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THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN COMPANY

E. W. FOX, PRESIDENT AND MANAGER.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22.

It may be possible that by this time it has penetrated the cuticles of the members of the Mills caucus on the ways and means committee that the Democratic caucus administered a stinging rebuke to them when it directed a conference with the Republican members of the committee as to the time when the debate should close on the tariff bill.

The subcommittee of the House committee on education is doing the work for which it was carefully selected by Speaker Carlisle, that is attempting to smother the Blair educational bill in the committee room. Speaker Carlisle distinguished himself in the forty-ninth Congress by arbitrarily overriding the will of a majority of the House. He deliberately packed the committees of the fifty-th Congress to enable him to repeat his former usurpations, and in his selection of committee men he has shown himself to have good judgment, for they prove themselves willing tools where ever call I on.

POOR UNDER FRITZ! His sufferings have aroused the sympathy of all the world. The news that we receive from the sick room gives but a meager account of the real condition of the dying emperor. When the bulletin states that he passed a bad night it means much more than it says, as anyone knows who has watched by the bedside of a sufferer from cancer in the throat. To what straits must a man be reduced when he can breathe only through an artificial tube that must itself be cleared of obstructions every few moments, not to speak of the torture of the slow but sure and deadly encroachments of the disease! Do we wonder that he should have exclaimed to the chaplain, "You pray for my preservation; pray rather for my release?" His struggle has been a courageous and uncomplaining one. He has indeed suffered like a hero and a king. But the thought of his position as the ruler of the greatest power in Europe cannot save him from the acuteness of suffering that belongs to the disease, and which is as remorseless in its ravages on him as it would be if he were the humblest peasant of the German empire.

MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, it is announced, is about to sever his relations entirely with the liberal party and take a position in the Salisbury cabinet. He has been moving in that direction for some time. Mr. Chamberlain is disposed to go to extremes in everything. It has not been long since he was the worst radical in England. When the break come in the liberal party on the home rule question none of the dissidents became so abusive of their former associates as Mr. Chamberlain. Now that he is about to throw off the last formal tie that has bound him to the party in which he has spent so many years of service, he may be expected to be a tory of the tories. But things are becoming greatly mixed in English politics. The policy of the tory government seems to be to steal all the good principles of the liberals as well as many of their good men, such as Chamberlain, Hartington, and Goschen. Some of the principal objects sought to be accomplished by the liberal party in the past are now down on the programme of the Salisbury government. The Ritchie local government bill is one of these.

THE river and harbor bill will doubtless pass the House with quite a respectable majority in its favor, and those statesmen whose districts have been properly cared for will rejoice. That the bill is in many respects inequitable is only too apparent, but the greatest injustice has not been done New England. No provision has been made for the continuation of work on the Potomac flats improvement, and no effort has been made by the chairman of the committee to hasten, as he could, a settlement of the Kidwell claim in order that one of the most important national improvements might be completed.

The health of the city's residents and visitors will doubtless be seriously affected by this neglect, and the work itself will be damaged to the extent of many thousands of dollars. This supineness on the part of the Attorney General and the committee only adds weight to the demand for congressional representation for the District of Columbia, because it is only too certain that the Potomac flats would not be neglected if they were situated in somebody's congressional district.

The Georgetown Barge, Dock, and Railroad Company.

We print this morning the reply of Robert B. Tenney, esq., to the communication of "Engineer," which we presume is satisfactory to the writer, as it certainly is to us, especially so as he promises to accept of any reasonable amendment to the bill in question.

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN believes that Georgetown has a great future before it as a manufacturing, shipping, and general business center. It is the port of entry of this District. It is the head of river navigation. It is the terminal point of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, where the boats are transferred from canal to river. For near three-quarters of a mile the narrow channel of the Potomac from the Aqueduct bridge to Rock creek forms the deeper channel for large size vessels above Alexandria. The Aqueduct bridge, constructed without a draw, forms an unbroken highway between Virginia and Georgetown. With such a promising business center, with such natural advantages, constituting a part of the nation's capital, it seems to us not unreasonable to suppose that the great trunk lines of railway that now and may hereafter terminate here would require a belt railway upon the river front which should be a railway highway system for the trains of any of these roads which may seek to transact business with the manufactures and commerce of Georgetown. Can any man, or set of men having broad views sufficient to shape the policy of such a road, be so blind to see that the three-quarters of a mile of river front referred to between Rock creek and Aqueduct bridge will not constitute a most important link in a belt railway connecting the railways terminating at Long bridge with the business of Georgetown?

If Congress can be induced to grant a charter for three-fourths of a mile along Water street for a double track railway, it certainly cannot object to extend it along the river front to Long bridge. If the above statements be true then the amendment proposed to the bill by the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN cannot be considered unreasonable.

That any railway company shall have the right to use the tracks of the proposed road for its engines and cars at a reasonable toll, to be mutually agreed upon, and in case of a failure to do so, the same shall be fixed by arbitration. Some such an amendment is necessary to protect the best interest of Georgetown and the public generally. Under these conditions the new company will have a charter that will pay a dividend on $1,000,000 annually, if managed with energy and enterprise.

Gag Law to be Attempted.

Mr. Mills and his associates in the ways and means committee have the power by the mere force of numbers to choke off all discussion in the committee on the behind mousetrap known as the "Mills tariff bill." Mr. Mills is reported as saying that his section of the committee "will actively push the tariff bill to a final vote," and that "we will pass it before the meeting of the St. Louis convention."

This means that an attempt will be made in the House to repeat the tactics adopted in the committee and put the "gag law" in operation to prevent a full discussion of the proposed measure.

Fortunately, Mr. Mills cannot do as he pleases in this matter. It is a question of doubt as to whether all his party associates will join him in such an attempt, and it may should the Republicans can protect themselves. The rules of the House give them ample power, and the free-trade Democrats have just furnished them a precedent.

A CORRESPONDENT from Charlottesville, Va., writes as follows concerning Matthew Arnold's criticism on America in the "Nineteenth Century," to which reference was made in these columns in a notice of Mr. Arnold's death:

Much is being said of the late Mr. Arnold's liberal and judicious criticism of America and Americans in his paper in the "Nineteenth Century." Are we Americans not just a little too touchy in this matter?

While there was much in that paper which we can hardly take exception to, there was much that thoughtful Americans could profitably read a second time and remember. It is true that we have much to be proud of, but can glory is not going to help us.

It will not hurt us to have the looking glass held up to us now and then, and to wonder at the scotch birds pecking "that foul the pitch and gloss." To see ourselves as others see us." We will only refer to one point, the character of many of our newspapers. Such a thing as the last great and notable "sensation" statement is, it may be, that a cool-minded foreigner should be disgusted with many odd things concerning Americans will not state some of them?

Some of Mr. Arnold's criticisms in his "Nineteenth Century" article were well founded and entirely just. He gave examples, for instance, of extreme expressions in newspapers which the more cultivated people of our own country are constantly calling on to deplore, and he was right in accusing Americans of a disposition to boast too much. One has but to go abroad to see this last weakness displayed to a most nauseating extent. But Mr. Arnold was not the first to discover the fact that American newspapers are often too sensational, and that we are disposed to be vainglorious. All this was known before and has been repeated in our own ears by our own critics, as well as by critics from abroad. Both faults have been ridiculed in stories and plays over and over again, and we hope they may be eventually ridiculed out of existence. But it is not the mentioning of faults that have been so often mentioned before that we objected to in Mr. Arnold so much as the evidently hostile and unfair spirit that permeated the Nineteenth Century article. It was not criticism fairly stated, and criticism that is not fairly stated is not criticism at all, but abuse. Mr. Arnold did violence to the hospitality extended to him when he visited us three years ago when he wrote that article, not so much in what he said as what he meant. It was ungenerous, unkind, ungrateful. His admirers in America will never cease to regret that its publication signalized the close of his literary career.

PARTICULAR attention is invited to the entertainment to be given on the evening of May 2, a week from next Wednesday, at the Light Infantry armory, Albaugh's Opera House building, for the benefit of the Garfield Memorial Hospital. This admirable institution has no endowment fund and nothing whatever is received from many of the patients treated there. In the year 1887 nearly 250 charity patients were treated in the public ward. There is necessarily a heavy deficit in running the hospital. This deficit is made up by two entertainments each year. It is hardly necessary to state that many of the foremost people of Washington are interested in the management and welfare of this hospital. Among the incorporators were Mrs. John M. Harlan, Mrs. John A. Logan, Mrs. Margaret Lander, and Mrs. Matilda Talbock. The entertainment these ladies and their associates propose to give on the evening of May 2 will be to Washington what the annual charity ball is to Baltimore, New York, and St. Louis. All the Cabinet ladies are to be present, and receive the guests of the evening. A May pole dance, in which the most beautiful young ladies of Washington are expected to participate, will be one of the features of the evening, and there will be a supper of very unusual elaborateness and excellence. We can not too highly commend the worthiness of the object sought to be accomplished by this entertainment, and we urge that all generous and charitable citizens unite to make it the grandest event of the sort ever seen in Washington. It is an easy and delightful way of conferring untold blessings upon the poor and the wretched, as well as upon all others who may seek the advantages of the best medical skill and nursing which may be found at the hospital.

IN an interview the other day Mr. Charles Rice made a very sensible comparison between the costs and profits of base ball on one hand and of the theatrical business on the other. "A ball manager," he said, "carries fourteen or fifteen people around the country; a theatrical manager of an important enterprise carries from twenty-five to seventy-five. A ball manager pays sometimes as high as $150 a week to four or five of his players, but not often; a theatrical manager without a star often has one employe at $250 and several ranging above $100 a week in his company. McCaull, for instance, has a weekly salary list of $2,000. A ball manager, with the best of surroundings, can play to $8,000 or more in one days; a theatrical manager, with greater expenses and under the most propitious circumstances, can get, perhaps, $1,500 in one performance. A great combination of ball players draws infinitely more money than a great combination of actors, and viewed from a commercial standpoint, a great ball player is worth more than a great actor. I am speaking now in the business sense, not the artistic. The risks of base ball don't amount to very much. The theatrical manager who puts on a piece like the "Pearl of Pekin," or the "Corsair," lays out from $10,000 to $20,000 before the curtain goes up, and his salary list alone foots up something like $2,000 a week. The base ball manager buys a few flannel suits, a handful of bats and balls, and his tickets to the first town. His whole expense can't come up to the salary list of a manager like McCaull or my brother, Edward E. Rice." This may be a surprise to those who have never taken the trouble to look into this subject, but every word of it is true. We know of no business in the amusement line that is managed with such niggardly parsimony as the base ball business. The accommodations managers afford the public consist of sheds for shelter and rough benches for seats, while the theatrical people give us sumptuous theaters with every accommodation that could be desired. Because base ball is given in an open field is no reason why the grand stand should be constructed like a cow stable. Racing is also given in the open field, but the grand stand on many of the race courses are models of airy beauty and comfort. Base ball is an exceedingly profitable business, but the game would stand higher and be even more profitable if those who manage it were to exercise a little more liberality and enterprise.

Mr. Tenney's Reply to "Engineer."

EDITOR NATIONAL REPUBLICAN: I am much obliged for your courtesy in publishing my communication, and also notice a reply by a party signing himself "Engineer." Now if his nom de plume is not a misnomer he is fully aware the bill is of no avail if the tracks do not conform to the gauge of the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania railroads, as this is intended for a budget road exclusively. If I had been aware there were so many hypercritical engineers, we could have employed the term standard gauge, which would have covered the entire ground. Again, he says we "propose ultimately to extend our tracks down Virginia avenue to connect at the Long bridge, and also beyond the Aqueduct bridge to an interminable point. I very much fear Engineer has found a veritable mare's nest (not of eggs). I herewith inclose you a copy of the original bill; perhaps copy of the Senate bill as amended, which, after reading, please return, as it is the only copy I have. If you can find any provision in it to extend the road beyond George town your foresight is better than mine; also in regard to the provision of blocks we only express it in language that will not confine us to one single piece of property, but gives us the right to acquire a dock or docks on the river front between the Aqueduct bridge and Rock creek, and Washington is not mentioned nor is it intended so to do. Now, you are fully aware that Congress will never grant the right to a railroad to cross the government grounds nor follow the river shore to reach Georgetown, and it is almost as impossible for us to make any connection with any railroad on account of the great expense. Washington is complaining of the railroads using its streets for unloading freight, and we of Georgetown know the difficulty of getting room to unload our cars, leaving out all questions of expense; now, when we offer a feasible plan to relieve the roads of all to compel us to get your Engineer friends to help us over, they seem to make any reasonable hope he will come as promptly forward with his aid and help us build our little road and avail himself of this great bonanza. I much fear it is the old fable of the dog and the hay. We are willing to make any reasonable amendment to the bill, but to lop off everything he complains most especially of, viz., the charge and the dock, it would be the play of "Hamlet" with Hamlet left out. Gentlemen, hands off, and let Georgetown have its own little show fair fends. Again thanking you for your courtesy, I remain, yours respectfully,

GEORGETOWN, S., Apr. 2. ROBT. B. TENNEY.

AMUSEMENTS.

NEW NATIONAL THEATER.

"Mazulm," which will be produced this week at the New National Theater by Imre Kiralfy's grand spectacular combination, comes to Washington with the stamp of metropolitan approbation. The New York Telegram speaks of "Mazulm" thus: It is impossible to imagine more gorgeous, lavish, elaborate, and bewildering magnificence than is displayed in this by all odds the greatest Kiralfy spectacle ever presented. The scenery, by Robaschi and Amable, of Paris, and Reid, of Boston, is a perfect revelation of novel design and intricate color effects. There are several transformations, but the final one, "Wonderland Opened," far surpasses any stage illusion ever seen here. The costumes are a map of ornate magnificence, and the stage is almost constantly filled with people amid a dazzling blaze of light and color. Of course, the ballet is an important feature, and the dancing of the dashing premiers, Miles. Qualitz and Newman, is exceptionally fine, while M. Arnold Kiralfy's grotesque dances are received with great favor. The vast corps de ballet is seen to marked advantage in the novel ballet of sports, the Japanese paradise ballet, and the grand metallic march of the Amazons. The musical-acrobatic act of the Brantz Brothers is excellent, and the perilous midair performances of the accomplished Vadis Sisters make the audience hold their breath. The tricks are capital, and the antics of Clown, Pantaloon, Harlequin, and Columbine never fail to create great amusement.

ALBAUGH'S GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

The French Grand Opera Company will appear for the first time in Washington at Albaugh's to-morrow evening, fresh from its success in St. Louis, New Orleans, Chicago, and other cities of the south and west. The repertoire includes both grand and comic operas, sung in French by a strong array of soloists. M. Berger, the leading tenor, is from the Grand Opera House, Paris, and has a rich, rich voice and magnificent method. Mlle. De Rinkly, the prima donna of the company, is said to do especially brilliant vocal work in "The Huguenots," and is ably seconded by Mlle. Hervey, who is possessed of a very effective soprano voice. Meyerbeer's grand opera of "The Huguenots" will be given to-morrow evening. The opera is so well known and appreciated in this community that it affords a more correct measure of the capacities of the troupe than when they have been heard in other operas which offer no such standard of comparison. Marcel's Huguenot hymn, Raoul's grand aria, and Valentine's great aria of the third act have been made famous by the greatest artists of the age, and have created a standard by which their successors will be judged.

THE M'CAULL OPERA SEASON—ALBAUGH'S.

The McCaull Opera Company begins its annual engagement at Albaugh's Grand Opera House on Monday, April 30, a season of comic opera which is always looked forward to as one of the leading features of the amusement season in this city. Beginning with the extraordinary success of Von Suppe's "Bellman" at Wallack's Theater, New York, this has been the most prosperous season Col. McCaull has ever known. In fact, since the opening of the last summer season the company has played everywhere to overflowing audiences. The great strength of the organization, the popularity of its well-known principal singers, and the fact that each new production has been extremely successful has helped to bring about this happy state of affairs for the McCaull season of 1887-1888. The company, which will come here by special train direct from Chicago, includes Mme. Mathilde Cottrelle, Marie Manola, Laura Joyce Bell, Annie Rogers, Josephine Knapp, Grace Seavey, Tollie Pettit, Robert Wilke, De Wolfe Hopper, Digby Bell, Charles W. Dungan, Jefferson d'Angelis, Hubert Cripps, and C. H. Jones, with Adolph Nowak as musical director. On Monday of next week the opening of the McCaull opera season will give the first performance in this city of "The Bellman," by Von Suppe, which has proved to be the most successful work ever produced by Col. McCaull. Last summer it was given nearly 100 consecutive performances at Wallack's Theater, and has been a leading attraction of the McCaull repertoire in Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, and other large cities. The music is in the famous German composer's best vein, and the libretto, by Messrs. West and Zell, is immensely funny. "The Bellman" will be given with exactly the same cast which appeared in the original production at Wallack's, the cast being the strongest that has ever appeared in comic opera in this country. The chorus and orchestra are remarkably strong, and the opera gives ample opportunity for beautiful costumes and brilliant scenic effect. The new costumes have been designed by and made under the personal supervision of Mme. Cottrelle. The company will play an extended engagement at Albaugh's, "Indiana," "The Black Hussar," "The Beggar Student," and "Falka" being also included in the repertoire. The advance sale of seats for "The Bellman" will be opened at the box office of Albaugh's Grand Opera House on Thursday morning next.

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Wilhelm Gericke conductor, announce two concerts to be given in the Congregational Church, Thursday afternoon and Friday evening, May 3 and 4.

The fine performances of this organization in former visits and the flattering criticisms which they have received the present season in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other cities where they have appeared, give assurance that no lover of good music can afford to miss these concerts.

Two very attractive programmes are promised—that for the afternoon concert being the lighter.

The soloist will be Miss Louise Meisslinger, a young singer, formerly of the Imperial Opera of Vienna, who, for the past season, has been a member of the Metropolitan Opera Company of New York.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Observations and Experiences Among Men and Women.

It will be remembered that the last summer that ex-President Arthur was alive he passed a few weeks at New London, Conn., where his friends, the Frelinghuysens, had a cottage. A gentleman who held very close relations with him during his occupancy of the "white house" happened to be passing the summer at the same place and had frequent conversations with the ex-President. In one of these conversations the name of Senator Conkling came up, and Mr. Arthur, departing from his usual reserve, spoke freely concerning him and the description of their friendship. Said Mr. Arthur: "Senator Conkling, take him all in all, was the grandest man I have ever known. His heart was as tender as a woman's, and his generosity could not be exceeded. He had one great fault—he could not see the opposite side of a question. He was so positive as to the correctness of his own position that he would not brook contradiction. The saddest hour of my life was when I could not accede to his request for the removal of Judge Robertson as collector of the port of New York. I could not do so because I honestly believed that it would lead to the overturnow of the Republican party." After ex-President Arthur's death Senator Conkling spoke in equality as high terms of him. It is unfortunate that the two intimate friends of many years' standing could not have been brought together in their life time, their differences explained, and the former close relations renewed.

It has only been of late years that Washington has had more than one club house. Previous to the war there was a club of gentlemen which occupied the old-fashioned house at the corner of Sixteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue. It has since been torn down to make way for the erection of the Department of Justice. This club had among its members such men as Robert Ould, Dick Wallach, Marshall Brown, Walter Lenox, James Mandeville Carlisle, and Philip Barton Key. It was right in front of this club that Gen. Sickles shot Mr. Key, and it was from the club window that Gen. Sickles saw the signal which made it manifest that Key had an appointment with his wife. After the war a club was started by a few gentlemen like Gen. Schofield, W. J. Huntington, and Hallett Kilbourn. The house on New York avenue, now occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association, was built, but the organization did not last long. The Metropolitan Club was then formed. Its fine domicile was corner of Fifteenth and H streets, where the Columbian College now is. It then removed to Sixteenth and H, and afterward to its present location. Now we have any number of clubs, of which "The Metropolitan," "The Casino," and "The Jefferson" are the most conspicuous. As our population increases clubs will spring up in every direction, for they have become recognized as one of the necessities of refined city life.

A writer in *Leisure Hours*, of Philadelphia, makes some rather severe criticisms upon the late Mr. Corcoran and the rules providing for admission to the Louise Home. Mr. Corcoran was never a shoemaker, as alleged, and his father was of eminently respectable parentage. There is no discrimination made against those who have had to work in respect to the home. More than one-third of the ladies in the home have been teachers, and others gained a livelihood in various ways. Even now there are many ladies in the home who do fancy work, and thus earn a little money. The home, in consonance with the purpose of its noble benefactor, has every comfort, even many luxuries, but there is no specially accomplished "chef," as alleged. The home is just a quiet, comfortable spot where refined, educated ladies who have seen better days can pass the few years remaining to them in ease and comfort, free from anxieties and petty annoyances.

Washington is a peculiar place in very many respects, but at last it may claim the distinction of having an honorable tramp. About three years since one morning at breakfast time a miserably clad tramp called at the house of one of our leading society ladies, noted justly for her goodness of heart, and asked for something to eat. The lady had given orders that no such request should ever be refused, and consequently the cook gave the "migratory" individual a good sized breakfast, which he partook of with a hearty relish. After eating the tramp thanked the cook and asked if there was anything in the way of work he could do. She replied no, but he insisted upon splitting some wood, and she said he might furnish her with a little kindling if he so desired. With alacrity he went down into the cellar, took off his coat and did not stop until at least half a cord of wood was sawed and split. Later in the day he asked for a broom and bucket, went to work, cleaned up the yard and washed off both front and back pavements. He then put on his coat, returned the utensils he had used, and again expressing his thanks went out of the back gate, and it was supposed that the last had been seen of him. Now comes the amusing part. One year after this who comes along but our worthy tramp looking just the same as he did the spring previous. Again he asked for something to eat, which the cook, remembering his previous industry, gladly furnished, for she recognized him at once. The lady of the house being informed of the "prodigal's" return gave orders that he should be fed and kept as long as he preferred to remain and was of any use. It is now more than two years, and the traverser of many climes still keeps the premises in order. So far as known he has no bad habits except his preference for sleeping on the floor, and when the weather permits out of doors. He is industrious, honest, quiet, and devoted to the occupants of the house. He does not seem to pay any attention to what is going on around him, and his only intimates are the household cat and dog, with one of which he often sleeps after a hard day's work. It is comical to see him with the cat hugged tight in his arms and the dog resting by his side. Such are the bare facts of this strange case. No one knows this man's history and he does not appear to desire confidants. He may be some prince in disguise or some politician who has wandered out of his bailiwick. At any rate he furnishes a shining example for similarly situated tramps who may in the future desire a comfortable home.

It is known that after a case is argued before the Supreme Court that the judges meet in consultation before the case is finally decided and the opinion written. This consultation gives a very good indication of the temperament of the different judges. Judge Miller is the most combative of the judges. When he has formed an opinion he adheres to it with great tenacity and tries his best to convince his associates of the correctness of his views. Judge Matthews is the most deferential. While a profound lawyer, he is so courteous and so anxious to hear every side of a case that his brother justices are very apt to think that his opinions are not fixed. In this they are mistaken, for while Judge Matthews gives patient heading to all that is said he never alters the decision at which he has arrived. Judge Bradley is the most reserved. He is painstaking, laborious, and conscientious to the utmost degree. When he writes an opinion, it is fair to assume that he has exhausted the law on the subject. Judge Field has an exceedingly subtle mind, and, more than any other justice on the bench, is apt to "scatch out" to the technicalities of a case. Where there is any defect of pleading he is at his best. Judge Blatchford is, perhaps, the most practical justice on the bench. He goes right to the gist of a case, and strips it of all superfluous verbiage. Judges Harlan and Gray delight in discussing a case in an informal, conversational way, and thus bring out all the salient points. Judge Lamar is yet a "youth" on the bench, and his mode of judicial procedure is not as yet fully attested. Take it all in all the Supreme Court is very admirably equipped, and no case is decided that has not been fully considered by the entire bench, composed, as all admit, of learned and perfectly upright justices.

ANCIENT RECORDS.

The Valuable Collection to Be Found in Alexandria.

One of the most interesting historic buildings in this section of the country is the old county court house in Alexandria, and in some of its gloomy corners is stored away a valuable collection of records that would repay the trouble of inspection. Among the musty tomes and yellow parchments is a minute book that dates back to 1779, and marriage certificates that are almost as old. An old parchment signed by the lord mayor of London, which was executed on the 9th day of July, 1813, is regarded as being one of the most valuable of the relics. For many years there was a serious gap in the minutes of the orphans' court for the volume containing the records from 1842 to 1847 inclusive was missing. Search was instituted as soon as the loss was discovered, and every shelf and closet was subjected to the most minute investigation. In 1885, when all hope of recovering the lost volume had faded out, it was accidentally discovered under a wide oak plank in a long-abandoned basement room of the building. It was in an almost pulpy condition and it was only by exercising the greatest possible care that it was saved. Placed under the direct rays of Old Sol the almost illegible handwriting became clearly visible and in a little while the old book was in as good condition as its fellows.

Madame Floquet and Her Family.

[Paris Correspondence of "America."]

Personally, Monsieur Floquet will produce a very good impression, and his wife is one of the few Republican *grandes dames*. Madame Floquet is tall, with Creole complexion, hair as black as the raven's wing, and eyes very large and dark. Her charm is in her expression, and when she smiles her bitterest enemy finds her irresistible.

Mme. Floquet's toilettes are always in good taste, although red seems to be her favorite color. She is a true statesman, and never loses her self-possession even under the most trying circumstances. The first lady of the cabinet belongs to a very remarkable family. Of the five sisters, Kestner, she is the youngest, and cultivates the friendship of her niece, Mme. Jules Ferry, daughter of Mme. Kestne-Bieler. Mme. Ferry is a pretty woman, with blue eyes, blonde hair, and regular features. She might be very agreeable, but for an extremely haughty expression. This frigidity, although it conceals unlimited ambition, has been the cause of making many enemies for her husband, who is not the perpetual political notability she intended to marry.

Mme. Floquet's eldest sister, Mme. Charras, is perhaps the best conversationalist in Paris; so correctly, so logically does she speak that, like Mme. de Staël's mother, Mme. Necker, she is often accused of preparing in advance the subjects to the study of which conversation is to be directed. Of the family she is the goddess, and before her even the masculine members bow in adoration.

The Plan to Capture the River Front.

EDITOR NATIONAL REPUBLICAN: I cannot refrain from expressing my gratitude both to you and your correspondent "Engineer" for the exposure of the plan to capture the river front and throttle the commerce of Washington in the innocent looking bill to incorporate the Georgetown Barge, Dock, Elevator, and Railway Company.

No matter what the motives of the gentlemen asking for the charter, the result would be just what you and "Engineer" have stated. The bill should be amended in many particulars, or defeated in the House.

A BUSINESS MAN.

WASHINGTON, Apr. 21.

For the best and cheapest refrigerators go to Gately & Aldrich, 327 Seventh street northwest.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

Miss Kate Forsyth is touring in England.

Miss Helen Bankroft is at the Coleman House, New York, very ill.

Mrs. Mary Fiske's play, "Phillip Hearne," has been sold to Manager J. M. Hill.

Frank David, the comedian, is doing excellent work in "The Corsair" this season.

Robert Downing, the young tragedian, is expected to play in San Francisco during the season.

Miss Lillian Conway has gone to Philadelphia to sing in Mr. Robert Grau's comic opera company.

Mrs. Langtry so far has made no "bookings" for next season, it being her intention to rest in California.

Miss Grace Henderson has entirely recovered her health, and is once more hailed as the prettiest American on the stage.

The "Pearl of Pekin" has become one of the sights of the metropolis, and the pretty little Bijou Opera House is doing a thriving business.

"The Mermaid; or, The Curse of Cape Cod," is the alliterative title of an operatic production that is promised or threatened at the Hub.

Rose Coghlan will make her first appearance in "Jocelyn," under the management of Augustus Pitou at Miner's Newark Theater on Oct. 1.

Frederick, the singer, well known in this country, dropped dead while playing Mephistopheles in "Faust" on the stage of the Princess Theater, Melbourne, recently.

The New York Press Club has accepted Hermann's offer to give a monster benefit, the proceeds of which go to a fund that will be used to erect a magnificent club house.

W. F. Owen, the comedian, of the Modjeska company, has been specially engaged by Chas. Atkinson to create the role of Sir John Bellamy in the production of "Dawn" at a Boston theater in May.

Bolossy Kiralfy has secured the American rights for "Mathias Sandorf," the latest spectacular play from Jules Verne and W. Busnach, and will produce it in elaborate style next season at Niblo's Garden.

Adolph Seeman, the illusionist who will appear at Kernan's this week, is the son of the late Baron Hartwig Seeman, of Sweden, who during thirty-six years was known all over Europe as the most celebrated magician before the public.

Mr. Charles B. Hanford, of the Booth-Barrett Company, has achieved enviable prominence by his brilliant impersonation of the character of Marc Antony, in Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar." When the company played in Omaha, Mr. Hanford earned a double recall and fairly brought down the house after the oration over Cæsar's dead body. He is possessed of a good voice and nature has endowed him with a physique that would well serve as a sculptor's model. His work thus far bears all the imprints of genius, and promises, with the training and finish that are only derived from extended experience, to become a tragic star of the first magnitude. One point largely in his favor is that he is a Washington boy.

David Belasco has three plays almost ready. Bronson Howard has six orders, every one of them to be finished next year. Fred Marsden is writing plays for Corinne and Joe Murphy, D. D. Lloyd is busy on a new play, which he says will be his best. Grattan Donnelly is finishing two new plays for next season. Leander Richardson has a comedy ready for production. Clay Green has just finished a western drama, and has begun another. H. C. De Mille is working at a comedy. Howard P. Taylor is hard at work on a drama; so is Jas. Herne. C. A. Byrne and Arthur Wallack are working every day on several plays almost completed. All seem to think that next year will be a good one for the American dramatist.

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apr22-tf

PROPOSALS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, SUPPLY DIVISION, Army, 12, 1888.—Sealed proposals, in duplicate, will be received at this office UNTIL 1 O'CLOCK, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1888, for supplying TEN THOUSAND FILE HOLDERS, more or less.

Specifications and information will be furnished to bidders on application. The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive defects.

Envelopes containing proposals should be marked "Proposals for File Holders."

C. H. HOYT, Assistant Quartermaster.

ap12 20,21,22,23 may8,9

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2 Performances Daily 2

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NOTICE TO COLONIAL BEACH LOT OWNERS—Taxes unpaid for 1886 and 1887, must be paid at once to save expense, at the office of R. H. EVANS, Secretary, 1321 F street. WM. MAYO, Treasurer. apr21-3t

OFFICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC TELEPHONE COMPANY.—A dividend of $1.25 per share will be payable on the 23d day of April, 1888, to the stockholders of record at the close of business on the 16th day of April, 1888, at the office of the treasurer of the company, No. 619 14th st. N.W., Washington, D. C. The transfer books will be closed from the 17th to the 23d of April, inclusive.

SAMUEL M. BRYAN, President.
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WASHINGTON, D. C., Apr. 14. apr16-8t

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