the most famous elopement on record, and, as the siege of Troy lasted a decade, she could not be very juvenile when the ill-fortune of Paris restored her to her husband, who is reported to have received her with unquestioning love and gratitude. Pericles wedded the courtesan Aspasia when she was thirty-six, and yet she afterward, for thirty years or more, wielded an undiminished reputation for beauty. Cleopatra was past thirty when Antony fell under her spell, which never lessened until her death, nearly ten years after; and Livia was thirty-three when she won the heart of Augustus, over whom she maintained her ascendancy to the last.

Turning to more modern history, where it is possible to verify dates more accurately, we have the extraordinary De Poiciers, who was thirty-six when Henry II—then Duke of Orleans, and just half her age—became attached to her; and she was held as the first lady and most beautiful woman at Court up to the period of the monarch's death, and the accession of Catharine of Medicis. Anne of Austria was thirty-eight when she was described as the handsomest Queen of Europe, and when Buckingham and Richelieu were her jealous admirers. Ninon, the much-courted wit and beauty of her day, was the idol of three generations of the golden youth of France, and she was seventy-two when the Abbe de Bernis fell in love with her. True it is that in the case of this lady, a rare combination of culture, talents, and personal attractions enabled them to possess seemingly with the gifts of eternal youth.

Bianca Capello was thirty-eight when the Grand Duke Francisco, of Florence, fell captive to her charms and made her his wife, though he was five years her junior. Louis XIV wedded Madame de Maintenon when she was forty-three years of age. Catherine II, of Russia, was thirty-three when she seized the Empire of Russia and captivated the dashing General Orloff. Up to the time of her death—at sixty-seven—she seemed to have retained the same bewitching powers, for the lamentations were heartfelt among all those who had known her personally. Mlle. Mars, the celebrated French tragedienne, only attained the zenith of her beauty and power between forty and forty-five. At that period the loveliness of her hands and arms, especially, was celebrated throughout Europe. The famous Madame Recamier was thirty-eight when Barras was ousted from power, and she was, without dispute, declared to be the most beautiful woman in Europe, which rank she held for fifteen years.

PATSEY'S BRINDLE PUP.

Condemned to Die a Dog's Death—A Case of Doubtful Identity.

A big three-decker colored woman answered to the name of Patsey Matthews in the Police Court yesterday. She was charged with harboring a fierce dog. Charles Holmes, a one-legged darkey, whose principal means of locomotion was a straight wooden crutch, told the Court that his daughter Louisa was bit by Patsey's dog.

"This was a small brindle dog," said Charles.

"Had she any more?" inquired the Court.

"Yes, five or six."

"She is in the dog business then?"

"Yes sir, and doing a good business, too.

"Is the dog described?" the Court inquired of the attorney, and that gentleman, upon inspecting the information, discovered that it was not.

"The dog should be identified," the Court decided.

Patsey expressed her willingness to have the dog killed without further proceeding, and she was placed under twenty-five dollars bonds to have the dog killed within twenty-four hours. Its last yelp on earth was heard last night.

THE BROOM HANDLE BATTLE.

Declining to Set Aside the Verdict of $2,500.

Chief Justice Cartter yesterday declined to grant a new trial in the case of Huber vs. Tuber. This was the case growing out of an assault on Mrs. Huber with a broom handle made by Mrs. Tuber because the former punished the child of the latter for insulting language and improper behavior toward her. The plaintiff sued for $10,000 damages, and the jury awarded her $2,500. His Honor said that he was unable to see how he could interfere with the verdict; that this was either a case of great imposition on the one side or great brutality on the other. He had purposely avoided giving the jury instructions owing to the peculiarities that hung about the case. Bills of exceptions were then prepared and signed, and the case now goes to the court in banc.

ALL SHADES OF OPINION.

In this column of THE REPUBLICAN *will hereafter be found editorial extracts upon important questions from prominent American newspapers irrespective of party. Our readers will thus be kept informed of the temper of both the Republican and the Democratic press upon political and other subjects. We publish these extracts just as we would any other items of news, purely for information. Our own opinions and views will, as usual, be expressed only in our editorial columns.*

"Southern Men for Southern Offices."

From the New York Herald:

Now that the Federal interference in the South has caused the President begins to think of a reform in the Southern Federal offices. Washington reports say that he is busying himself first with the Louisiana offices. Collector Casey and Marshal Pitkin are to have successors, and they are to be Southern men; men of influence and character. The President doubtless remembers the advice given him last fall by the venerable ex-President Woolsey, of Yale, to "put Southern men into Southern offices." We trust he will warm the new men to keep their hands away from the politics of the State. Let the Federal officers attend to their duties. It is an indecency, as well as a great impropriety, for Federal office-holders to presume to meddle in politics as party leaders; and the country has suffered too much already from such interference. It has not forgotten United States Marshal Packard, chairman of the Republican State Committee of Louisiana, and, more scandalous yet, Secretary Chandler, chairman of the National Republican Committee. Whenever the President appoints a Federal officer he ought to give him one piece of warning—"As soon as I catch you meddling in politics off goes your head." If he kept his word this would go a long way toward reforming the civil service.

Rights and Duties of Neutrals.

From the New York Sun:

As the United States are to be neutrals in this war between Russia and Turkey, there are some points in regard to the rights and duties of neutrality which it may be well to state.

The general rules of neutrality are the following:

On the breaking out of a war between two nations with which the United States are at peace, the vessels of war of either of them may be required to depart from our ports within twenty-four hours, except in case of stress of weather, or when they require provisions for their crews, or repairs; in which case they must go to sea as soon as possible after the expiration of the twenty-four hours.

Neither provisions nor repairs can be obtained beyond what is necessary to enable the vessel to reach the nearest port of its own country.

No facilities of warlike equipment can be obtained in a neutral port, and the belligerent cannot use the harbor, ports, coasts or waters of the neutral in aid of its warlike purposes, or as station or place of resort for any warlike purpose.

If the belligerent vessel is a steam vessel of war, it cannot receive, in a neutral port, any more coal than is necessary to take it to the nearest port of its own country, or to some near destination; and it is usual to require that the same vessel shall not receive two supplies of coal from ports of the same neutral within less than a given time—say three months—of each other. Subject to these rules—which it is competent to the Government of the neutral State to announce that it will act upon—the vessels of either belligerent may enter our ports as often as our Government may see fit to allow.

American vessels carrying arms or other warlike supplies to Russia or Turkey will be liable to capture for carrying contraband of war. The modern rule is that provisions are generally not contraband; but they may become so under circumstances arising out of the character of the war or the condition of the parties engaged in it. If they are carried for the general use of life in an enemy's country, they are not in general deemed contraband; but if they are destined for military or naval use, or for parts of military or naval equipment, they are liable to be treated as contraband. Contraband works a forfeiture of freight. Formerly contraband worked a forfeiture of the ship, but in modern times the ship is forfeited only when it is owned by the same person who owns the cargo. The owners of either belligerent can employ neutral vessels having property of the other belligerent on board, and take them in for adjudication in their prize courts, but they cannot transship the property at sea unless it is indispensable for its preservation. Innocent parts of the same cargo, to escape the contagion of contraband, must be the property of a different owner.

The Scribs.

From the Chicago Times:

Whoever imagines that the rebellion which Blaine, Ben Wade, Redpath, Wendell Phillips, Sharp & Co. are talking of getting up against the Hayes administration is going to be "much of a shower," plainly has a poor understanding of the temper of the American political mind. Inveterate scribs, like Phillips, will doubtless refuse to be reconciled, and will continue to emit unceasing torrents of vituperation. They would do so any way. No matter what course Government should pursue, the Phillips breed of politicians would be dissatisfied with it. The world and bad fault in all possible conditions and circumstances to the bantlings for which they came into the world, and from which they will only retire when they get out of breath.

Very likely, too, some more demagogues like the ancient Ben Wade will continue to grumble. And younger demagogues like Blaine and Packard and our own portentous Sharp, who are either politically stranded, or perceive that they soon will be, may howl more or less doleefully. But the following of these angry but impotent malcontents does not promise to be any more formidable. Their difficulty is that they have not got any leaves and fishes to distribute. Where the carcass is the vultures will flock together. Mr. Hayes has got possession of the carcass. Already the carpet-bagger vultures who, a little while ago, were engaged in organizing rebellious and threatening to abandon the Administration to the worst imaginable fate, are beginning to sing a sweeter sort of tune.

Another difficulty with the malcontents is not that they have not the will to get up a rebellion, but that they know not how to find the way. They lack a cause which would enlist either the understanding or the feelings of the average ballot-hooter. What to strike for, is a question of more practical importance than what to strike against. To demand the return of the troops, the expulsion of Nicholas and Packard, the restoration of sham governments incapable of governing, would be to demand what no sane white man, or negro either, would favor. To propose a reinstatement of the color-line contest would be to propose the perpetuation of a quarrel between races, which is one and fatal to the other. Upon no decent man, white or black, would favor a project which ample experience has shown would be political suicide.

What could the malcontents propose? What plausible cause could they invent? On what issue could they bound the rebellion they would like to inaugurate? Alas! they have no ground at all, and there is no probability that any will be furnished them. Their threatened rebellion will exhaust itself in the scribbling of the bloody-shirt chieftains whose political stock in trade Hayes has completely ruined.

Causes of the Eastern War.

From the New York Tribune:

The first little spark, which has grown into a flame that may possibly involve all Europe in conflagration, was kindled in the Slavonic province of Herzegovina, on the western border of Turkey, between Bosnia and Montenegro. The Christian peasants rose in rebellion against the Moslem landowners, of their own race, in June, 1875, and the disturbance which ensued soon extended into Bosnia. The people of Montenegro and Servia sympathized keenly with the desperate resistance of their Christian brethren to oppressions which the latter declared to be intolerable. Much secret aid was undoubtedly sent into the Herzegovina and Bosnia, as the rebellion could not otherwise have been so prolonged; but Montenegro and Servia remained neutral, and Russia entered into an agreement with Germany and Austria to secure peace. On the 30th of December Count Andrassy, speaking both for Austria and her two allies, issued a "note" of the reforms which the Ottoman Government should apply to the rebellious provinces. Even England acceded, though not conjointly, to the demands of this note, which was, in substance, accepted by the Porte. But nothing more was heard of it; the terms of the reforms were not promulgated, the rebellion continued, and by the spring of 1876 the insurgents were so encouraged by their success that they increased their demands. During all this time, a fanatical spirit which has been spreading throughout the East for several years past—a revival of the old, militant Moslem faith—was on the increase among the Turks; the Ottoman Government either was unable to control it or was blind to the new element of danger which it introduced into the situation.

By the end of April, 1876, it was very evident that the existent feeling of the Servians and Montenegrins, who were inspired by the gallant resistance of the Bosnians, might force their reluctant princes to join in the struggle. On the 6th of May the murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica, by a fanatical Turkish mob, aroused Europe to the necessity of action. Five days afterwards Prince Gortchakoff and Count Andrassy met Prince Bismarck at Berlin, and agreed upon what is called the "Berlin Memorandum." It repeated the demands of the Andrassy note, but added that, as the latter had been accepted by the Porte, its provisions must be instantly carried into effect, with satisfactory guarantees—failing which, it proposed that the Powers should take "such efficacious measures as might be demanded." It also stipulated for an immediate armistice of two months, in order that the initial reforms should be carried into effect. France and Italy were willing to accept the Berlin memorandum, but England refused.

In less than a month after the failure of the Berlin memorandum, Bulgaria was the theatre of the most shocking barbarities, the Sultan was deposed and dead, and Servia and Montenegro had decided to declare war against Turkey. The atrocities perpetrated by the Turks silenced for a time all considerations of political interest, and paralyzed the efforts of diplomacy to stay the spread of war. Russia, thwarted by England, no longer hesitated to give more aid and encouragement to Servia and Montenegro; England was in no position to interfere, while half her population was holding indignant mass meetings, and sending help to the Christians; and the other nations were resolved to wait the result of the Turkish campaign against Servia, which followed Russia's declaration for a time. Servia's defeat was evident by the end of August, at which time no armistice was proposed by England. Turkey accepted a suspension of hostilities, which lasted until the 1st of October, when the war was resumed. The intermediate month had been spent, to no purpose, in negotiations between Russia, England, Turkey, and the other Powers, in regard to a basis of peace.

The delay brought no success to the Servian arms. War on one side and diplomatic correspondence on the other continued until the 31st of October, when Alexinatz fell, and a new suspension of hostilities, followed by an armistice of two months, was brought about. By this time all the Powers had agreed upon the plan of a conference at Constantinople. The representatives of Russia, England, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy met in that city early in December, and continued in session until the 18th of January last, when the plan which they unanimously adopted, was presented to Turkey. On the 20th Safvet Pasha, on the part of the Grand Council of the Porte, communicated to the conference Turkey's rejection. In substance, the plan was very similar to that of the Andrassy note and the Berlin memorandum. It stipulated for equal rights and equal protection for the Turkish Christians, necessary reforms in the administration of the civil government, and guarantees for their execution. The members of the conference left Constantinople immediately after their failure; the armistice was prolonged, and Turkey hastened to strengthen her position by opening negotiations for peace with Servia and Montenegro.

The remaining history is too recent to need repetition. One more effort was made to impose the same terms of agreement upon Turkey. In stirring the protocol, England for the third time, and the other Powers for the fourth time, have repeated substantially the same demands and received the same answer. Russia is now carrying out alone the purport of the somewhat ambiguous clause in the Berlin memorandum, to which both Germany and Austria then subscribed.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

Niblo's Garden is closed.

Geo. Honey revisits this country in July.

Edwin Booth is performing in Providence, R. I.

Louise Pomeroy has concluded her starring tour.

Aimee reappears in New York on the 28th of May.

"The Danicheffs" will be given in Boston May 22.

Miss Rose Wool has been re-engaged at Wallack's.

An English critic suggests that Lester Wallack perform Fagin.

Mr. Polk will play Major de Boots for his benefit in San Francisco.

Mrs. Oates plays an engagement in Washington, beginning May 21.

Rose Rand is playing Delilah in the South. Charles Pope is the Samson.

Mr. Harry Lacey appears at the Park Theatre with Mr. Sothern next season.

Fred. Warde is engaged to appear at Booth's during the Rignold-Tillotson season.

Mr. Daly has signed a new lease for two years of the Fifth Avenue theatre.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" was played at the Bowery theatre, New York, last week.

Anna Dickinson performs Jane Eyre at Daly's next season. At least she will try to.

A subscription has been opened to procure a headstone to mark the grave of Owen Marlowe.

Mr. Josh Hart has leased the Olympic theatre from the 1st of May. The house is now closed.

Miss Neilson appears at the Fifth Avenue theatre, New York, May 7, as Viola, in "The Twelfth Night."

Mr. Horace Lingard and wife (Alice Dunning) have returned from Australia after a very profitable season there.

"A Trip to the Moon" will be produced, under the direction of the Kiralfys, at the Grand Opera House, San Francisco, shortly.

The Linnards, in the "Two Orphans," follow Neilson at the California theatre, and they will be in turn succeeded by Ben De Bar.

Miss Melver, of the London Lyceum, and the Misses Ida Heward and Florence D'Arcy, of Drury Lane, come to this country next season.

Mr. Stephen Fiske will receive subscriptions for the memorial window to be erected in London to the late John Oxenford, theatrical critic of the Times.

The disposition which will be made of Booth's (the Eagle) lyceum, Grand opera house, Niblo's and the New Broadway next season is still undecided.

"The Gilded Age" will be produced at the Park theatre next week, with John T. Raymond as Colonel Sellers and Marie E. Gordon as Laura Hawkins.

The one thousandth performance of Murdock's American drama will be given at Rochester on the 19th of May. The piece was first produced in that city.

"The Danicheffs" will be given at the Brooklyn Academy of Music May 14 with a cast including Charles R. Thorne, James O'Neil, Fanny Morant, Linda Dietz and Sara Jewett.

Miss Neilson will perform in "Measure for Measure" and "Cymbeline" during her forthcoming engagement at the Fifth Avenue theatre. Neither of these plays have been seen here for many years.

J. K. Emmet appears at Wallack's during the summer season, and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Williamson at the Union square. The "Evangeline" troupe may be seen at the Fifth avenue, and the minor theatres remain open, as usual.

The benefit of the popular actor, Fred. B. Warde, of Booth's theatre, takes place April 30. John McCullough and Mr. Warde will appear in "Damon and Pythias," and the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet" and the first act of "Black-Eyed Susan" will be given. Mr. Warde will doubtless have a crowded house, as he is personally a great favorite, and offers a most diversified and attractive programme.

The new company for Baldwin's opera-house, San Francisco, will include Mrs Frost Thorn, (see Lillie Vining Davenport, daughter of E. L. Davenport,) leading lady, and her sister, May Davenport, juvenile business. John Howson will probably be the low comedian, George Hoey will do the walking gents, and Maurice Barrymore, probably, will do the leading juvenile, and his wife (Georgie Drew) is to divide the juvenile business with Miss May Davenport.

The full cast of "Nicholas Nickleby," on its production at the Union Square theatre, May 7, will be as follows: Smike, Bijou Heron; New-man Noggs, J. H. Stoddart; Nicholas Nickleby, C. A. Stevenson; Squeers, W. J. Lemoyne; John Browdie, George C. Boniface; Ralph Nickleby, John Parselle; Fanny Squeers, Roberta Norwood; Kate Nickleby, Kate Girard, and Mrs. Nickleby, Mrs. Wilkins. Andrew Halliday's version will be given. It will run probably until the end of the season.

Niblo's garden is now rented for $13,000; Comique, $15,000; Olympic, $22,000; Union Square theatre, $20,000; Grand opera house, $18,000; Broadway theatre, $25,000; Park, $18,000. An offer of $20,000 from Shook & Palmer, through V. K. Stevenson, was refused to give the present management the preference of the low rate. Booth's theatre, $10,000; Fifth Avenue, $20,000; Eagle, $20,000; Twenty-third Street opera house, $9,000. Kelly & Leon used this house all last season for nothing, the only condition that they should keep it open. Heller's Wonder theatre, $15,000; Bowery theatre, $300 a week.

Paul Morphy, the celebrated chess player is now residing with his mother, at No. 89 Royal street, New Orleans. The man is evidently insane, and his nearest friends say he is incurable. He changes dress six and eight times a day, and passes most of his time promenading Canal street, and is continually moving his lips as though in conversation with some one. No one is ever seen with him in his walks, and he appears to be a close observer of all that is going on in the streets. Morphy is a very small man, dresses natty and neat, and swings a little slim cane. Sometimes he carries under his arm papers and law pamphlets, as though he were going to one of the courts. He passes along the thoroughfares so quietly that strangers hardly