NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET. JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker sta-Lz Parit Faust. GERMANIA THEATRE, Fourteenth street, near Third

BOWERY THEATRE, BOWERY.-ROOKWOOD-JACK WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.-

BRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and

UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Broadway, between

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street. WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.-Africa: OR, LIVINGSTONE AND STANLEY. STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.-OPERA-

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE, -BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st., corne 6th av .- NEGRO MINSTRULET, ECCENTRICITY, &c.

ATHENEUM, No. 585 Broadway.—Splendid Variety CANTERBURY VARIETY THEATRE, Broadway, be

JONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery. HAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, corner 28th st. and

JARNUM'S MUSEUM, MENAGERIE AND CIRCUS ASSOCIATION HALL, 23d street and 4th av,-Lzc

JEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, Dec. 20, 1872.

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THE ERE-GOULD SUITS.—The suits brought by the Erie Railroad Company against the former President, Mr. Jay Gould, have been amicably settled. Mr. Gould turning over to the company property to the value of the full amount claimed to have been used in a manner unauthorized by the powers of a president and a board of directors, and hence improperly taken from the stockholders. Mr. Gould is said to have assigned to the company sixty thousand shares of Erie stock, the Grand Opera House property and other securities, valued in all at nine million dollars. The settlement is a good thing for all parties. The powers of a president and board of directors are large, and are too loosely defined to render the result of the suits certain. The amount paid over, and the fact that the payment does not interfere for a day with the business transactions of the party making it, show the enormous resources of the successful operator on "the street," and prove the folly of the little ishes who venture to swim in the wake of the evisthans of the deep.

Our Relations with Spain and Cub The Duty of the Government in the Light of the Herald Disclosures.

Our relations with Spain during the last four years and the position of President Grant's administration on the Cuban question have not won the approval of the American people. An uncomfortable impression has prevailed in the public mind that undue infuences have been exerted to induce our government to shape its policy too much in accordance with Spanish interests. This idea may owe its origin to the well known relations existing between our Secretary of State and certain special agents of the Spanish government, and may be altogether erroneous and unjust. A government cannot allow its impulses to control its action, and, whatever sympathy it may have for a people struggling to throw off an offensive yoke, it has certain obligations towards friendly Powers which annot be disregarded. It is unfortunately true that the President and his Cabinet advisers have been dependent upon the Spanish authorities and the Spanish repentatives for all the official information they have obtained in regard to Cuban affairs. They have had no means of ascertaining the condition of the rebellion except through Spanish sources, and hence they may have hitherto found it difficult to discover justification for interference between the belligerents, however willing they may have been to bring the struggle to a close. At the same time it is impossible to deny that the policy of the administration has been temporizing and vacillating to a degree that has greatly aggravated the popular dissatisfaction. The President's Messages have evinced a sympathy with the Cubans so warm as to excite the hope that he would exert all the influence of his high office to secure the recognition of their independence by the Republic of the United States. Congress has from time to time adopted resolutions strongly favoring the extension of belligerent rights to the revolutionists and expressing no measured indignation at the acts of their oppressors. The State Department has occasionally displayed a similar spirit, and has issued brave instructions to our representatives at Madrid to protest against the faithlessness of the Spaniards to their promises of enfranchisement to the Cuban slaves. But these demonstrations have passed away without effecting any practical result, and the hopes they have from time to time excited in the hearts of the people have been suddenly dashed by some new exhibition of our practical subserviency to Spanish wishes and to Spanish interests. It may be, as we have said, that the policy pursued by our government has been necessitated in the absence of any official information as to the real character and status of the Cuban insurrection except such as has been derived from Spanish sources : but it would have been wiser to have abstained from any expression of sympathy with the Cubans so long as it was unadvisable to back up friendly words by friendly deeds.

The important developments made by our Special Commissioner to Cuba have thrown light upon the dark mystery of the rebellion and have imparted an entirely new feature to our relations with the Spanish government.
The HERALD has laid before the administration at Washington information it could not hope to obtain from the Spaniards; information coming from an impartial and disinterested source; information that shows the true animus of Spain towards our people; the faithlessness of Spain in her repeated pledges to give freedom to the Cuban slave, the falsehood of Spain in her representations as to the strength and character of the Cuban insurrection. What our government has failed to do the Herald has accomplished. We have discovered the existence of an organized Republic in the heart of the island, with freedom for all as its watchword. We have conveyed to the American nation the thoughts and wishes, the objects and hopes, of President Cespedes and of his people. We have found that the Spaniards, with a well appointed army of from forty to fifty thousand men, are as far now from any hope of speedily suppressing the rebellion as they were four years ago; that the patriots who have been described as a handful of wandering marauders without a resting place or an organization are in fact a people, with a devoted army ten or twelve thousand strong, well clothed and fed, with plenty of ammunition, but not fully supplied with arms. We have learned the determined character of their warfare against foreign oppression; their reliance upon their own power to win their freedom; their resolve never to abandon the struggle for independence but with life itself. We have brought to American ears their brave words-"We ask only for sympathy and recognition. We want no men, for we are strong enough to win our freedom for ourselves, but we do ask that we may be permitted to buy arms in the markets open to our oppressors." On the other hand, the experience of our Commissioner in Cuba has been sufficient to show that the Spanish hatred of Americans, despite the friendly acts of our government, only conceals its intensity through fear of our power as a nation; that in their proffered free pardon to repentant rebels the Spanish authorities especially exclude negroes fighting in the ranks of the revolutionists, who are to be returned to servitude in the event of their submission; that the fifty thousand Spanish troops now under arms in the island would have to be reinforced by another hundred thousand before they could have any reasonable hope of butchering the last Cuban on the field or driving him into the sea, and thus restoring peace to the

In view of the facts thus placed before them we insist that the President and Congress can no longer refuse to recognize the belligerency of the Cuban revolutionists withont lowering the character of the American nation in the eyes of the world. As a mere matter of right we claim that a people who have for four years maintained a regular government within their own territory, who have repelled every force sent against them, and who are at the present moment as strong. as hopeful and as far from being subdued as they were four years ago, are entitled to claim recognition from a nation that sympathizes with their cause and is interested in their success. We insist, further, that the voice of humanity calls upon us to stretch forth our strong arm to give peace and freedom to the unhappy island. The picture spread before

whose horrors no diplomatic Within four days' journey from this city scenes of carnage and savage barbarity are hourly enacted which would disgrace the darkest pages of the world's history. A war of absolute extermination is waged against a people struggling for their liberties. "No quarter on the battle fieldno recognition of flags of truce"-these are the cardinal principles upon which the deadly struggle is pursued. In every direction a devastated country-large sugar estates that once enriched their owners now masses of smouldering ruins or dark wastes, sentinelled by blackened chimneys and crumbling walls. Over this desolation we are carried to the scene of a recent conflict between the Spanish troops and the insurgents, and here we behold the practical horrors of the savage warfare The bodies of the slain are left to rot where they fell; the air for miles around is foul with the odor of decomposing flesh; the birds of prey look wrathfully at the intruder as they rise unwillingly from their loath some meal; there is no burial for the hated dead-hated as bitterly in death as in life. "No prisoners are ever taken," for the wounded are slaughtered after the harder work of the battle is over. That is an easy and a gratifying task, and it is performed with a refinement of cruelty worthy of the land of the mask and the stiletto. Here is a wretch not yet dead-let him feel the full weight of Spanish vengeance. Tie a rope about the neck and drag the bleeding form around the field to see his slaughtered companions; now mangle the traitor, joint by joint-limb by limb; cut out the tongue that dared to wag in treason against Spanish rule; then sever the head from the body and leave the carcase to rot with its fellows. This is the vivid picture placed before American eyes by the truthful pen of the HERALD Commis sioner. These are the scenes enacted hourly within four days of the metropolis of the

United States. In the name of justice, in the name of humanity, we call upon Congress and the President to interpose and stop this inhuman butchery. It has already been tolerated too long. Can there be any "rights of nations" which oblige this great Republic to suffer a tottering monarchy to thus vent its insane wrath upon republican institutions at our very doors? Are we, a free and powerful people, to be compelled by diplomatic rules to remain passive and contented while a people struggling only for their liberties are cruelly exterminated? Is the republican party, now in power, to be called upon to aid Spain in crushing the Cubans in order that she may restore the liberated negroes to bondage and enrich herself out of slave labor? We point to the HERALD picture of the Cuban war, with all its horrible features, and we tell the administration and the republican party that the time has come when the scenes there depicted must cease, and when the Spanish government must be made to understand that the proper theatre for its barbarities is in its own country and not on this side of the

The President on the Louisiana Trou-

The Committee of Citizens of New Orleans, deputed to lay the case of the State before the sident, were accorded an interview yesterday. After a representation of the facts they asked that Justice Bradley, of the Supreme Court, and Judge Woods, of the Circuit Court of the United States, might take charge of the Circuit Court sitting in New Orleans, and that the President appoint three of the best men of the land to examine the Louisiana matters thoroughly for the purpose of submitting the bject to Congress. The President did not feel at liberty to request Justice Bradley to go to New Orleans while the Supreme Court is in session, but signified that if the Court should make the request it would meet with his approbation. As to the appointment of a ssion to examine the facts, that could only be done by Congress, as without Congressional authority they would have no power administer caths or compel attendance of witnesses. The President at the same time disclaimed having interfered or intending to interfere in the affairs of the State. Thus far, therefore, the committee have gained nothing. The shortest road out of the difficulty would be for the people of Louisiana to accept temporary military rule, suspending the official authority of both the Warmoth and Kellogg factions until final decree by Judge Durell is made. Upon this decree an appeal would lie to the Supreme Court, and then the whole case would be decided by the highest tribunal in the land.

A NEW TREASURY LOAN FOR EGYPT.-His Highness the Khedive of Egypt has concluded a treasury loan of the amount of twelve million five hundred thousand dollars with the Bank of Constantinople. Such is the announcement which is conveyed in our cable despatch from Cairo. The apparently easy arrangement of the viceregal accommodation in the Turkish capital indicates at first sight the present existence and probable perpetuation of the most friendly diplomatic relations between His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey and the present representative of the once Suzerain Egyptian power. Such may be the condition in fact. We must not forget, however, that the Turkish system of financiering is admirably adapted, and conducted with most exquisite skill for the speedy entanglement of imprudent and miscalculating creditors in the meshes of money obligations which may tend to their ultimate humiliation by means of the embarrassments consequent on the bonds. The figures which we append to the news despatch illustrative of the previous indebtedness of the Khedive will go far to enable our readers to comprehend the position which we thus set forth.

THE RUSSIAN WAS DEPARTMENT proposes to arm its cavalry with a double carbine breechloader, instead of pikes and lances. Also to increase the number of military schools for officers. There are now sixteen such schools. in which there were the present year thirtyfour hundred pupils, over eleven hundred of whom, having passed their examination, have been drafted into the army. Seven hundred other officers were commissioned during the year, and there are still thirteen hundred vacancies in the various regiments of the regular army. These statements show that the beating of swords into ploughshares is not the American people in yesterday's Herald yet progressing in Northern Europe.

Postmaster General Creswell and the

The interview of our Washington corresponlent with Postmaster General Creswell with regard to the postal telegraph project, an account of which was published yesterday, opens the whole question and shows the difficulties to be encountered in carrying out this great national undertaking. Mr. Creswell talked plainly, like an honest man, looking only to ne public interests, and not having the fear of Mr. Orton, the President of the Western Union Telegraph Company, or Mr. Orton's political influence with the administration pefore his eyes. He showed the advantages to both the public and the press the postal telegraph system. showed, too, in that moderate language and polite way which a Cabinet officer could not well depart from, the machinations and selfish schemes of the telegraph monopoly to frustrate his purpose and the public interests and to perpetuate its privileges. The communication we publish, too, in another part of the paper, on the subject of the Postal Telegraph bill, which was reported by the Senate mittee at the last session of Congress, shows in a forcible manner the necessity and dvantages of the measure.

The conversation of our correspondent with the Postmaster General was induced by the address of Mr. Orton and the evidence of other residents of telegraph companies to the Congressional Committee on Appropriations, appointed by Congress to investigate the subject of the postal telegraph system, these interested parties having made the most plausible arguments possible in favor of their monopoly and against the recommendation of Mr. Creswell. It will be remembered that the Postmaster General, in his late official report, urged Congress to follow the successful example of foreign nations in establishing system of postal telegraphs in connection with the Post Office Department. This was referred to the Committee on Appropriations. The evidence alluded to before that committee was taken with a view to furnish Congress with all the facts for and against the project. What the action of the committee or Congress

may be remains to be seen. To Mr. Orton and his fellow monopolists must be accorded the merit of perseverance and skill in special pleading, however fallacious their arguments may be. At the same time it is to be regretted that the Postmaster General had not had sufficient means and the time to collect statistics and to present the matter in the strongest light. Still he had sufficient materials and a sound principle to go upon that might convince any unprejudiced and disinterested Congressman that the postal telegraph would be a great benefit to the country. Without a single dollar to expend in the matter, Mr. Creswell says "I have, with the assistance of a single clerk, whom I detailed for the work, opened a correspondence with the telegraph authorities abroad, and, as far as I could, with the telegraph companies at home." The results were presented in his late report. While he did not claim that all the figures were precisely accurate, he never-theless contended that the statements and arguments were substantially correct and sufficient to induce Congress to act upon the matter.

The Postmaster General properly rebuked the President of the Western Union Company for criticizing his motives and for assuming to dictate to the government. He showed, too, that Mr. Orton failed in his two hours' address to furnish any of the facts really desired with reference to the expenditures and actual worth of the property of his company. All great monopolies in this country assume a defiant attitude, and the President of the Western Union seems to be confident in the money power and political influence of his company. He talks like an autocrat. But are the people of the United States of no consequence in comparison with this monopoly? Are the great interests of forty millions of people and the progress of this great Republic in the improvements of the age to be ignored at the will and for the benefit of a gigantic monopoly? What is the real question at issue? Whether

the telegraph—which has become of as much importance to the public as the Post Office, and which is destined to become more important-shall be under the control of a company of individuals, and virtually under the President of that company, or shall be controlled by the government. We refer sometimes to the power of the federal government, secured by the constitution, to regulate commerce among the States of the Union, but no commerce is of such importance or so universal as that involved in the operation of the telegraph. It has become extensively the medium of communication from one end of the country to the other and is destined to be the principal medium of the business and thoughts of the whole community. It is absurd to suppose this mighty agent of modern civilization shall continue to be in the hands of a few individuals or one individual. of those who can impose what charges they please. Mr. Orton says a million people in the United States use the telegraph. Five or ten millions, or the whole population, should be able to use it. To restrain the employment of it is to clip the wings of intelligence and to arrest the education and progress of the people. A company does not regard the public welfare and only looks to own interests. Its chief study is make the largest income by high rates of charges and to raise its stock in the market. The government would have no such object, but would necessarily bring the charge for messages down to the lowest price, just as it has brought the postage on letters down to the bare cost of transmission. Then, besides the advantage to the people, individually and directly, of a system of cheap telegraphing, the proposed measure of the Postmaster General would be a great benefit to the press, and to the public through the press. Any newspaper could have its own wires for exclusive ise and could thus furnish more ample and important news. Considering the power and usefulness of the modern press, we know of nothing that would tend to extend its influence for good more than this. In every point of view the telegraph, under the control of the government, in connection with the postal

service, would be a great benefit to the public How is this to be accomplished? That Congress has the power to place the telegraph system under the government no one will venture to deny. Shall it, then, buy the existing lines or establish new ones? The tele-

talk about vested rights; out they have not, in fact, any rights over the territory of the country or in the magnetic telegraph. They have, besides, been well paid already for the capital actually invested. Still there is no disposition to oust them from the there is no disposition to out them from the privileges they enjoy without reasonable com-pensation, if they will accept that. The Postmaster General estimates that the same number and extent of telegraph lines, with all their appliances, as exist now, could be established for twelve millions of dollars. Others, and experts in telegraphic matters, make the sum much less. But, admitting that the total cost would be twelve millions, is it not ridiculous to expect forty or fifty millions should be paid to the companies for their inflated and water stocks and their partially worn-out materials? The actual and original cost of the companies' lines did not amount, probably, to twelve millions. Mr. Orton, perhaps, thinks he can make the government pay an extravagant price by his opposition to the postal telegraph project, and he succeeds, no doubt, in keeping up the market price of the stock above its intrinsic value by this strategy; but the people will never consent to give forty millions or more for what is not worth a third of that sum, especially when the government can create the same number of telegraph lines and the same amount of property for less than a third of the present stock value placed upon existing lines. Nor will Congress venture to sanction such a purchase though the political and lobby influence of the companies may be great. Sooner or later we must have the postal telegraph, for it has proved to be successful and a great public benefit in other countries. If the companies will sell their property at the actual cost or for a reasonable compensation, all very well; but if they will not, the government should establish a new and complete system itself, and thus leave the companies to compete for the business of the public if they ose to do so. This is the only alternative, and this must be the solution of the matter at no distant day. Postmaster General Creswell's opinion is that in time the people will become disgusted with the greed of the telegraph companies, and then will compel the government to exert its incontestable right of constructing its own lines independent of all

Congress-Interesting and Important Proceedings in Both Houses.

The proceedings in both houses of Congres are unusually interesting and important at this early stage of the session. In the Senate yesterday Mr. Edmunds, of the Judiciary Committee, reported against the bill to allow women to vote in the District of Columbia and the other Territories. The report, however, was placed on the calendar on motion of Mr. Pomeroy, which means that on some convenient day hereafter he intends to call up the subject and discuss it in favor of women's rights. Mr. Edmunds made several other adverse reports, one of which, on the bill to facilitate internal commerce, we regard as very important at this juncture, when, acting upon the broad hints of the President's Message, all sorts of internal improvement schemes are springing up at Washington.

A prohibitory or Maine liquor law from the United States Senate is a new idea; but the bill reported yesterday by Mr. Sherman, to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating drinks in the District of Columbia and the other Territories, ought to be satisfactory to the most rigid prohibitionist of even Massachusetts. This measure, in addition to the Women's Rights bill, is in charge of Mr. Pomerov, who firmly believes that cold water and woman suffrage are destined to be the Mr. Edmunds deferred the calling up of the House bill adverse to the erasure of the battles of the rebellion from the Army Register or regimental flags, because Mr. Sumner, who desires to speak upon the subject, was too unwell to speak at present. But the great subject of the day in the Senate was the Postal Telegraph bill, introduced by Mr. Ramsay. upon which our views are given in the special editorial, to which we invite the reader's attention, as to a subject of the highest importance to all classes and interests of the Ameri-

can people. In the House the resolution of Mr. Wood, of New York, which was adopted, whereby the Committee on Banking and Currency is instructed to inquire into the stringency of the money market, as far as caused by combinations engaged in locking up gold and currency, and to report some legislative remedy for this evil, is a seasonable proceeding; but the report from the committee which immediately followed covers the ground. The pains and penalties of the bill recommended against any national bank guilty of aiding in the locking up of gold or currency for speculative purposes are very severe, but very just, and we presume that they will, during this session, become a law, inasmuch as leading men of both parties are moving for the measure. This bill is the result of the alleged misconduct of the Tenth National Bank of New York in the matter of a recent conspiracy to lock up currency with a view of producing a money panic. On a motion from the same committee a resolution was adopted for an examination into the cause of the loss of revenue stamps from the Assistant Treasurer's office, New York. Let the leak be ferreted out and stopped. We have too much roquery in our public affairs, and it ought to

Upon the whole yesterday was a day of ctive business in both houses.

FLOODS IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM. - Heavy floods, as will be seen from this morning's news, have occurred in France and Belgium. The Seine has overflowed its banks, and the quays on both sides of the river are flooded, he stores in the neighborhood being closed, and the traffic, whatever there is, being carried on by boats. Beyond Bercy, a suburb of Paris on the right bank of the Seine, the houses in the vicinity of the river are said to be standing in one vast lake of water. Similar trouble has occurred in Brussels, and some of the streets of Ghent are three feet deep in water. These floods, occurring so soon after the disastrous inundations in Italy, suggest some peculiar and unexpected conditions of the atmosphere, and are well worthy the serious attention of the skilled meteorologists. The time has not come when science can prevent such disasters, but science ought to be able to give timely warning of their approach. | cording to the amount of their interest

The Approaching Great Cold from the Northwest and Its Climatic Signifi-

The most intense cold of the Winter, ac

cording to the Signal Service reports, prevailed on Wednesday in the Northwest, wedging its way eastward. At Per most northern frontier town of the United States, lying on the Red River and in the very line of the great polar winds, the depression of the thermometer had reached the extreme figure of twenty-nine degrees (below zero), while at Breckenridge, two hundred miles southeastward, it was twenty-eight degrees (below zero). The Arctic regions seem to have dispensed some of their bitterness and rigor to the narrow belt of country lying west of the Lakes. The thermometric gradient from the Southern States to the far Northwest was exceedingly steep, showing a descent in the mercury of over ninety degrees Fahrenheit, or nearly one degree for every fifteen miles. The prelude to this cold wave—which is now advancing towards the Atlantic seaboard—consisted of an immense snow-storm which suddenly spread its hoary mantle over the whole country from the Lakes to the Ohio River and over the Middle and Eastern States, accompanied by dangerous northeasters on our seacoast. We have, however, experienced as yet only the front of this great aërial inundation from the Pacific coast and the higher latitudes, and may be premonished of intensely frosty and rigorous weather for the next two or three days. It is a very curious fact, which appears in all mose violent thermometric changes of American Winters, that, while the advancing cold, when first reported from the Northwest, is attended with but comparatively little snow in that section lying west of Lake Superior, it produces heavy precipitation only after it has progressed east of the Upper Mississippi and reached the slopes of the Alleghanies. Moving eastward from the Pacific coast the wave, at first surcharged with oceanic vapor and warmth, moderates and tempers the Winter climates in the regions over which it rolls, and, when it condenses on the cold elevations of the mountains, liberates its immense stores of latent heat; and in the extreme Northwestern sections, as on Wednesday, at Montana, thermometers are high. Passing, however, to Dakota and Minnesota, we find that the air-mass, by the time it has reached these sections, is dry and intensely cold, and the temperatures suddenly fall to almost polar severity. It has often been observed by Italian travellers that sometimes when on the Alps the snow and rain are falling heavily, "the waveless plains" of Lombardy beneath are overhung by blue and cloudless skies. On the coast of Ireland the Kerry Mountains rob the warm and vaporous southwest winds from the Atlantic of their moisture, to which the charming Irish lakes are indebted for their supply of water and Killarney for its famed and luxuriant verdure; but after passing a short distance beyond the mountains the same wind is chilled and rainrobbed and its downpour reduced from sixty to twenty inches of water per annum. The operation of the physical law which brings about these phenomena is highly important in America and especially in the great Northwest, whose Winter meteorology is a matter of public interest. The present Winter fairly illustrates the sub-

ject and shows a succession of alternate zones, spread across the country from shore to shore. Thus from the Pacific to the meridian of one hundred and ten degrees west, between the fortieth and sixtieth parallels, is a region of Winter climate much warmer and more humid than that due to latitude. From the one hundred and tenth meridian of west longitude to as before, is a zone of intense, but dry, cold Winter, comparatively snowless, except on the shores of the lakes: and the isothermals maintain, all the way to the Atlantic, the shape of waving or zigzag lines. Nothing could better illuminate the much discussed snow problem which affects the practical success of the proposed Canadian Pacific Railroad and also of the Northern Pacific. From the meridian of Duluth to that of Fort Benton they must encounter, at given intervals during the Winter, intense cold, but they will practically escape all heavy snows on the larger part of the country they traverse.

As we have said before, the winds from the Northwest threaten us with an immediate invasion of Winter's biting blast and igy seal. and the sooner we prepare for it the better.

Congressional Investigations-An Outrage on the Liberty of the Citizen.

We protest against the further prosecution of the investigation, as it is humorously called, now going on at Washington into the conduct of certain members of Congress in the matter of a few thousand shares in the Crédit Mobilier of the Union Pacific Railroad. By what right, we should like to know, does any one undertake to pry into the private financial transactions of independent citizens just because they happen to give their services to the country in enacting laws for the good of the community? In the semi-civilized ages, when steam expended itself on the air and electricity was an unknown power, under the curious notions of such respectable fogies as Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams, it was held that a public officer, and especially a legislator, was bound to forego all profitable pickings that might be cast in his way by virtue of his position or forfeit his claim to be regarded as an honest citizen. An absurd prejudice prevailed against the acceptance of pecuniary favors and advantages even by the sons, sons-in-law, brothers, brothers-in-law, fathers. fathers-in-law, uncles, cousins or nephews of those in the public service. But all such narrow-minded ideas have gone out of fashion with periwigs and shoebuckles. We now recognize the fact that a Congressman is a free agent and is at liberty to make as much money as he can. To be sure, an honest Renresentative must vote in accordance with the lictates of his conscience, but his conscience is his own, and he can do with it as he likes.

Of what crime have the Senators and Representatives to whom Oakes Ames' stock was "placed" been guilty? They received their shares at par-those of them who paid for them at all-and as a one-hundred dollar share was found to be worth eight or nine hundred dollars they made anything from eight or nine thousand dollars to fifty or sixty thousand dollars a piece, ac-