

The National Republican.

Terms to Subscribers: Fully paid by mail, postage prepaid, per year, \$5.00; six months, \$3.00; three months, \$2.00. To city subscribers, delivered by carrier—per year, \$6.00; per month, 50c. Weekly edition (postage prepaid), per year, \$1.00; six months, 75c.

Entered at the P. O. as second class mail matter. Postage on single copies, 2 cents.

NATIONAL—Mr. John McCullough. FORD'S—Boston Ideal Opera Company. CONIQUE—Harry Montague. DIME MUSEUM—Matinee and evening performance.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1884.

THE annual failure of the Delaware peach crop is past due.

No well organized public man can afford to be without a boom.

The Chicago aldermen and other statesmen will be on in force next week to capture the national democratic convention.

ASH WEDNESDAY is not far off and "society" is knocking down to business.

In view of the various gloomy reports concerning the condition of Gen. Grant's health that have been current lately, it is pleasant to be able to state that he is doing well and will be out as soon as mild weather sets in.

MR. CURTIN meant to be dramatic when he led Manning up and demanded that he be immediately sworn in, but he merely succeeded in being ridiculously farcical.

THESE have not been wanting of late signs that Mr. Payne's boom was assuming a hopeful aspect.

THE Credit Mobilier company is hardly so famous in the land as in a day long gone by, but its shares have a prospect of regaining some portion of their former great value.

IN the flooded portions of the cities in the Ohio valley people driven from the lower portion of their houses are huddled together in the upper stories and living as best they may.

IT is settled that Mr. Manning is not to be forced to steal the seat to which J. R. Chandler was fairly elected.

THESE are a strong delegation from Louisiana now in Washington to protest against any reduction of the sugar tariff.

THE Mississippi investigating committee have commenced their labors in New Orleans, and the evidence given by the brother of Mr. J. P. Matthews, who was killed at Hazlehurst, is enough to make the blood of every man who has any sense of honor or fair play to boil with indignation.

THE ways of the financial magnates are peculiar. They cultivate deceit as a fine art as assiduously as they do the secret means that produce the fluctuations of the stock market.

CONGRESS yesterday performed another act of national benevolence by appropriating \$500,000 in behalf of the Ohio river sufferers.

A MAN in New York has been arrested on the ridiculous charge of selling home-made wine in bottles with foreign labels.

ports from the Ohio valley show that the disaster is without a parallel in this country, and the nation's money could not be used in a nobler cause.

The only practical purpose which can be subserved by the passage of the pending bill for the relief of Fitz-John Porter will be to confer on him a life annuity equal to the salary attached to his former grade in the army on the retired list.

On what principle of justice can congress require the people of this country to pay to Fitz-John Porter a large annual salary during the rest of his life?

Ordinarily salaries are paid to officers of the government as an equivalent for services rendered. They are not intended to be in the nature of gifts, donations, or decorations.

And whenever the salary is in excess of the value of the service performed, to that extent they are properly regarded as unjust to the public.

In the case of officers of the army and navy of the United States the salaries paid, as compared with salaries paid to like officers by other governments, are very small—too small to enable recipients to lay aside from year to year a surplus to support themselves and families during their declining years.

Hence, when they are retired on account of age or disabilities incurred in the public service their salaries are continued. These salaries paid to retired officers are not in the nature of gifts or donations.

The money thus paid them was earned by the recipients during the prior years of their service, and withheld by the government for this purpose, in pursuance of a contract entered into by and between these officers and the government when they entered the service of their country.

But it is not expected that Fitz-John Porter, after the proposed reappointment, will perform any service in future as an equivalent for his salary.

He is to be immediately retired. Not on account of disability incurred in the military service, nor on account of age accrued during such service.

He is a private citizen, and has been a private citizen during the last twenty years, at liberty to pursue any private avocation and lay up money to support himself during his declining years, like any other private citizen.

He has not, therefore, earned this proposed life annuity by the performance of prior life-long service for his country, and he is not expected and will not be required to perform any such service in future.

The payment of such salary would be an unequivocal donation.

Private citizens, of course, have a right to make such donations out of their own pockets. They may do as they choose with their own money.

But has congress the right to compel the people to confer such gratuities? And if this right on the part of congress should be conceded, why should Fitz-John Porter be singled out from all the other citizens of the country as the anomalous recipient of such forced donation?

It has been urged in justification of this extraordinary proposition that his dismissal from the army under disabilities, in pursuance of a decision of a court martial, was unjust and ignominious, and that this disgrace should be wiped out.

But so far as it is possible for the government to do this it has already been done. In pursuance of an expressed wish of congress he is already the recipient of an executive pardon.

And there is no other method known to the constitution and laws for the removal of the supposed odium attaching to an unjust decision of a court. It is conceded that congress is not an appellate court; that it is destitute of power to review and reverse the decisions of a court martial.

The bill does not, in terms, propose to do so. The decision must stand. He is out of the army. He cannot re-enter unless the President should choose to appoint him, by and with the advice and consent of the senate.

And there is no vacancy of his former rank to which he can be appointed. Hence, this bill proposes to create one for his personal benefit, to which he shall be appointed and immediately retired with the pay attached to that grade.

In other words, it proposes, in this roundabout way, to donate to a private citizen—Fitz-John Porter by name—a life annuity.

The passage of the bill can have no other effect. It is, therefore, fair to conclude that this is its only purpose.

The Mississippi investigating committee have commenced their labors in New Orleans, and the evidence given by the brother of Mr. J. P. Matthews, who was killed at Hazlehurst, is enough to make the blood of every man who has any sense of honor or fair play to boil with indignation.

No wonder the democrats can carry Mississippi if in every county, as in Copiah, they march in armed mob, headed by the chairmen of their county committees, carrying cannon and firing at the negroes.

"They murdered some, whipped others, and put ropes around the necks of still others, but did not hang them," said Mr. Matthews. Those who were whipped were no doubt murdered, and those who simply had ropes put around their necks must have been extremely thankful that they were not strangled.

The Mississippi plan is set forth in the statement that "the armed mob who were riding over the country before the election declared that they would carry the election with the shotgun, if necessary, or with the knife."

This will be a memorable congress. During the present week one senator whistled aloud while the senate was in session, and the very next day another fell out of his chair.

Just such incidents as these occurred during the days of Daniel Webster and Benton, and yet there are people who lament the departed glory of the senate.

A MAN in New York has been arrested on the ridiculous charge of selling home-made wine in bottles with foreign labels.

There is both a Biblical and statutory prohibition against a man putting new wine in old bottles, and yet if all the people who are engaged in this business were punished every jail and penitentiary in the country would have to be extended.

St. Louis will have direct rail communication with the city of Mexico by March 15. The world moves.

The magnificent audience that presented themselves at Ford's last evening to hear the second rendition for the season of "Fra Diavolo" by the Ideal company was a surprise alike to manager and critic.

This production of Auber's is closely associated with the early experiences of the middle-aged amusement-seekers of to-day, but there is a perennial freshness about the work that causes it to be regarded as sure for a full house by every manager of English opera.

As sung by the Ideals this legend of the romantic bandit is heard at its best. Miss Stone gave the role of Zerlina an interest that never lags.

Her pure, clear soprano and remarkable powers as an actress enabled her to make the role of the innkeeper's daughter a most perfect rendition in every respect.

As Lady Alceah Miss Umar invested the role with a piquancy and freshness that is seldom seen, and in the numbers allotted to her made a decided impression upon an audience that were at first disposed to a high degree of frigidity.

The Lorenzo of Mr. Mossell was all that the role demanded, and richly deserved the commendation that was so freely accorded him.

Mr. Barnabee as Lord Alceah gave his usual careful and artistic interpretation of the character, and made it a nice bit of comedy, replete with fun and without a trace of the farcical imbecility that it is usually invested with.

The Heppo of Mr. Whitney was thorough in voice and action, and his interpolated song, "The Robbers," was enthusiastically received.

Mr. Frothingham as Giacomo would never have been recognized under a make-up that was true to nature and which gave to his presentation of the character of the macaroni-devouring scoundrel something that was horribly realistic.

In the duet of the last act, where they imitate Zerlina's song in the chamber scene, these two were honored with a double encore, which was richly deserved.

At the matinee this afternoon the "Beniamin Girl" will be presented with the same cast as last week.

To-night the Ideal will close their two weeks' season with Gilbert and Sullivan's opera of the "Pirates."

The cast embraces Mr. Whitney as the Pirate King, Mr. Barnabee as the major general, Mr. Frothingham as the sergeant of police, Mr. Mossell as Frederick, Miss Umar as Malah, Miss Phillips as Ruth, and Mr. Hubbard as Samuel.

It has been conceded everywhere that the Ideals stand unsurpassed in the rendition of this charming opera, and the general verdict has been that it was evidently written for their express benefit.

LINCOLN HALL—"DON PASQUALE." Donizetti's sparkling opera, "Don Pasquale" was rendered last night at Lincoln hall to a select and cultivated audience, who testified their appreciation of the performance by hearty and discriminating applause.

There was some delay in commencing, owing probably to the inadequate resources of the stage for opera, and the first act was received with some coldness by the audience.

The casts embraced Signor Maina as Malatesta, Signor Lenconi as Don Pasquale, Brignoli as Ernesto, and Mme. Godini as Norina.

"Malatesta" was a very well sung, Signor Maina's voice being a full, rich baritone of much power, and apparently capable of meeting any demands upon it.

Signor Lenconi both sang and acted Don Pasquale very agreeably. Mme. Godini was apparently nervous at first, but recovered herself and made a very acceptable Norina.

Her voice is a light soprano, of reedy quality, pure and birdlike in its upper register, and round and full in the lower. She sang after the first scene with taste and expression, and acted the charming widow with spirit.

The coldness of the audience in the first scene was dissipated very effectively, and the balance of the work was well done and heartily applauded.

Brignoli's voice is silvery still, and he sang with effect last night. He was twice recalled in the aria, "To Some Lonely Land," and gave on both occasions "I Linger Round the Very Spot" in English.

The gems of the opera were the quartette in the second act after the mock marriage, when Mme. Godini was very effective, and the beautiful serenade which Brignoli was compelled to repeat.

The duet between Brignoli and Mme. Godini, immediately after the serenade, was finely rendered. Between the second and third acts Brignoli's new march, "Après le Combat," an attractive composition, was played by the full orchestra in such manner as to receive a merited encore.

THE HANLONS. The Hanlons appear at Ford's on Monday night in the entertaining play "Le Voyage en Suisse" in a week's engagement.

This play is intensely funny and the company very good, besides the Hanlons, who are incomparably the best in their specialty in the world. The prices are the usual dramatic charges.

Public Building at Denver. Senator Hill, of Colorado, yesterday introduced a bill to change the limit of the appropriation for the public building at Denver to \$750,000.

Planted in the Front Grave Row. A valued correspondent of the Sun writes to report that a recent visit to Cincinnati he conversed with a number of prominent democratic business men, who are of the opinion that the Hon. Henry B. Payne bought the seat in the United States senate to which he was recently elected by the legislature of Ohio.

"The Sun," says our correspondent, "has always vigorously assailed such outrages against the people, and a great many of your readers would be glad to have the 'Sun's Ohio representative investigate a charge that appears to have good foundation."

We are very far from being convinced that this accusation against Mr. Payne has a good foundation. We have no representative in Ohio to whom we could intrust the duty of investigating such a charge; and if we had such a representative, he would not have the power necessary to make an investigation that would be satisfactory.

It is our opinion that the only ground for the imputation is that Mr. Payne has a son who has got rich out of the Standard Oil company, and who naturally took a great deal of interest in his father's election.

Whether the son employed any improper means to obtain support for his father is a question respecting which we have no knowledge. But we have not the slightest idea that Mr. Payne ever tolerated, or consented, or knew that any such methods were introduced into the canvass in his favor; and we are certain that, if he had known of such a thing, he would have sternly rebuked and rejected every effort of the sort.

One thing becomes clear from these accusations and from the discussion they have occasioned: Mr. Payne cannot in any event now be available as the democratic candidate for president.

MONEY TALKS.

A Pittsburg Capitalist Argues Against Trades Unions and Other Systems of Organized Labor.

Mr. Thomas Mellon, a capitalist of Pittsburg, was before the house committee on labor yesterday and made an argument in behalf of "free," as distinguished from "organized" labor.

This latter, the gentleman said, did the sitting and asked for legislation to protect it. He did not ask that organized labor be abolished, but wished that it should not be allowed to interfere with free labor.

While other questions agitated before congress had been defined, Mr. Mellon said he had seen no definition of the labor question. He said it was a question of more wages and less work, a subject that did not come under the possibility of legislation.

Work and compensation, he argued, were governed by natural laws. He came before the committee to ask that organizations should not be allowed to coerce men to work or not to work.

In reference to foreign contract labor Mr. Mellon said it was not just that men who had suffered the privations of the war should be themselves in America before leaving their native country should be excluded.

He would favor, however, the exclusion of pauper labor—that lower strata of dull and ignorant people that will not make good citizens.

Mr. Mellon also expressed his opposition to the eight hour law. He said such legislation would restrict men's liberties and take away all opportunity for getting out of the lower strata of work. By extra labor they could secure extra pay, and by frugality, in time, could become an employer, instead of an employe.

The organization of capital, the speaker said, was not to effect the question of wages of employes, but to regulate the prices of commodities. When men are paid for goods far wages could be paid.

Mr. Mellon had tried co-operation at his coal mines, and his men, he said, expressed themselves as satisfied with the result. They were fought, however, by organized labor and forced to leave the mine.

Mr. J. M. Davis, a representative of the employes of the Philadelphia navy yard, and Richard Emmons, of the Washington navy yard, also made arguments. They argued the enforcement of the eight hour law, and extra pay. Mr. Davis also expressed his opposition to the eight hour law, and the passage of the statute.

The senate committee on education yesterday gave a hearing to persons interested in securing the passage of the bill now before that committee to provide for the appointment of a commission to investigate the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Mr. Andrew J. Chambers, a prominent colored man of New Haven, Conn., appeared before the committee and urged the appointment of the commission to inquire into the progress of the colored race in the United States since the war.

He thought the necessary commission was greater than that for the appointment of commissions to investigate the condition of the crops, of agriculture, or of the necessities of business, or the working of the tariff laws.

The committee will take a bill up for consideration on Tuesday next. A delegate to the educational convention in session in this city will be given a hearing on the question of extending national aid to education.

The house committee on education will be present.

THEATRE PARTIES. Three Dinners Last Evening in Gov. Swanwick's Picture Gallery at Chamberlain's.

Three fashionable dinner parties were given at Chamberlain's establishment last night. The first was given by Mr. John McCullough, the eminent tragedian, to Gen. Singleton, Mr. John B. Carson, of the Hannibal and St. Joe railroad, and Capt. Clarke, of the 1st Maryland.

The second dinner party was given by Mr. Walker Elaine to eleven gentlemen and as many ladies. The menu embraced all of the seasonal delicacies, served in excellent style, in the former art gallery of the old Swanwick mansion, which has been fitted up by Mr. Chamberlain and annexed to his original building.

This step was necessary in order to meet the large demand made by individuals and parties upon his unsurpassed cuisine. An after-theater-dinner party was given by Lieut. Tamm, U. S. N., to twenty-eight ladies and gentlemen.

The large dining room presented a bright and pretty scene. It was Gov. Swanwick's former art gallery, especially constructed to display his collection of rare paintings.

About the ceiling is a series of frescoes to carry off the impure and admit fresh air. The walls are handsomely frescoed in dark blue shades relieved by gold and silver designs.

In the center of the room is a massive, round table capable of seating twenty-six thirty guests, and decorated in the center by unique designs. Mr. Chamberlain's high rank as a caterer was fully sustained in accommodating the successive dinner parties last night.

The St. Cecilia quartette will sing at the Peabody symphony concert in Baltimore to-night, a fitting recognition of the high musical ability of this popular organization.

Miss Minnie Ewan, the leading soprano, has refused a flattering offer to become the leading soprano of his company from Remenyi, preferring to remain with the quartette.

THE GREELY RELIEF EXPEDITION. Capt. W. A. Kirkland, U. S. N., who will probably be ordered to take command of the Greely relief expedition is in Washington in response to an order from Secretary Chandler for the purpose of consulting in regard to the details of the expedition.

Capt. Kirkland will have general charge of the expedition, but will be directly in command of the Albatross, which will be the principal vessel in the expedition.

She is regarded as superior to the Bear. It has been decided that every person detailed for the expedition will be subject to a special physical examination.

APPROPRIATION FOR FLOOD SUFFERERS. The house committee on appropriations yesterday prepared, and directed Representative Holman to report to the house, a joint resolution appropriating \$200,000 additional for the relief of the sufferers by the Ohio floods.

Secretary Lincoln was before the committee, and said he thought that amount would be sufficient, at least, for the present. The secretary has ordered the necessary supplies to be sent from Parkersburg, W. Va., making seven boats that will be on the river between Pittsburg and Cairo, distributing clothing and provisions.

HONORING THE BRAVE. Secretary Folger has ordered that Second Lieutenant John N. Rhodes, of the revenue steamer Dexter, be advanced twenty-one numbers in his grade for bravery at the wreck of the City of Columbus.

The following officers were thanked for services rendered: Captain Eric Gabrielson, First Lieutenant Warrington D. Roath, Second Lieutenant John N. Rhodes, Third Lieutenant Charles D. Kennedy, Chief Engineer A. L. Harrison, First Assistant Engineer A. F. Rockefeller, and Second Assistant Engineer C. W. Beckwith.

BRUSHING ASIDE A LIE. Referring to certain published strictures on his manner of making removals and appointments, Sergeant-at-Arms Casaday, of the United States senate, says that he has not yet made a single personal appointment in his office.

He has made but four appointments, which were not made at the request of senators, and those were minor places given to the poor persons on the recommendation of cabinet officers.

MINNESOTA INDIAN AFFAIRS. Gov. Hubbard, of Minnesota, with Capt. Berkley and Mr. Robinson, called upon the commissioner of Indian affairs yesterday to urge the payment to the Mille-Sac Indians of the full annuities due them, instead of compelling them to receive goods in part payment.

Mr. Robinson also protested against the proposition to remove these Indians to the White Earth reservation.

WORKS OF ART ON THE FREE LIST. Messrs. Hurd, Jones, and Kason, of the ways and means committee, have agreed to recommend to the full committee that all works of art shall be placed on the free list. Prior to the Morrill tariff law in 1861 works of art were on the free list, but that act made the duty 10 per cent, and the tariff act of last year made it 30 per cent, ad valorem.

FRAUDULENT LAND ENTRIES. Upon the recommendations of special agents the commissioner of the general land office has held for cancellation 1 fraudulent entry of public lands in Arkansas, 20 in Colorado, 2 in Dakota, 1 in Idaho, 4 in Kansas, 2 in Louisiana, 6 in Minnesota, 1 in Montana, 2 in New Mexico, and 5 in Oregon—a total of 49 entries.

REvolutionary MONUMENTS. The joint committee on the library yesterday gave a hearing to George William Curtis, John H. Starin, and Algernon S. Sullivan, of New York; Judge Bacon, of Utica, and Mr. Potter, of Saratoga, who appeared in advocacy of an appropriation of \$40,000 to provide

CURRENT GOSSIP.

WHAT THE CLOCK SAYS. Tick, tick—the moments fly; Tick, tick—we live and die; Tick—soon are fled; Tick, tick—fades the flower.

Tick, tick—heart beats go; Tick, tick—wrest or weep; Tick, tick—soon are fled; Tick, tick—lost and dead.

Tick, tick—days and years; Tick, tick—professions; Tick, tick—wind and waves; Tick, tick—grief and grave.

—John A. Joyce.

IN CHURCH—DURING THE LITANY. I'm glad we got here early, Nell; We're not obliged to sit to-day; Beside those horrid Smith girls—well, I'm glad they're so soon away; How does this cushion match my dress? I think it looks quite charmingly.

"Bowed sweetly to the Smiths!" Oh! joy— [Responds.] "Pride, vanity, hypocrisy, Good Lord, deliver us!"

I hate those haughty Courtneys! I'm sure they needn't feel so fine, Above us all—for mamma says Their dresses aren't as nice as mine. And once engaged, so, just for fun, To make her jealous, she'll let me win Her lover—show her how it's done— [Responds.] "From hatred, envy, mischief, sin, Good Lord, deliver us!"

To-day the rector is to preach In aid of missionary work; He'll say he hopes and trusts that each Will nobly give, nor duty shirk. I hate to give, but then one must, You know we have a forward saint; People who borrow money from the bank— [Responds.] "From want of charity, deceit, Good Lord, deliver us!"

Did you know Mr. Gray had gone? That handsome Mr. Rogers' son? Dear me! We shall be quite forlorn! I'll tell the men leave—and so few! I trust that with Cupid's darts May capture some—let them beware— [Responds.] "Behold the sorrows of our theatre, And, Lord, with mercy hear our prayer!"

IT is recalled in Hononeoye, N. Y., where the bride of Frederick Douglass lived in childhood, that she had to be whipped by her father, an active abolitionist, to make her kiss Douglass when he visited the family.

THERE are now forty-eight lady students in the Harvard annex, and it is the testimony of some of the Harvard professors that the average scholarship of the classes in the annex is above that of the classes in the college.

MR. LIVING said to an interviewer in Indianapolis: "In fact the most wonderful thing about this country is its forwardness in using new inventions and in taking up new ideas. In England we are equally forward in keeping old things to the front."

THREE specimens of the well known terra cotta ware of Tanagra have recently been added to the British museum, and they are said to be remarkably beautiful specimens. They are statues of draped or partially draped female figures, one being Ariadne sleeping on a rock.

THE Woman's Silk Culture association proposes to hold a silk fair in Philadelphia in May next. This is the second attempt of this association to unfold the varied beauties of the silk industry, and demonstrate that American manufactured silk goods are not inferior to foreign imports. The last fair was continued two weeks.

MR. CHARLES H. BRAINERD, who is writing a life of John Howard Payne, says that he finds that when Payne wrote "Home, Sweet Home," he was very far from being in needy circumstances. He was living in rooms in the Palais Royal in Paris, and also had a small villa in the outskirts of the city. Instead of borrowing money from Washington Irving he loaned money to him.

A BOSTON correspondent relates that Miss Susan B. Anthony, in conversing with Gen. Butler, who is counsel for her and Lucy Stone Blackwell in the suit contesting the bequest of Mrs. Eddy, amounting to about \$20,000 for each of them, said: "General, you will try as hard to get this as if it were for yourself, will you not?" And he replied: "A great deal, Miss Anthony. For myself, I wouldn't care whether I had it or not, but I do care for you to have it."

THE company which now owns a charter for the construction of a canal across Cape Cod—the third company and the third charter since the project was first declared feasible in 1865—has already expended so much money on the work, according to the Boston Traveler, as to furnish the best guarantee of its completion. A dredge costing about \$100,000, with a canal about 6,000 cubits in length, has just been built and will be set at work as soon as the weather becomes settled. The contractor has four years in which to complete the work, but the company is sanguine that it will be done within two years.

SOME idea of the magnitude of the business of raising sweet scented flowers for their perfume alone may be gathered from the fact that Europe and British India consume about 150,000 gallons of handkerchief perfumes yearly; that the English revenue from eau de cologne is \$400,000 annually, and that the total revenue from other perfumes is estimated at \$200,000 annually. There is one great perfume distillery at Cannes in France which uses nearly 100,000 pounds of sweet scented flowers, 140,000 pounds of rose flowers, 32,000 pounds of mine blossoms, 10,000 of tuberose blossoms, and an immense quantity of other material.

An important precedent relating to street fights has been established in London. Two boys were detected in such an encounter by a policeman, and one of them, who was summarily judged to be the more guilty, was taken before a magistrate. The culprit explained that he was the aggressor. The other boy, he said, had been "converted," and struck him because he would not "turn religious" to him. His mother, moreover, confirmed her son's good opinion of himself; but the judge decided that the "converted" boy was probably the better behaved of the two and fined the unconverted half a crown.

THE Feast of Asses was a ceremonial of the Roman Catholic church during the middle ages, which was peculiar to Rouen and a few other French cities. It is a custom which commemorated the flight of the Virgin Mary to Egypt. A young woman bearing an infant was seated upon an ass. Behind her marched the bishops and clergy in solemn procession to the cathedral, where services were held in honor of the noble animal that aided in this perilous flight in the night of King Herod, both sermon and songs having special reference to the ass. This ridiculous performance occurred about Christmas time at Rouen; in other cities it was in June. But finally it became so offensive to the better classes in the church as to be suppressed by the council of Meuse in the fifteenth century.

IT is told of Victor Hugo that he once figured as a theater scene painter. It was at the Comedie Francaise, at the first performance of "L'Esclavage," in 1826. He had not noticed the scenery before, and now, just as the curtain was about to rise on the second act, he, looking about the stage to see that all was well, discovered that the secret door in the wall through which Gennaro escapes had been made anything but secret, being surrounded by a rich ornamented arch. "Hold the curtain," he cried, "this is infamous! You call the scene painter!" But that worthy was not to be found and the audience grew impatient at the long "act" delay. "Then give me a paint pot and brush, quick!" and the illustrious hand that had penned the drama quickly repainted the scenery rather than allow a decrease in the price. There are not upon an average more than two children now in each family in France, and, though there has always been an increase in the population since 1860, the rate of the increase has been constantly declining from 38 per 10,000 yearly to 26 per 10,000. Returns also state that out of every 100 inhabitants of Paris only thirty-six are born in the department, fifty-seven coming from other provinces, and seven from abroad. Moreover, while the number of births remains nearly stationary in France, the rate of infant mortality is enormous, being as much as 27 per cent. in Normandy and 15 per cent. for the whole of France.