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TO-DAY'S AMUSEMENTS.

HOOLEY'S THEATRE—Randolph street, between Clark and LaSalle. Strakosch English Opera-Troupe. "Maritana."

McVICKER'S THEATRE—Madison street, between Dearborn and State. Engagement of Lotta. "Little Nell and the Marchioness."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—Halsted street, between Madison and Monroe. Engagement of the Lydia Thompson Burlesque Troupe. "Aladdin."

GLOBE THEATRE—Desplaines street, between Madison and Washington. Engagement of Harry Linden. "Waiting for the Verdict."

MYERS' OPERA-HOUSE—Monroe street, between Dearborn and State. Burlesque of "The Two Bl'hys." Minstrelsy and comicalities.

CENTRAL HALL—Corner Wabash avenue and Twenty-second street. Fourth Unitarian Church Holiday Fair.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

HEADQUARTERS FOR BOYS' CLOTHING. C. C. COLLINS, 184 and 186 Clark-st.

The Chicago Tribune.

Friday Morning, December 5, 1873.

Intense feeling has been excited at Madison, Wis., over the appointment of Attorney-General Williams as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Not to put too fine a point upon it, it is charged that Mr. Williams received $10,000 for his opinion in favor of the Wisconsin Central Railroad land claim (which seems incredible), and that in other matters relating to that State his conduct has given rise to the gravest suspicions. We are informed that Gov. Washburn strongly denounces the appointment as an outrage.

A special committee of seven, to consider the repeal of the salary-steal, was ordered by the House of Representatives yesterday. The Committee is headed by Mr. Hale, of Maine, on whose motion it was created. The other members are Maynard, Kasson, Scofield, Hale (of New York), Niblack, and Jewett. It was directed by the House to ascertain and report the actual amount paid to members of Congress and the officers of the Government under the obnoxious act.

The wind-storm of day before yesterday was an extensive and destructive affair. The reports which are published this morning from a dozen different States show that it extended from New Jersey to California, and from Michigan to Tennessee. There is little loss of life reported as yet, but in every direction railroad and telegraphic communication has been sadly interfered with, trees having been blown over the tracks, trains ditched, and telegraph poles demolished. In addition, there is wide-spread and ruinous devastation of houses, barns, fences, and forests.

The Senate yesterday passed Senator Sherman's bill for the redemption of the loan of 1858. The Standing Committees were elected with but little change in the Chairmanship of the more important ones. Morton, Cameron, and Sherman are retained at the head, respectively, of the Committees on Privileges and Elections, Foreign Relations, and Finance. Ex-Senator Cole is succeeded by Morrill, of Maine, as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. Ex-Senator Trumbull's place on the Judiciary Committee is taken by Senator Edmunds. Senator Sprague succeeds ex-Senator Samuel C. Pomeroy on the Committee on Public Lands.

The restoration of the franking privilege was gravely proposed in Congress yesterday by Representative Leach. An equally-suspicious move is the proposition to amend the rules of the House with regard to investigations. According to the amendment submitted, any charges made against a member of the House, an official, or a department of the Government, must, in the first place, be passed upon by a special committee, which shall decide whether there is any occasion for an investigation. The member who moves for the investigation must also appear before this Committee and tell it all he knows.

Tammany Hall has changed the character of its utterances since Tweed was its spokesman. A meeting of the General Committee was held last night, at which, despite a protest received by mail from Fernando Wood, a resolution was adopted denouncing the back-pay steal. Mr. Wood denied that the Democratic caucus had approved the salary-grab, as has been so widely stated, and said that Messrs. Holman and Cox had placed their party in a false position by leaving the caucus. These statements of Mr. Wood had little weight with the Tammanyites, who passed resolutions approving the course taken by the two independent Democratic Representatives.

Sangamon County owns a thousand shares of the stock of the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield Railroad, and through its Supervisors yesterday disapproved the action of Judge Tipton in making Mr. Hinckley sole Receiver of the Road. In their resolutions the Supervisors say that one reason why the county subscribed $100,000 to the road was the inducement that they would thereby gain a competing road to Chicago. They apprehend that Mr. Hinckley will make the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield line subordinate to other and rival roads in which he is interested. They direct the legal advisers of the county to see what measures should be taken for his removal if they deem it called for by the interests of the county. Col. R. P. Morgan's appointment as Receiver is the one they desire.

The Chicago produce markets were generally higher in prices yesterday, with less doing in breadstuffs. Mess pork was active, and 25@30c per brl higher, closing at $13.40@13.50 cash, and $14.20@14.25 seller February. Lard was active and nearly ¼c per lb higher, at 7¼c cash, and 8c seller February. Meats were quiet and a shade firmer, at 4¾c for shoulders, 6¾@6¾c for short ribs, 6¾c for short clear, all boxed, and 8@9c for sweet pickled hams. Highwines were quiet and firm, at 90c per gallon. Dressed hogs were quiet and stronger, at $4.90@5.00 per 100 lbs. Flour was quiet and steady at $5.50@5.75 for good spring extras. Wheat was less active, and higher, closing at $1.07 cash, $1.00¾ seller the month, and $1.08¾ seller January. Corn was quiet and 1c higher, closing at 40¾c cash, and 40¾c seller January. Oats were quiet and ½@1¼c higher, closing at 36c cash, and 35¾c seller January. Rye was quiet and firmer at 73@73½c. Barley was quiet and steady, at $1.49 @1.50 for No. 2, and $1.01@1.05 for No. 3. Live hogs were active and 15c higher, closing firm at $4.15@4.50. The cattle and sheep markets were quiet and unchanged.

Captain-General Jovellar, of Cuba, has resigned his position because he cannot execute the orders of the Home Government with regard to the surrender of the Virginius. His resignation is accompanied by those of the Colonial Minister and Gen. Burriel. In his dispatch to Madrid tendering his resignation, Jovellar says that the surrender of the Virginius would cause commotion in Cuba that could be compared only to that which in Spain followed the Treaty of Bayonne, and led to the war of independence. He has no wish to face any such popular fury, and requests that some one else be sent to perform the duties from which he shrinks. Other dispatches reveal a state of almost frenzied excitement among the Colonial Spaniards. A meeting of the merchants of Havana last night resolved on the purchase of a number of fast steamers, to be used in the event of war with the United States. A private citizen has offered to buy and equip at his own expense six sea-going steamers for the same purpose. The merchants of Cienfuegos have also resolved to purchase two steamers, to be armed and turned against this country. The war-fever infects even the Catholic Society, which has resolved to establish a Sanitary Battalion. The more reasonable of the Spaniards are not unwilling to allow the Virginius question to be decided by arbitration, the vessel being meanwhile in the custody of some neutral Power; but no one will listen for a moment to the suggestion that she be delivered over forthwith to the Americans.

The blackguard articles of the Chicago *Times* in defense of Capt. Fry have finally called out a letter from Col. Graham N. Fitch, of Indiana, in which the conduct of Fry, in ordering his men to fire on the scalded sailors struggling in the water of White River, is characterized in suitable terms. The Colonel's account of the fight at St. Charles is substantially identical with the accounts heretofore published in THE TRIBUNE. It states that Fry was, on that occasion, "guilty of inhuman and unsoldierly conduct in ordering the shooting of Federal sailors, the crew of the gunboat Mound City, after they were scalded by steam from their own disabled boat, and while struggling in the river unarmed, and many declaring their surrender;" and then proceeds to declare that, "Of this fact there are too many living witnesses, among them some 500 Indiana troops, to permit successful denial by any posthumous statements of Fry, however indorsed. The firing was witnessed by hundreds; it occurred under Fry's eye; was done by men under his command;" and a Rebel Lieutenant who was taken prisoner after being mortally wounded "admitted that he had been with men of his company to the foot of the bluff, shooting the boatmen in the water; and stated, a short time before his death, that he had done so by express order of Col. Fry. Several prisoners corroborated this testimony. When confronted by this testimony, on one of the gunboats, whither he had been sent wounded and a prisoner, Fry ceased his denial of having issued such order." Col. Fitch's letter, in full, will be found in another column.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY SCHEMES.

We now have assurances that the rumored raid on Congress by the Northern Pacific and Texas & Pacific Railroads to secure the Government guarantee of their bonds will certainly be made during the present session. When it comes, it will come with all the force of perfect organization, a powerful lobby, thorough familiarity with all the approaches to Congressional favor, and of a desperate necessity that will stop at nothing essential to success. It will also find Congress in a demoralized condition, not at all suited to fight against propositions that have money in them. Crowded with salary-grabbers who have no hope of re-election, and groggy with the results of the fall election, which betoken the breaking up of the Republican party, the majority of the present Congress will probably be more deaf to public opinion than its predecessor.

We can see but one way in which this movement may be successfully resisted. A combination of all the weaklings in the country, whether railroads or steamships, corporations or individuals, in a similar demand upon Congress for Government indorsement might bring the *reductio ad absurdum* to bear so forcibly as to produce confusion in the ranks of the subsidy-beggars. There are other institutions in the land, other railways, and even other Pacific railways, that are just as much in need of Government assistance as Northern Pacific and Texas & Pacific, and whose claims are entitled to equal consideration. The Kansas Pacific has defaulted on its first-mortgage bonds, having defaulted on the second mortgage from the beginning, and the Central Branch Union Pacific is said to be in a bad way. These are existing institutions, the maintenance of which is certainly as important as the building of new lines for which there is no present demand, and which, in case of Government guarantee, would only add to the present amount of arrearages. If the Government proposes to continue the subsidy business, it is in every way wiser that it should take steps to protect its own security as second mortgagee than that it should enlarge its existing liabilities. If any more risk is to be taken in railroad enterprises on the part of the Government, it is better to bolster up those concerns in which Government capital is already invested, with the hope of thereby getting it all back, than to distribute the public moneys among new railroads. But why stop with so-called Pacific railroads? There are scores of railroad enterprises throughout the country that are in the same condition as the Northern Pacific and the Texas & Pacific. Why should the Government become responsible for the debts of the latter and not for the debts of the former? There is the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Railroad, for instance, which, a couple of years ago, had to scale its indebtedness by a virtual repudiation of one-half of what it owed. Its bonds were held abroad, and the holders consented to cede one-half of their claims in order to make sure of the other half. This proceeding was highly detrimental to American credit abroad, and was one of a series of like circumstances which have rendered it impossible to negotiate American railway securities in Europe at the present time. Why should not the Government rather stop in and rescue the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Road from such humiliation than advance money to help Jay Cooke & Co.? There is the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield Railroad, which is in a desperate condition, knocked about in a game of shuttlecock between Courts, Receivers, Trustees, Lessees, Creditors, etc., etc. There are some counties and towns along the line of the road that invested $600,000 in this road, and have as yet nothing to show for it. Would it not be better and fairer for the Government to reimburse the people who have been swindled out of their money before they permit any more premature railroad enterprises? The people of certain counties and towns in this State have advanced more than $13,000,000 in this way, and they might go before Congress for indemnification with a much better claim than the managers of Northern Pacific and Texas & Pacific.

But why stop at railways? The States have a better claim upon the General Government than any railroad enterprises whatsoever, for their credit is, to some extent, the credit of the nation. Will the Government, then, assume the payment of Pacific Railway bonds and let North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, and Arkansas repudiate their State debts, thus bringing the good name of the American people into disrepute? The indebtedness of the Northern Pacific already amounts to $29,309,337.40; that of the Texas & Pacific is $5,139,222.02. Here is something more than $34,000,000 which the Government will be asked to assume at one gulp,—enough to afford relief to several Southern States and clear the market for a new lot of bond-issuers. Then why stop with the States any more than with the railroads? Why is Mr. Jay Cooke entitled to Government aid any more than Mr. John Smith, or Mr. Tom Scott any more than Mr. Tom Jones? If the Government credit is to be pledged for the benefit of private enterprises, let us have a fair divide. Among the numerous financial remedies suggested in communications to THE TRIBUNE lately is one recommending that the Government should issue $250,000,000 more greenbacks, and loan them out to individuals who can furnish security, in sums not exceeding $2,000 to any one person. Now this is something like. When Government hangs out three balls and goes into the pawnbroker's business, give us all a chance in these hard times. Therefore, we say that, when Northern Pacific and Texas & Pacific come before Congress for a Government guarantee, let all the repudiating States, all the bursted railroads, all the towns and counties that have voted aid, and everybody else that can furnish as good security as a second mortgage on a railroad, come forward at the same time. "Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a farm."

THE STATE OFFICERS AND THE TAX LEVY.

The Springfield papers neglect to make any explanation of the conduct of the Auditor in levying a tax on the State at large for $1,122,000 revenue *in excess of the amount authorized by law*. They ignore all reference to the Railroad-Aid law of 1869, when they know, as the whole State knows, that the whole assessment of 1873 was changed for no other purpose than to provide the means of paying that debt in part. The attempt to account for the conduct of the Auditor on the ground that he has done nothing but what the law required of him is too thin. Ever since the valuation of property by Assessors in this State has been required by law, their oath has required of them a return of the "true" and "full value" of all property. That was the law last year, and has been every year since Gen. Lippincott has been Auditor, just as much so as in 1873. The pretense that, in his whole action, he has been merely the executor of the law, as written in the statute-book, will hardly stand the test of a comparison with that law. The law governing his conduct in this whole matter reads as follows. The Revenue act of 1872 provides, Sections 118 and 120:

118. The Governor, Auditor, and Treasurer shall, annually, on the completion of the assessment and equalization of property, ascertain the rate per cent required to produce the *amount of taxes levied by the General Assembly*.

120. The Auditor shall, annually, compute and certify to the County Clerks such separate rates per cent as will produce *the net amounts of State taxes* authorized to be levied.

The Legislature, by act of May 3, 1873, provided:

1. That there shall be raised by levying a tax, by valuation upon the taxable property in this State, the following sums for the purposes hereinafter set forth For general State purposes, to be designated "Revenue Fund," $2,500,000 upon the assessed value of property for the year 1873, and $1,500,000 annually thereafter. For school purposes, to be designated "State School Fund" (in lieu of the 2-mill tax therefor), $1,000,000 annually.

2. The Governor and Auditor shall, annually, compute the separate rates per cent required to produce not less than *the above amounts*, anything in any other act providing a different manner of ascertaining the amount of revenue required to be levied for State purposes to the contrary notwithstanding; and when so ascertained, the Auditor shall certify to the County Clerks the proper separate rates per cent therefor, and also such definite rates for other purposes as are now, or may hereafter be, provided by law to be levied and collected as State taxes.

This is the law by which the Auditor should be governed. It requires him to compute the rate per cent of taxation on the gross equalized valuation of taxable property of 1873 to produce $1,000,000 for school purposes and $2,500,000 for revenue purposes. He is not allowed to compute any rate for any other purpose nor *for any other sum*. Now what has he done, in the way of executing this law? He has certified to the several County Clerks an aggregate rate of 3 6-10 mills on the total assessment of $1,341,613,046. This rate of tax will produce the sum of $4,829,806.98, or $1,329,806.98 *in excess* of that authorized by law. In the more specific execution of the law, he has certified to the County Clerks the separate rates per cent required to produce each of the two funds; that the rate of tax shall be 2 7-10 mills for revenue purposes, and 9-10 of a mill for school purposes. These separate rates will produce the following sums:

Two and seven-tenth mills for revenue	$3,622,355.23
Nine-tenths of 1 mill for school fund	1,207,451.75
Total	$4,829,806.98
Amount authorized by law	3,500,000.00
Excess over authorized revenue	$1,329,806.98
The rate of tax for revenue produces	$3,622,355.23
Amount authorized by law	2,500,000.00
Excess of levy by Auditor	$1,122,355.23

We repeat the question, *for what purpose* was this levy of over eleven hundred thousand dollars made? Where is the authority for it in the law? This is a levy of over 45 per cent more tax than is authorized by any law of the State. The Auditor is limited in the levy of 1873 to the two specified objects, revenue and school fund, and the amount to be raised for each is distinctly stated. Now, will some of the Springfield organs of the railroad-aid bondholders explain why the Auditor raised the levy for revenue from $2,500,000 to $3,622,355, and where is his legal authority for so doing? What is the money raised for? To what is it to be applied? Who is to get it? None of these matters are explained by the Springfield *Journal* or *Register*.

In the absence of any official explanation, perhaps some light can be furnished by stating some other facts. There are certain towns and counties in this State which owe railroad-aid debts amounting to $11,625,551. These debts bear interest at the following rates:

Interest on $6,682,951 at 10 per cent	$ 668,295
Interest on $2,916,600 at 8 per cent	233,280
Interest on $1,495,500 at 7 per cent	104,693
Interest on $530,000 at 6 per cent	32,340
Total annual interest	$1,038,300

Putting the sum of the excess of revenue to be collected and the sum of the annual interest on these bonds in juxtaposition, and remembering that some persons claim that under the act of 1869 this interest is to be paid out of the State taxes, then, in the absence of any official explanation, it is an almost irresistible conclusion that the payment of this interest is the object of the excessive tax levy. That the $1,100,000 unauthorized tax is to be extorted from the people of the State is shown by the actual certifications to the County Clerk; when collected, there is no doubt it will be placed "where it will do the most good."

Under the law, the Governor is joined with the Auditor in the duty of fixing the rates per cent necessary to produce the revenue authorized by law. The action of the Auditor must have the assent of the Governor, express or implied. Did Gov. Beveridge know that this levy exceeded the amount authorized by law, and did he know the purpose for which this $1,122,000 excess of revenue was to be raised? If it was not raised in order to pay the interest on the railroad-aid debt, then what was it raised for? As one of the Springfield papers declares that the Governor will order out the militia to collect this tax, it would be well for him to ascertain the purpose to which the proceeds of the extra and unauthorized revenue is to be applied, so that he can include it in his proclamation calling out the militia.

While on this subject it may not be untimely to recall the attention of the authorities at Springfield to the law on the subject of paying money out of the State Treasury which has been collected as State revenue. The Constitution says:

The State shall never pay, assume, or become responsible for the debts or liabilities of, or in any manner give, loan, or expend its credit to, or in aid of, any public or other corporation, association, or individual. (Sec. 20, Art. 4.)

The General Assembly shall have no power to release or discharge any county, city, township, town, or district whatever, or the inhabitants thereof, or the property therein, from their or its proportionate share of taxes to be levied *for State purposes*; nor shall commutation for taxes be authorized in any form whatever. (Sec. 6, Art. 9.)

All taxes levied for State purposes shall be paid into the State Treasury. (Sec. 7, Art. 9.)

No money shall be drawn from the Treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law, and on the presentation of a warrant issued by the Auditor thereon. (Sec. 17, Art. 4.)

SHAKSPEARE'S FACE AGAIN.

It is very evident that Mr. Page, the artist who has recently painted a new head of Shakspeare, of which a description has already been given in these columns, is not to be allowed to wear his laurels undisturbed. The Shakspearian critics are already after him, and the sharpest among them is Mr. Charles G. Gray, who has printed in the Boston *Advertiser* a long analysis of Mr. Page's theory that Shakspeare had a large scar upon his forehead, in the course of which he shows a strong probability, at least, that this is untrue. As Mr. Page's theory and portrait are attracting considerable attention, a general statement of Mr. Gray's position will also be of interest. Mr. Gray assumes, at the outset, that the Droeshout print, rude as it is, is the only authoritative likeness in existence, and cites, in support of his assumption, the lines which Ben Jonson, who was intimately acquainted with the poet, wrote:

The Figure that thou here seest put
It was for gentle Shakspeare cut;
Wherein the Graver had a strife,
With Nature to outdo the life.

In addition to Jonson's testimony, he cites also the admissions of Hemings and Condell, who printed the first edition of the plays, in which it appeared that it was the picture of Shakspeare,—a fact which should carry considerable weight, as the admissions were made at a time when Shakspeare was well known to every one. As neither this print, the Stratford bust, nor the Chandos picture present any disfigurement of the brow, he assumes that there was none, or some of the painters and engravers would have revealed it. Mr. Page rested his case very largely upon the 112th sonnet, more particularly the following lines:

Your love to pity doth the impression fill
Which vulgar scandal stamped upon my brow;
For what care I who calls me well or ill,
So you o'er green my bad, my good allow?
You are my all, the world and I must strive
To know my shames and praises from my tongue.

Mr. Gray contends that, to understand these lines, the 110th, 111th, and 112th sonnets must be read in connection, and then the meaning of the above becomes plain. The great majority of readers will agree with Mr. Gray when he says: "The poet evidently intends to say this: That her love and pity will the impression (that is, stamp or mark) fill (that is, satisfy or content) that vulgar scandal (that is, slander or detraction) had stamped (that is, fixed) upon his brow (that is, his good name or character)." The absurdity of twisting Shakspeare's words into such a meaning is shown by one or two very skillful literal applications. In the same sonnet occur the lines:

Alas! 'tis true I have gone here and there
And made myself a motley to the view.

Mr. Page's style of interpreting Shakspeare would represent the poet as a clown arrayed in a long motley coat. In the next sonnet, he says:

Since I left you mine eye is in my mind;
And that which governs me to go about,
Doth part his function, and is partly blind,
Seems seeing; but effectually is out.

Here again Mr. Page would represent Shakspeare as blind in one eye, or wearing spectacles, as there is certainly greater authority for it than for the adoption of the scar theory.

As a whole, Mr. Gray has made a remarkably strong argument against Mr. Page's theories, although it is to be regretted that he should have let his temper outrun his judgment so far as to apply such epithets as "sensationalist" and "charlatan" to Mr. Page, and accuse him of silly trickery and anxiety for cheap notoriety. It does not help his argument any; and, besides this, Mr. Page is a conscientious and unostentatious artist, who would be the last man in the world to be guilty of sensation. There is little doubt that he is acting honestly, and that in the painting of his picture he has utilized every possible resource to which he could have access, with the sincere desire to produce a faithful likeness of the poet. If he has erred in any of his assumptions, it is not owing to want of sincerity or honest labor. Those who know Mr. Page will at least give him this much of credit.

The Boston correspondent of the New York *Mail*, in alluding to the recent transfer of magazines from Boston to New York, intimates that Osgood & Co. have done a very wise thing, having had too many irons in the fire to handle. Their book business alone is enough to engage their undivided attention, while their heliotypo business has grown very great, the demand for their cheap reproductions of old pictures from colleges and collectors alone being immense. In addition to this, Messrs. Osgood & Co. have interested themselves in art education, and have commenced the publication of works in connection with this branch of their business. Notwithstanding the necessity of their action, the people of Boston, it is said, feel very sore that the *Atlantic*, *Every Saturday*, and *Our Young Folks* have gone to New York. Any other destination would probably have suited them better. If the people of Boston, however, had seen fit to bestow upon these magazines the patronage which they merited, Osgood & Co. would undoubtedly have found some means of continuing their publication.

PINCHBACK.

The Louisiana case is again before Congress. In November, 1872, the election in Louisiana for President, Congressmen, Governor, and State Legislature was set aside by the action of Judge Durell, of New Orleans, by whose direction the United States troops seized the State-House, dispossessed the State Government, and installed Kellogg as Governor and a Legislature of the same kind. There were thus two sets of Presidential Electors, Congressmen, Legislatures, and State officers. Congress, in canvassing the vote for President, rejected the vote of Louisiana from the count altogether. The Senate Committee subsequently reported that the whole election in Louisiana was a fraud; that the pretended canvass by which Kellogg and his friends were declared elected had not the least semblance of legality. In these conclusions Senators Morton, Logan, Carpenter, Anthony, Alcorn, Hill, and Trumbull agreed. The Legislature called into existence by Durell's orders and the interference of the military elected P. B. S. Pinchback to the United States Senate. The Senate refused to admit him, the Committee having reported that the Legislature by which he claimed to have been elected was not a legal body. At the election in November, Pinchback was a candidate for Congressman-at-Large, and was declared elected by the same fraudulent canvass of the vote.

At the opening of Congress, the two sets of Congressmen presented themselves for admission to the House. One set presented certificates of election from Gov. Warmoth and the other from Gov. Kellogg. The House, by a strict party vote, admitted those having Kellogg's certificates, temporarily, until the Committee of Elections shall report. Pinchback withdrew his claim, he not having abandoned the hope of being admitted to the Senate. When the United States troops and Judge Durell interposed in Louisiana, they made this man Pinchback Acting Governor, and the President recognized him as such. The whole disturbance in Louisiana was in the interest of Pinchback; and the Republican party, from President down, have justified judicial usurpation, forgery, perjury, and other heinous crimes in order to uphold this adventurer. The majority of the House would have voted to admit him to a seat had he not in person declined the vote, preferring to take his chance to make the same party admit him to the Senate. His right to one House is just as good as to the other. As to Pinchback himself, there is nothing remarkable about him. There are plenty of janitors of gambling-houses in Chicago having more ability than he, and equally good right to a seat in the Senate.

The Administrative Council of Geneva, in whose hands the disposition of the bequest of the late Duke of Goneva was placed, has at last made its report. The different items of the estate are given as follows: Vouchers for investment in Russian, Turkish, Egyptian, and Chilian loans, and those of the Argentine Republic, 18,616,000 francs; bank-notes and gold, 83,276 francs; horses and carriages, 18,435 francs; personal effects, 1,453 francs; and diamonds and jewelry, 1,854,284 francs. In addition to these, the American and German property remains to be estimated. Concerning the former, a statement is made which has a strangely familiar sound. It seems that the Duke, some time ago, invested $975,000 in United States railway bonds, but the original company was unable to complete the line, and it was taken up by a new company, who offer to pay 50 cents on the dollar. What balloon the Diamond Duke put his money into is not stated, but the investment has cost the City of Geneva $187,500. The newly-acquired wealth, which amounts to nearly $4,000,000, is to be applied to various useful purposes, among them the extension of schools, the demolition of houses in the ancient quarter of the city, the repaving of streets, improvement of the cemetery and public buildings, and in additions to the collections of paintings and sculptures in the various museums. Worthless as the life of the old Duke was, he will have a lasting monument in these great works of improvement, and the money which he so carefully hoarded during his life has now gone where it will do the most good.

Senator Pratt, of Indiana, has brought in a bill for the repeal of the salary-grab. It proposes to make $5,000 the compensation for the Forty-third Congress, and to this end authorizes the disbursing officer of the two Houses to deduct from the monthly pay of each member a sum sufficient to amount by March 4, 1875, to the excess already paid to Congressmen. Mr. Pratt's bill provides for the payment of $200 in lieu of postage and newspapers, and for reimbursement on account of actual traveling expenses to and from the seat of Government. This bill falls far short of what the people demand. What the people want is the absolute and unconditional repeal of the Salary bill of last session, placing all the salaries just where they were before the passage of that obnoxious bill. Mr. Pratt's bill only deals with the pay of Congressmen, whereas all salaries, including the pay of the President, must be set back to just where they were before, in order to remove the just indignation of the people. To repeal that portion of the bill relating to Congressional salaries, and leave Gen. Grant's pay at double what it was before, would be to concede the very point for which the increase was originally designed. We have already explained that, if it be maintained now that it is unlawful to diminish the salary of the President during the *period* for which he was elected, it was equally unlawful to increase it during the *period* for which he had been elected. The only portion of Senator Pratt's bill which ought to be retained is that providing for the reduction from future pay of the excess already paid out.

The recent horrible poisoning case in Montreal, in which a dozen people drank up nearly half a gallon of vinum colchici upon the supposition that it was whisky, has a very useful moral for inconsiderate drinkers. The above people, who are now all in the cemetery, found this drug, and, supposing it to be intoxicating liquor, went in and made a night of it, carousing and drinking in a manner which it would not be complimentary to the lower animals to call brutish. The whole miserable crew, men and women, died before morning. The most of the whisky sold now-a-days is sure to kill sooner or later, but little social parties of this description, who devote a night to drinking and make a serious and energetic business of it, should be particular in ascertaining whether they are drinking the right poison.

The Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* thinks that, if Gen. Grant should, in view of the hard times, etc., announce his intention of relinquishing his claim to the $25,000 a year added to his pay by the salary-grab, he would make the greatest hit of the Administration. Possibly; but even then he would be doing nothing more than a number of Senators and Representatives have done long since under the pressure of public opinion. These gentlemen have not been especially extolled for this action, the people regarding it as a simple act of justice in yielding up what the Congressmen had no right to take. Gen. Grant did more to secure the passage of the Salary bill than any twenty Congressmen who voted for it, and it finally became a law by force of his signature. If, then, he should relinquish his increase of pay, he would do no more nor less than Mr. Morton, of Indiana, Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, and other members of Congress who have covered their back-pay into the Treasury in obedience to the popular will, so emphatically expressed that they could no longer resist it.

There has been a queer slander suit in Davenport, Iowa. A family named Knack had $50 stolen from the house nearly two years ago. An old housewife suggested as a means for discovering the thief a trial of the book and the key. An old prayer-book and antiquated key were procured, the key inserted between the leaves of the book and a handkerchief tied around the centre of the book. The book was then held up by the key while the names of the neighbors were repeated, the theory being that the book would drop whenever the thief's name was pronounced. At the mention of two names, Bartcher and Naumann, the book invariably dropped in repeated trials. This soon became town-talk, and was so unpleasant to Messrs. Naumann and Bartcher that they brought suit against the Knack family for $5,000 damages, on account of defamation of character. When the case was given to the jury, eleven were in favor of assessing the damages at the figures claimed, but the other juror, who probably believed in book and key, held out, and a verdict was given for the defendants.

The English newspapers just now seem to be in great distress because the French Academy of Science has discovered that the Franciscan monk Roger Bacon, the reputed inventor of gunpowder, and one of the earliest in the line of English philosophers, was not an Englishman at all, but a Frenchman. This, of itself, is no serious misfortune; but, if the Frenchmen can claim one Bacon, we do not see what is to stop their taking the whole family, and then what becomes of the great Chancellor? There is still another contingency which may well disturb the English breast. If it should be proven that Franco's Bacon wrote the plays now attributed to Shakspeare, away go Lear, Hamlet, Macbeth, poor Ophelia, and all the rest of the wonderful creations in whom the British claim a proprietary interest.

NOTES AND OPINION.

The Boston *Post* announces that "The report that Gen. Butler would lead an expedition against the Spaniards is not credited at Fort Fisher."

—On the matter of the tariff, Gen. Grant confines himself to the simple recommendation of "a revision." It certainly needs that badly enough,—not in the interest of monopolists, however, but of the people.—*Detroit Tribune.*

—The nomination of Attorney-General Williams for Chief Justice of the United States is a respectable appointment, but not the best that could have been made. When Grant was in the army everybody gave him credit for selecting the right man for the right place, and it is possible his traditional sagacity has led him aright in this instance, but we have our doubts about it.—*Milwaukee Sentinel.*

—There has been some talk in Washington circles to the effect that Garfield alone of the Mobilierites is to be humiliated. Now the candid inquirer may ask, Why is this thus?—*Indianapolis Sentinel.*

—We hope there will be no expansion of the currency; which we believe would be a great injury to the country. But there is no safe predicting as to what Congress will do.—*Detroit Post.*

—Probably no event which ever occurred in the State has been more universally condemned by the press than the appointment of Crozier.—*Lawrence (Kan.) Journal.*

—Political partisanship has almost ceased to exist, especially in the agricultural regions.—*Grant's Message.*

We are inclined to believe the President is right in this. He has scarcely a partisan left in the "agricultural regions." All that are left are the bread-and-butter men, Postmasters, etc., etc.—*Quincy Herald.*

—It becomes the duty of the present Congress to do the people justice by reducing their pay to the old standard. There are many other things which demand the attention of Congress, but none upon which the whole people feel a deeper interest than this; and the member who refuses to vote for the repeal will receive the same condemnation from the nation which has been given to those who voted the increase.—*Macomb (Ill.) Journal.*

—Just how far the mass of the Democratic party can be induced to indorse the back-pay scheme, remains to be seen. The action of their Congressional caucus virtually commits the party-machinery in favor of the salary-grab. And, then, the indorsement of Fernando Wood, who to-day stands but little above Tweed in the estimation of New York people, should drive all honest men from that party.—*Toledo Blade.*

—In closing, the President renews his recommendation for a general amnesty, and suggests the enactment of a Civil Rights bill; but there is an omission which is quite as noticeable as anything the message contains. Neither in reference to the Southern States, nor in that portion devoted to the Department of Justice, nor anywhere in the message, is there a word for Louisiana, or in extenuation of the infamous manner in which the people of that State have been treated.—*Detroit Free Press.*

—The President's recommendation that he be allowed to exercise the veto on any part of an act which may be objectionable, while he sanctions the rest, is unquestionably inspired by the fact that he could not veto the clause of the late Salary-Grab law which increased the salary of the President, without at the same time doing an injustice to the poor members of Congress who had a little clause in the same act. Rather than that they should suffer, he reluctantly consented to the increase of his own pay. But, while he is no doubt covering his surplus pay back into the Treasury, he desires to be relieved from such painful experiences in the future, and hence this recommendation.—*Milwaukee News.*

—We call particular attention to the article in another column under the caption, "The State Auditor." The article is from THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, and it is right to the point. Extravagance with the people's money is the besetting sin of the Republican party. Taxation is now a grievous burden and hard to bear if confined to the legitimate uses of the State; but, when at least 50 per cent of it is used to fill the pockets of rings and dishonest officials, it is time for the people to cry a halt. The Republican party thinks nothing of spending millions upon public buildings where thousands would answer as well. They can provide big salaries for all public officials, but no thought of economy ever enters their heads. They seem to know nothing of the pinching hard times.—*Yorkville (Ill.) News.*

—The appointment of Attorney-General Williams to the Chief Justiceship, vacant by the death of Judge Chase, will not be received with satisfaction. He is not credited with extraordinary legal ability, and it is evident that he owes his advancement to the personal friendship of the President rather than peculiar fitness for the position. No one expected that Gen. Grant would rise to a just conception of the great office of Chief Justice of the United States, and make an appointment in accordance therewith; therefore no one will be greatly disappointed. Had the mantle fallen upon Mr. Evarts, Mr. Hoar, Mr. Curtis, Justice Miller or Swayne, or many others who have been named, not excepting Senator Conkling, the President and the country might be congratulated. As it is, we can only indulge in unavailing regrets that the successor of Marshall, Taney, and Chase is not a greater man than—Williams!—*St. Paul Pioneer.*

MADISON.

Candidates for Legislative and State Offices—Matrimonial.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

MADISON, Wis., Dec. 4.—The following names have been brought out for Legislative offices: J. H. Waggoner, of Richland, Republican, who has served well two years, and R. J. Flint, of the *Dunn County News*, Clerk of Senate; and O. C. Akin, of Ripon, for Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. Gabe Bouck, of Oshkosh, Morgan L. Martin, of Green Bay, and F. H. West, of Milwaukee, for Speaker of the Assembly; Isaac Rogers, of Janesville, and J. R. Hunter, of Ripon, for Clerk; George W. Peck, of LaCrosse, and Deuster, of Milwaukee, for Sergeant-at-Arms.

It is reported that David Brainard, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Grange, has been promised the position of Superintendent of Public Property.

Miss Olive Hoyt, one of the fairest and best daughters of Madison, was married this evening to Burr W. Jones, County District-Attorney, in the presence of a large assembly of our best citizens, at the Congregational Church.

MILWAUKEE.

The Philharmonic Society Disbanded, and Its Effects Seized by Officers of the Law.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 4.—The Philharmonic Society, the only American Singing Society in this city, has just collapsed. It was started about eight years ago, and for a time was successful and prosperous. Among the prominent debutantes of this Society may be mentioned Miss Emma Abbot, who has since become the protege of the Rev. Dr. Chapin's congregation in New York, and is pronounced by Patti and others to be the coming prima donna.

The Society became insolvent, and, as it owed the Light-Guard Association for rent, the officers seized the grand piano, and this, with the other effects, will be sold to pay debts. The Association was an American one, and, of course, could not long exist in so excessively German a town as Milwaukee.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE OPERA.

If Miss Kellogg were in need of any indorsement at the hands of opera-goers for her excellent judgment in appearing in English opera, or were desirous of receiving a popular manifestation of that indorsement, she could not have asked for a more decided or enthusiastic one than that which she received last evening. The theatre was crowded to overflowing with an audience which recalled the palmy days of Italian opera; and this demonstration Miss Kellogg may well claim as a personal compliment to her, and not altogether the result of Gounod's favorite work, popular as it is. The dress, and glitter, and brilliancy of the audience were also significant, as showing that however hard the times may be, there is some money left yet, and that people intend to be pleased however stringent the season is.

The cast of the opera was as follows:

Marguerite	Miss Kellogg
Siebel	Mrs. Seguin
Faust	Habelmann
Valentin	Carleton
Mephisto	Peakes
Wagner	Klugess
Martha	Miss Stanford

We have written so many times of Miss Kellogg's *Marguerite* that there is little left us to say which would be new. It is altogether the best character in her repertoire, and one of which she has evidently made a close and care