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AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

- UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Broadway, between Third and Fourth streets.—AGNES.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—MARRIED LIFE.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street.—OUR AMERICAN COUSIN.

QUADRUPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, Dec. 15, 1872.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

- *SPAIN AND CUBA: THE FREEDMEN OF THE UNITED STATES RISING TO THE MAIN QUESTION.—LEADER—EIGHTH PAGE.
MR. HENDERSON'S CUBAN MISSION NOT A FAILURE! ARRIVAL AT CHARLESTON AND DEPARTURE BY RAIL FOR NEW YORK.—PERSONAL NEWS—NINTH PAGE.
EUROPE BY CABLE! EXCITING DEBATE ABOUT DISSOLUTION IN THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY: BISMARCK'S RESIGNATION: THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH STORMS.—NINTH PAGE.

OUR LATE COMMISSIONER TO CUBA.—In another column we print a brief despatch from Mr. A. Boyd Henderson, dated yesterday at Charleston, S. C., where he had just arrived from Hayti. It would appear from this despatch that he has not failed in the object of his mission, as we were at first led to believe from his apparent abandonment of his post.

Spain and Cuba—The Freedmen of the United States Rising to the Main Question.

The meeting of our colored citizens at Cooper Institute on Friday evening last, called to take action in reference to the "irrepressible conflict" in the island of Cuba, was the beginning of a movement on the part of a political element in the United States which, on the main question involved in reference to the action of our government, can wield the balance of power.

What, then, is the position which these colored citizens have assumed in behalf of their brethren in the island of Cuba? They declare themselves on the side of "the Cuban patriots, who have already decreed and put in practice the doctrine of the equality and freedom of all men." They "view with abhorrence the policy of the Spanish government for the last four years" in the island of Cuba.

It appears, too, that agents and supporters here of the Spanish authorities were quick to take the alarm from this movement of our colored citizens, for at this meeting a printed circular was scattered about the hall addressed "To the Colored Citizens of the United States," and warning them of the folly of supporting the Cuban rebels.

We discover here that there were some Cubans at this meeting, from which we may infer that they are at the bottom of this movement; but even conceding the accusations against these men as cowardly and unscrupulous adventurers, their participation in this colored meeting does not shake the argument on the main question of African slavery in the island of Cuba.

This is the main question to our citizens of African descent. The freedom which they now enjoy they wish to be enjoyed by their brethren elsewhere; and while the British government is striking at this relic of barbarism—negro slavery—in Africa, in consequence of the astounding disclosures of Livingstone and Stanley, these black citizens of the United States call for the intervention of their government for the extinction of the evil in Cuba, and by such action as they hold to be within the law of nations.

The increase of popular power in Austria is illustrated by the announcement in the Eastern Budget that the government bill for enlarging the number of members of the Reichsrath, and electing delegates thereto directly by the people, had been prepared by the Ministry and would be submitted to the Emperor at the next Cabinet council.

Disestablishment of the Church of England.

The English press is now engaged in discussing the question as to whether the Established Church has the right to be considered the Church of the people, or, at least, the Church of a majority of the people. The Non-conformists, comprising nearly all those who are not in communion with the Episcopal Church, hold, on principle, that there should be no union between Church and State, and are now showing that for the same reasons a similar course should be followed in England and Wales.

The immense revenues of the Church of England are enjoyed by Bishops and Archbishops, and thousands of well-provided-for clergymen, who, as a matter of course, set their faces against such a proposition, which they regard almost as sacrilegious. The Tory party upholds their views and denounces the Dissenters, who are preparing for a grand assault on this cherished institution.

This bold statement brought the Nonconformist, the leading organ of the Dissenters, to the front. It set to work to prepare statistics of the churches and sittings in the principal cities, and has already published several tables that tell a different story. It appears that no enumeration of the religious professions of the people was taken in the census of 1850, the only official figures being those gathered ten years before that date.

In six cities of the fourteen referred to the number of sittings provided by the Dissenters exceed that provided for by the Church by 77,514; and in the eight others the Establishment falls behind, instead of gaining ground, and the general result is that the Church only provides thirty-three per cent of accommodation instead of forty-two, as in 1850. The second table, issued on the 9th instant, embraces statistics of twenty cities, having a population of 50,000 and less than 100,000. The relative accommodation of these twenty cities is as follows:—Established Church—places of worship, 292; sittings, 222,878. Non-established churches—places of worship, 809; sittings, 443,665. In favor of Non-established churches—places of worship, 517; sittings, 220,687.

These results prove that the Church of England, with its immense revenues, only provides for one-third of the population, and that two-thirds, who are not in communion with the Establishment fund, provide ministers and churches for themselves. So far as the statistics, carefully gathered during the present month, show, the Establishment is responsible for thirty-seven per cent in a population of 4,345,000—about one-fifth of the entire population. These inquiries are to be pursued further by the Non-conformists, the object being to place beyond doubt that there is no reality in the alleged revival of the Church of England, of which so much has been heard.

The arguments to be based on the results are expected to silence those who have heretofore claimed that the Church is that of a majority of the people, and further that as disestablishment took place in Ireland because the Church was that of the minority, the same ground must hold good in England and Wales, particularly in the latter principality, where nearly the entire people are Dissenters.

Spirit and Spice of Our Religious Controversies.

There is neither much of the one nor the other in the columns of our religious contemporaries this week. Whatever of spirit there is is not vivacious but yet devotional, and whatever of spice there is is neither piquant nor peppery—except in a few instances, as we will proceed to demonstrate.

The Christian Union comes to the conclusion that the "world moves," and therefore it is not a fixed concern in the pulpit of Plymouth church, Brooklyn. The installation of the Rev. Mr. Hepworth as pastor of the Church of the Disciples is the theme for this article on mundane progressiveness. "Happy Hepworth!" ejaculates the Union, "the bars were let down for thy feet to enter the green pastures and wander by the still waters! Hadst thou gone over the stony paths to ordination which we shudderingly remember long ere this the wolves and ravens would have devoured thy remains."

"Imagine," continues Mr. Beecher, "the Presbytery of thirty or forty ministers and elders, each one chosen from the Westminster assembly, the possession of faith, and so evenly divided against each other that the majority went Old School or New School according to the Westminster assembly, the violence of the clouds. The Old School held to Calvinism as it developed in Geneva and in Scotland. The New School held to Calvinism as it developed in New England. John Knox was the founder of the Old School, and his school. Between these two fiery factions, each one absolutely right, and sure the other was absolutely wrong, the clouds were made to make his way. Sometimes for a whole day he ran the gauntlet pelted with questions, pierced with redemptive questions, and plucked with yet finer distinctions, and then an arrow brought into the range of another. There was a spear in front and a spear behind, both of which he tasted. The rocks usually opened, and the existence and attributes of God were soon disclosed; the inspiration of the Bible quivered and passed a little, but not till we reached the doctrine and the character of man, his natural inability or his moral ability, did one see the real battle."

"Through such a fire of examination," concludes the editor-omniscient of Plymouth church, "came we to the liberty of preaching! It is with a kind of mournful envy that we see Hepworth riding in a chariot drawn by six denominations, while we fought almost in blood through six mortal hours to win the prize. All hail good sense! All hail Christian good sense! All hail the growth of manly independence joined to toleration! All hail the unity of the spirit, in spite of external diversity!"

Touching upon the subject of a "fitting memorial" to the late Mr. Greeley, the Golden Age graciously avers that— "It was a graceful and magnanimous act on the part of the Herald to publish a journalistic description for the benefit of Mr. Greeley's daughters. When it is remembered that that paper has always been Mr. Greeley's opponent, and has oftentimes criticised him and his views with merciless severity and with all sorts of weapons, the act takes on a truly beautiful aspect and becomes a welcome and a grateful memory to the friends of human nature and its profound and ineradicable respect for the sterling integrities of character and a life devoted to human welfare. The animosities of politics, the rivalries of business, the violations and bitterness of personal contact and collision, are superficial as the froth and foam and dash of the waves, and the waves which hide the clear, calm waters underneath, and seem to be all there is until a great sorrow stirs the storm and reveals a depth that is a mirror of heaven."

The Age thinks the event of the installation of the Rev. Mr. Hepworth, without being required to make a statement of faith, is of more significance than some of its participants seem to be aware. It indicates not only a step towards a most desirable unity of our contenting sects, but a departure from the old dogmatism and standards of faith. The Liberal Christian (Rev. Dr. Bellows) wants "a credible and credited theology," and relates that a fortnight ago twenty or thirty of the well known ministers of this city were present on the platform from which Mr. Froude delivered his reply to Father Burke, and during which the English historian said he would have no clergymen on the jury of arbitration to which he proposed to leave the case between himself and his accusers of inaccuracy and falsification of records, "because clergymen are always blind of one eye." And here the Liberal Christian indignantly exclaims—

Has it come to this, that the people have come to consider the clergy as one-eyed instead of single-eyed, as half-blind guides, with a characteristic sign of incapacity of sound judgment and candid consideration of disputed questions? And are the clergy so accustomed to this charge or so self-condemned that they can do nothing but join good-naturedly in the laugh that assails their character as veracious, impartial, and candid men, or at least as much so as lawyers and doctors and merchants? Are the teachers of faith and morals, the examples of purity, and the guides of the young and inexperienced, to permit themselves to be publicly ridiculed as wanting in all judicial qualities, as if it were a thing so wholly admitted and too well known to be taken as a matter of course?

Referring to the Jewish emigrants from Roumania, expected here, the Jewish Messenger remarks that the Israelites of America, being practical men, are disinclined to defen action until a shipload of emigrants shall actually land at Castle Garden. The Messenger continues:— "When the Roumanians come in bodies of ten, fifty or a hundred there ought to be an organization already matured, and nobody should be subjected to the pain and mortification of vainly applying for aid and succor, and individuals should disclaim any connection with the business of helping the friendless stranger. Such an organization, we believe, is already in process of formation. The Methodist hopes that the project of a general council of Presbyterians will be carried out. "Evangelical Protestantism," says the Methodist, "will be stronger for such a council. Counting the Continental churches, the Presbyterian polity is represented by a population of over fifty millions. A few of its churches are slightly infected with the sacerdotal spirit, and are so far un-Protestant; but taking Presbyterianism as a whole it still rests on the foundation of justification by faith alone and the right of every man to read the Scriptures and to judge of their contents for himself, under his personal responsibility to God." The Interior, of Chicago, has discovered a new American "deity," as will appear from the annexed:— "Among the polytheistic crowd of false objects of worship to be found in our times and on our shores there is one god to whom Americans largely bow, who is no nobler in himself or in his demands on his votaries than old Nisroch or Ashtaroth of old—the god Numbers, or Legion. The old political saw, "the greatest good to the greatest number," may now be changed to the "greatest good to the greatest number." The Interior gives the following among other attributes of this new Yankee deity:— "In the churches of the land, everywhere, almost universally, vacant pulpits are sought to fill with reference to what are called the "taking" qualities of their proposed incumbents. If they were intended their skill in leading poor, but honest, men to the salvation of men there would be great rejoicing in heaven, and ought also to be on earth, over the uprising of such a divine style of feeling, at least in the Church. But not taking quietness sought are those which will suffice to draw a crowd, what they come for is not the matter of moment, in the case, but that they come; and that the minister draws them to his pulpit and presence in large numbers is all sufficient, without inquiry or regard to his own soul, or to the souls of his flock, or to the glory everlasting. The Freeman's Journal demands that justice shall be done the Catholic Indians by General Grant. Does it make any particular differ-

The Troubles in Louisiana—Surrender of the State Government to Federal Force.

The citizens of New Orleans have afforded another striking example of the earnest desire of the Southern people to accept the consequences of the war in good faith and to prove the sincerity of their professions of renewed fealty to the federal government. They have yielded up what they at least believe to be their most precious rights rather than risk a collision between the authorities of the State and the federal troops. Yesterday the State militia laid down their arms and gave up possession of their armory at the summons of United States soldiers, and the Governor of Louisiana, with the Legislature and the Courts of the State, have avowed their determination to surrender their trusts to the keeping of federal bayonets and to await patiently the developments of time, in the hope that in the end justice may triumph over brute force. By this prudent action they have merited the gratitude of their fellow citizens in the other States of the Union. A resolute persistence in their opposition to the Kellogg usurpation would have inevitably led to bloodshed, and the consequences, not to Louisiana alone, but to the whole South, might have been deplorable. At the same time the peaceful struggle against the great wrong that has been inflicted upon the State has not been abandoned. An appeal has been issued to the American people, backed by the names of the representatives of some of the leading commercial houses of the United States, and the committee of one hundred prominent citizens are on their way to Washington to plead with the President, despite the singular announcement of the United States Attorney General that the President has already decided a case that is still an open one in the Courts.

The Pinchback government is thus temporarily installed in office by the active aid of the federal troops, but it has not a pleasant prospect before it. Apart from the few whites who are interested politically in its success and the negroes it can control by money or other means, it is utterly without a following in the State. The militia refused to recognize its authority and defied its armed police, yielding only to the federal troops. The people are united against it and will, no doubt, contest its right to hold on to its usurped authority. While it lays taxes or to do any legislative act. While it holds on to its usurped authority it can only bring confusion, trouble and discredit upon the State. Without the federal government at their backs Kellogg, Pinchback and their associates could not remain in power a single day, and every hour of their rule will be an injury to the people of Louisiana. The question upon which the existence of the Pinchback government depends is still before the Supreme Court, and hence there is some slight prospect that the action of Judge Durell may be set aside. We are willing to await that decision before we refer to the part played by the Attorney General of the United States in the drama or review the action of the federal government in this and other recent political controversies in some of the Southern States governments.

River Floods in France with Ruinously Destructive Consequences.

The Paris telegrams which we publish today report the occurrence of most disastrous visitations to the manufacturing, agricultural and railway transit interests in several of the departments of France by river inundations consequent on the recent wind storms. The streams which water the northeastern departments have overflowed their banks and flooded portions of the surrounding country. Part of the city of Lille is under water, the inhabitants have fled to places of safety, factories have been closed, and the general trade of that portion of the country has been impeded by the loss of many bridges which have been swept away. The crops have been ruined. The river Loire has swollen to such an extent that the quays of Nantes, with a great many buildings situated in the lower part of that city, are completely under water; the Custom House has been closed and the neighboring farms made desolate. The railroads which are the principal means of travel to the town have been submerged and the commerce of the section entirely suspended. This great and heavy visitation comes at a very inopportune moment, almost in midwinter, for these poor and suffering Frenchmen. Their Christmas—as with some of their more northern neighbors—will be a cheerless festival, so far as the things of this world are concerned; but it is to be hoped that the faith and charity which have sustained and consoled poor earthly sufferers from the beginning will enable them to bear their burden patiently till Christian brethren stretch forth their hands to ease them of their new and still more heavy load.

The Trustees of the Mutual Life Insurance Company held a meeting yesterday and, as will be seen by an advertisement in another column, put a quietus, for the present at least, upon Mr. Winston's proposed reduction of rates. Very good. This is just what we have been predicting all along would be the result. It will quiet the nerves of all the quaking and shaking little mushroom companies, and we hope it will restore general confidence also in our insurance business, where everything in the shape of empiricism and quackery ought to be squelched. Therefore we say, very good. But something more is needed. The gravest charges have been made against the character of the President of the Mutual Company, and it is due to him and to the company that these charges should be investigated calmly and dispassionately. If the charges are groundless, they should be retracted as publicly as they have been made; if they are true, then he is the wrong man in the wrong place.

The Week in Wall Street.—The leading incident of the Wall street markets the past week was the decline in gold to 112 1/2. In the speculative shares there was a heavy fall in Pacific Mail, following the news of so many disasters to the vessels of the line. At the close on Saturday expectations were indulged in that the Treasury would begin paying the January interest some time during the ensuing week.