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NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

PROPRIETOR.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT.

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, BOWERY.-BONNIE FISHWIPS

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st. GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Brondway, 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,

BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston

MRS. P. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.-

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Montague st.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. corner 6th av. - NEGRO MINSTRELSY, ECCENTRICITY, &c. ATHENEUM, No. 585 Broadway.—Splended Variety

CANTERBURY VARIETY THEATRE, Broadway, be-TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.

SAN PRANCISCO MINSTRELS, corner 23th st. and Broadway. - Ethiopian Minstrelsy, &c.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, MENAGERIE AND CIRCUS. Fourteenth street, near Broadway.—Day and Evening STEINWAY BALL, Fourteenth street.-LECTURE BURNING TO DEATH AND SAVING FROM DEATH."

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.

QUADRUPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, Dec. 22, 1872.

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THE RECESS OF CONGRESS .- The two houses of Congress stand adjourned over to the 6th of January, 1873, and most of the members. by the trains of Saturday evening, left Washington homeward bound. We hope that from their Christmas and New Year festivities they will return to their public duties not only 'like giants refreshed with new wine," but .materially enlightened, from their contact with public opinion, on the great questions of the

OUR VITAL STATISTICS. - During the week ending yesterday the deaths in this city reported were 527; the births, 419; the marriages, 160. The report shows the city to be in as healthy a condition as could be expected with our life-destroying tenement houses, our filthy back streets and river fronts and our extensive shanty settlements, exposed to all the inclemencies of wind and weather.

Santa Claus for All-the Rich, Poor, the Young and the Old.

As the feathery snowfiskes borne on the bitter wind come eddying, whirling down to tell us that another Christmastide is about descending on the world, the most sceptical being finds his thoughts away in a snowflake world of their own. It would seem as though the footprints of Old Time upon the Christmas snow were pictured by the hand of memory on the heart, there to remain long after the year and its snow were gone, the one to the clouds of history, the other to the clouds of air. And what are the white and sparkling thoughts that cluster so fairy-like, so weirdlike, so joyfully and withal so mournfully within the rims of those footprints? Why do they move us to a pleasant smile crossed with a sweet shade of melancholy, like the shadow from an angel's wing? Because they form the vision of joyous youth seen from the present through an atmosphere of all life's sorrows and joys. The mellowed light tones down the sharper outlines; the mind dwells on the picture and becomes selaced. We may forget for a moment what Christmas means in a religious sense; but we will not fail to weave into the fantasy a kindly, cheery, snowy-bearded face, a fur-clad form with a pine branch on the shoulder, the mystic Saint of the nursery, the jovial Saint of after-yearsgood old Santa Claus. Long may his saintship flourish. If he is

not American to the manner born, we have naturalized him. If for us he goes not among the fir trees of the Schwarzwald to cut his bough and garner there around the gnarled roots of leafless trees from fairy toymen his store of knick-knacks, we have noble forests of our own in Maine, and nobler still in the great sweeps of the Sierras, where he may hold his elfish fancy fair beneath the waving of the giant pines and cedars. Wherever he goes to gather his good things, he is certain to be here on Christmas Eve, and just as certain to go plumping down the chimneys with a whisk to fill the stockings and deck the Christmas trees of young America. It would be well, indeed, if the aforesaid Young America could fix his faith on other things as devoutly as he does on Santa Claus. But Young America must grow older, and then he begins to doubt the story. The early cynicism of twelve makes sad inroads on his faith in the chimney theory; for does not the chimney end in a stovepipe? But not for all his budding manhood and adolescent citizenship would he shatter the pretty myth that his little brothers and sisters talk themselves nightly asleep speculating on. It becomes sacred. If it is a myth it brings him presents all the same. The box of toys is exchanged for a book of exciting adventure or for a new suit or a game. Here he commences to count the footprints in the snow. From year to year it goes on. The myth brings him a trinket, a watch, a chain. Off at school as the holidays approach he forecasts what Santa Claus will bring, although he knows full well that his papa is the Santa Claus. He begins soon to make Christmas presents himself, and when, a man and a father, he sits around the Christmas board and sees the little ones wondering and chirruping over the toys on the tree, he blesses old Santa Claus still. If a time comes when the Christmas board is bare and Santa Claus has passed that chamber by, and the old man looks dreamily out on the whirling snow, he can see with one glance the whole vista of his years. The loneliness is gone, for Christmastides of olden gladness flash upon his soul and the feast of memory is lit, if only for a moment, by their rays. There are reverses to the picture. Santa

Claus, like all the fates, is partial. For all his kindliness he is a toady to wealth, to caste, to fashion. There, in a den on Baxter street, is who are as ignorant of Santa Claus as Mirambo, the King of Ujowa, is of Christianity, The old white-bearded fellow was too busy on the Avenue to leave them a token of his existence. Like Cosette, in "Les Misérables," they may have stared in at the toyshop windows; but no weary-hearted, love-longing Jean Valjean was there to buy them even a five-cent toy. There are the little newsboys and newsgirls, running wildly with their bundles of papers to and fro, who are infidels to the belief in Santa Claus. Look into the hospitals, where the pauper patient has bodily pain added to the mental on this Christ mas Day without its Santa Claus. Look into the prisons and asylums. Would not the hardened hearts be better for a sight of the old snow-tipped comfort-bringer? There are homes for the aged and the indigent where a little Christmas cheer would make the old hearts young for a space. Gaze, if you will, in upon the inmates of the House of the Good Shepherd. All you have seen of shattered homes and widowed hearths and frittered lives will not match this gathering. To the eyes of humanity the fallen woman is a more direct matter for sincere sorrow than all the fallen angels ever cast out of heaven. The harsh St. Michael of worldly opinion who flourishes his flery sword of social disgrace above their heads is pitiless as his prototype. But in that House of the Good Shepherd may be seen other women of angelic souls who minister to the social outcasts, who guide the erring feet into the right path, who lift up the sin-darkened brow that the merciful light of God may shine upon it. Good people, then, you on whose fireside circles this blight has in God's and the world's mercy never fallen, can not you think how the friendly smile of Santa Claus upon the Christmas Day of these unfortunates might call up the memory of vanished purity and severed home ties?-how it might help along the great work of the good Sisters? Think, too, of the orphan boy and the orphan girl, whom death has sundered from their Santa Claus. Would it not make your Christmas joy run smoother to think you had helped these fatherless and motherless little ones to some of its innocent delight? Do not, while looking on these sad reverses of the picture of Santa Claus, forget the tiny foundlings. If these little waifs are in most cases too young to appreciate all the poetry of the myth, give them cause to know when they are a little older that old Santa Claus was forced by you down the chimney of their dormitory,

the life in their little bones. It is a touching theme, and one that points a hundred morals and could adorn as many tales. In the two sister cities of New York and Brooklyn there will assemble in family vinced of the futility of doing so. If the

first, to put some coal on the fire, and then,

with a bundle of mannikin clothing, to keep

a million of people, young old, from the rich to those and not absolutely poor, to greet the joys of the season. Outside of these circles will be thousands and thousands who will not know that day from any other, so far as any difference of fare or cheer may count who a week after will not care whether the old year is dead or the new year born. Now, both these cities are rich. For that one day the wealthy and the well-to-do should see that this number of cheerless ones is diminished. It is very easy to find the way if the heart is inclined and the purse ready. Hundreds of charitable people have taken the good work in hand, and it should not be difficult to find them. In every asylum, house of refuge, hospital, mission house and charitable institution good Christmas dinner should be provided for those whom Santa Claus would otherwise have forgotten. This is an appeal made on behalf of no one religious denomination, nor of any particular class of the friendless. because it covers all alike. Charity is not or should not be sectarian. The list to choose from is long as misfortune. We cannot pretend to give a complete list of the places where this trifling boon may be dispensed, but we can furnish the names of a few without any detriment to those we are unfortunate enough to omit. The House of the Good Shepherd we have mentioned. The charity of the Sheltering Arms, of similar good work, we may also note. Then there are the Children's Aid Society, the Newsboys' Lodging House, the Five Points House of Industry, the Foundling Asylum, tended by the Sisters of Charity: the Howard Mission and Home for Little Wanderers: the Home for the Aged, made homelike by the Little Sisters of the Poor; the orphan asylums of all sects; St. Luke's Home for Aged Christian Women, Trinity Chapel Home for the Aged, the Industrial School and Home for Destitute Children, the House of Refuge on Randall's Island, the Juvenile Reformatory and Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island, the Workhouse on Ward's Island, the Catholic Protectory for Boys, Bellevue and the other hospitals; the prisons and the numberless churches which will give the poor children a Christmas dinner and distribute gifts from Christmas trees. Do not hesitate, then, ye of the happy homes, to make sad faces merry; to brighten older memories in those who think themselves forsaken; to lift, or try to lift up all the poor and lowly you can reach to innocent merrymaking for one Christmas Day, so, when Old Santa Claus looks in on you, he may be encouraged to call with a heartier voice the next

Spain and Cuba-Significant Movement of the South American Re-

The Spanish government does not relent in the least, if our cable despatch from Madrid be exactly accurate, in its determination to rule Cuba according to the policy of the vice victis system and of "stamping out" the colonial insurrectionist movement against the authority of the Crown after the most approved fashion of the military royalisms. His Excellency Minister Zorrilla took occasion to assure the Spanish Senate, when speaking on the subject of colonial governmental reform generally, that "no reforms will be inaugurated in the government of Cuba while single insurgent remains in the island." This is plain speaking, and Señor Zorrilla will enjoy the official merit of being brief and exceedingly emphatic in his expression. His method of reasoning is extraordinary. By the denial of reform to the Cubans, as a punishment, he acknowledges that reforms are very essentially necessary in the island, but that the population of the place must be reduced to a condition of slavish blindness as to the value of the concession before they attain it. Like to the child in the story play, he says to the Cubans, "Open your mouth and shut your eyes," and then, perhaps, you may have "a plum for a prize." Such is the position of Minister Zorilla

The action of the government of Colombia in addressing the Minister of Foreign Affairs for San Salvador on the subject of recognizing the independence of Cuba and sustaining the Cubans in their struggle is very significant, and the reply of the Secretary of State of San Salvador is not less so. It is evident that there is a general movement among the South and Central American republics to bring about the independence of Cuba. Our readers will have seen by the correspondence referred to, which we published yesterday, that there is a calm earnestness of tone and clear reasoning in these communications. In connection with this movement of Colombia and San Salvador there are others which indicate a combined and general effort to sustain the Cubans and to dispossess Spain of her remaining American colonies. Peru recently expressed the determination to reject the treaty which our Secretary of State concocted between Spain and the South American republics because of the humiliating condition in it that no aid or practical sympathy was to be extended by Peru to the Cuban patriots. So we see that in spite of systematic representations by Spain and her agents of the state of affairs in Cuba, and in spite of the important aid given by our State Department to the Spaniards in their efforts to suppress the truth and to crush the Cubans, the dayspring of hope begins to shine upon the prospects of the Gem of the Antilles.

The proposition of Colombia and San Salvador is that the republics of South and Central America shall unite to secure the independence of Cuba and that the United States shall act with them. It is to be hoped our government will act in conjunction with these republics for that object, but whether it will or not they should combine to give, at least, all the moral support possible to the Cubans. The proposal is for all the American republics to unite in requesting Spain to grant independence to Cuba, and, if necessary, to pay Spain an indemnity for the cost of the war. We expect little from the magnanimity or wisdom of Spain; but if such a pressure as this were brought to bear upon the Spanish government the object might be attained-at least it would strengthen the cause of free Cuba and turn the scales of the existing doubtful and dreadful war in favor of independence. Spain would hardly venture to defy the will and action of all America, especially when con-

Spanish-American republics follow up the initiatory movement of Colombia and San Salvador earnestly Cuban independence will not be long deferred, whether Spain concedes it or not.

A Bombshell in the Credit Mobilier Camp-Responsibility of Railroad Directors.

The publication of the list of stockholders of the Crédit Mobilier in the HERALD yesterday fell like a bombshell in the camp of the magnificent and mysterious "ring" whose operations have recently been so prominently efore the world. Heretofore the Crédit Mobilier has partaken of the character of the Venetian Council of Ten-dark, secret and incomprehensible. As the workings of the Council were unknown until the bodies of conspirators were discovered at daylight dangling in the square of St. Marc, so the doings of the Crédit Mobilier have been a mystery until the innocent stockholders of the Union Pacific Railroad have found themselves immolated as victims on the shrine of the inner ring, by means of extraordinary legislation in Congress. Everybody has been inquiring, Who are the Credit Mobilier? No answer has been forthcoming, because the records of the concern have been a sealed book, into which none but the favored have been suffered to pry. No wonder that the appearance of the list in the HERALD should have created an in-

tense sensation, and led to important results. The present shareholders in the Union Pacific Railroad Company, who are the innocent and bona fide successors of the original "ring," now learn, for the first time, the extent to which that company has been victimized in this Crédit Mobilier transaction, and the names of the parties who have, as the present stockholders claim, robbed the corporation for their own enrichment. They have determined to move in the matter and to compel restitution. With the evidence supplied by the HERALD in their possession they will direct their President. Mr. Horace F. Clark, to institute a suit against those who divided the plunder for eighteen million dollars, or upwards, which they claim has been virtually stolen from the treasury of the Union Pacific, and shared between the conspirators. This will cause a flutter among the persons whose names were published in our list, as well as among those who stand behind relatives in the Crédit Mobilier corruptions. The suit will, no doubt, compel a full development of all the facts, for Oakes Ames will be a principal defendant, and when his fortune is at stake he will not be willing to stand in the capacity of "trustee" before the

parties whose interests he represents. The recent settlement made between Mr. Jay Gould and the Erie Railroad forms an encorraging precedent for the action proposed by the Union Pacific Railroad stockholders. If the ex-President of the Eric Railroad found it desirable to restore nine millions to Erie, the Crédit Mobilier will be likely to find it discreet to restore eighteen millions to the Union Pacific. Indeed, there are those who believe that the Erie Railroad Company were guilty of an offence in compromising the suit against the old direction of that road, and insist that the matter should have gone before the Courts in order to test the extent of the responsibility. both morally and financially, of those who exceed their powers or commit illegal acts in their fiduciary capacity. The prosecutors of the Union Pacific Railroad suit against the Crédit Mobilier "ring" can avoid this error, and, while insuring the return of the money dishonestly taken from the former company, can test the criminal responsibility of those they charge with having robbed them. The developments will excite a great sensation in financial circles, and will embrace some of our leading financiers, as well as many of our most prominent politicians in their scope. If the suit shall serve to bring the whole secret history of the Crédit Mobilier to the light of day it will be a good thing for the

The Protestant Episcopal Church and Her Foreign Missions.

On Sunday last we announced to our readers that Friday, the 20th, had been set apart by the Protestant Episcopal Church as a day of special prayer, with a view to invoke the Divine blessing on the foreign missionary operations of that Church. It was understood that the day would be so observed in England and all over the British colonies as well as in the United States. Apart altogether from the object, which cannot be too highly commended, there is something exceedingly beautiful in this united action of the Protestant Episcopacy. It has been the standing disgrace of Prot estantism that it wants that unity which the Master so much insisted upon and which has always been the principal characteristic of the Church of Rome.

It is gratifying to know that the day of special prayer was faithfully observed. In most nstances the congregations were large, and the sober, earnest demeanor of the people gave evidence of the interest which is taken in the work of foreign missions. We learn by cable that the day was religiously observed throughout England. The Bishop of London officiated at St. Paul's Cathedral, and Dean Stanley conducted the services at Westminster Abbey. At many of the metropolitan churches. we are told, the congregations were large. We commend this example of united action on the part of the Protestant Episcopal Church to the other Protestant sects. The example ought not to be lost on the Presbyterians, who are now talking of the propriety of holding a grand general council, representative of Presbyterianism throughout the world. A day of special prayer is possible. A general council is beset with some difficulties. As little should the example be lost on the Methodists, the Baptists and the Congregationalists. Our readers, we feel assured, will all join us in the wish that the fervent prayers of Friday last may be heard, and that the Lord of the Harvest may be pleased to send forth laborers into His vineyard. Africa, now more than ever, holds out her hands unto God. "Come and help" is her cry. It will be a shame to the Churches if the help is not promptly and efficiently

THE WEEK IN WALL STREET has been noteworthy for the further decline in gold and the excitement and advance in Erie. While money has been stringent there has been no depres sion in mercantile circles, and the new year is likely to come in upon memories of no unpleasant pature as regards the dving 1872.

Now York Orystal Palace.

During two years past there has been a quiet movement among some of our wealthiest and most enterprising citizens to produce in New York one of those great international shows which, by its gathering samples of the natural and manufactured products of all parts of the world, tend signally to stimulate trade and develope excellence in all the indus-trial arts. London, Berlin and Paris have, in their turn, attracted the curious by World's Fairs, and each has been indebted to its Crystal Palace for a large influx of sight-seers, while its artisans have learned valuable lessons from a comparison of the best products in their several departments. New York, when only a fraction of her present size, had her Crystal Palace Exhibition in Reservoir square, and was justly boastful of it, till fire reduced it and its treasures to a heap of blackened iron bars and formless ruins. Why shall we not have another Exhibition which shall equal that now preparing in Vienna? In 1870 an act of incorporation was procured for this purpose and a contract made to buy eight blocks of land, bounded by Ninety-eighth and 102d streets, Third and Fourth avenues - s high, rocky plot admirably suited for the purpose. Here it is proposed to erect, at a total cost, with the ground, of about ten million dollars, a building of which America would be proud; the whole to be completed and the Exhibition opened for our Centennial Independence Celebration on the Fourth of July, 1876. This new Crystal Palace would be more central than, in its day, the old one was. Its site is near the lines of railways which enter the city from the north, west and east, and is easily reached by horse car lines. Among the names of the gentlemen who are vigorously promoting this enterprise are citizens of the highest sagacity and energy. It proposes for all who have individual or property interests in this city decided and positive advantages, which seem to render it certain that the requisite capital will be quickly raised and the work done. By all means let us push on this project with all practicable speed, and let New York show the world that the commercial capital of the American Republic can organize and carry out a World's Fair as amply attractive as any one yet produced by a European monarchy, in an edifice as vast, complete, appropriate and beautiful as has yet been seen. If we do this we shall all be the wiser, better and richer in more ways than one for New York's new Crystal French National Restitution to the Or-

leans Princes.

The French National Assembly adjourned yesterday for the enjoyment of a Parliamentary recess during the Christmas holidays. Before the completion of their temporary separation the members prepared for a due observance of the great Christma festivals by the accomplishment of an act of public absolution and restitution which will redound vastly to the honor of the republican governmental institution, and may, also, have a very important and decided effect on the constitutional future of the French nation. The Parliament passed, finally, the bill for the restoration to the Orleans Princes of their property which had been confiscated to the State. This action will bring to the family descendants of the late King Louis Phillippe a very large amount of money, footing up in the first instance over forty millions of francs, with a rich territorial patrimony besides. The progeny of the late Bourbon ruler of France numbers to-day fifty-two persons. The project for the main first division of the restituted amount includes eight prominent heads, as will be seen by the HERALD exposition in our columns. The features of legislative arguments for and against the action, which we publish, are quite interesting in view of the results.

RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIA.—The Russian government has, we are assured from St. Petersburg, resolved in Cabinet Council to undertake a campaign against Khiva, in Central Asia. Colonel Makasoff, of the imperial army, has reconnoitred the territory, and, it is alleged, already mapped out the route of the royal army and fixed the points for its encampment. Most important national consequences may result from the movement, for it is almost certain that Great Britain will not permit if she can any northern attempt on Khiva Kashoar or Yarkand, or the completion of any further Russian annexations along the frontier of Western China. The Governor General of India has already refused an application of the Khan of Khiya praying for British material aid against Russia; but whether His Excellency will remain honestly neutral between the belligerents, should war ensue, remains to be seen.

PLYMOUTH ROCK DAY .- This is the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Puritan fathers and mothers at Plymouth Rock, when

The breaking waves dashed high On a stern and rock-bound coast, And the woods, against the stormy sky, Their giant branches toss'd.

And they, the chips of the old block, are oing to have a famous celebration there to-morrow, the two hundred and fifty-seventh anniversary of the disembarkation from the Mayflower, and we wish them a good time.

OLD FATHER THAMES has, as we are told by cable from London, suddenly asserted his power by rising from his slimy bed and swelling up a huge volume of water which overflowed the shore boundary yesterday and inundated the surrounding country. Home Park presents the appearance of a vast lake, and the flood is the greatest which has been seen in that neighborhood since the year 1852. The occurrence of these sudden upneavals of rivers in Europe may be influenced to some extent, independent of rain and storm, by a subterranean volcanic action.

THE CORPORATION ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. - COToration Attorney Thomas C. Fields has sent in his resignation of that office to the Corporation Counsel, Mr. E. Delafield Smith. The Corporation Counsel declines to accept the resignation, very properly holding that Mr. Fields, by deserting his post and abandoning his official duties, has in fact left the office vacant. Mr. Smith will, no doubt, appoint a Corporation Attorney immediately, in order that the public interests may not suffer.

A LUCID INTERVAL FOR FRANCE.—The National Assembly has adjourned over for the Christmas holidays.

The Kernel of the Religious Press. The approach of the holidays seems to have had upon the minds of religious editors an effect very different from what might have been expected. Rarely, if ever, has the religious press been duller and more savorless than in its issues of the past week. Here and there, of course, may be found gleams of intellectual animation; but when it is remembered that if all these weeklies were bound together they would make a mass of printed paper almost as big as the biggest of cyclopædias this is sadly unsatisfactory.

The Liberal Christian has an article drawing a distinction between genuine and spurious "liberality," which has, at any rate, the merit of being plain spoken. It certainly does not mince matters. Here is its keynote: -

does not mince matters. Here is its keynote:—
All those caricatures or misrepresentations of Christianity which make God the enemy of sinners instead of the enemy of sin, the enemy of errors instead of the enemy of error, the contriver of His instead of the enemy of error, the contriver of His instead of the enemy of error, the contriver of His instead of the enemy of error, the contriver of His instead of the enemy of error, the contriver of His instead of the enemy of error, the contriver of His instead of the enemy of His instead of the enemy of His instead of the error end to a tew or many chosen followers, and not as the universal ones; impartial, free from arbitrary choice or the tyranny of more personal sovereignty, are not the gospel of free grace, are not Christianity. What sort of Christianity as liberality is that which, having devised in any human way a propositional creed, makes its articles, or profession and belief in them, conditions of acceptance with God or of communion with Christ or fellowship with Christians? All the courches or accts which make opinions or theological statements or creeds the basis of fellowship or the assumed conditions of savation are illiberal because unchristian.

A careful reservation is, however, subse-

A careful reservation is, however, subse quently made in acknowledgment of the importance of having definite principles; only. whatever be a man's avowed principles, they ought to be rigidly binding upon him; and especially if he holds the dogma of the existence of hell he ought to carry it out to its final consequences. He should frankly tell people that, in his opinion, they will be damned unless they do and believe certain things. This is the liberal Christian's idea of what pulpit honesty and true liberality really is.

The Evangelist has a kind word for the efforts of the Roman Catholic Church in behalf of temperance, concluding with what most people would look upon as the somewhat obvious and commonplace remark that it would "consider the man a narrow bigot who would refuse to rejoice lest temperance reform should lend new respectability to the Roman Catholic Church." So would everybody else, Mr. Evangelist, worth counting.

The Independent, in spite of its strong republican proclivities, indignantly condemns the unconstitutional action of Judge Durell in Louisiana. It believes that Kellogg, being a Senator of the United States, was, by the laws of the State ineligible for the office of Governor. And it thus concludes:-

nor. And it thus concludes:—

When judges on the bench abuse their powers, and go unpunished therefor, then the safety of our political system is assailed at its most vital point. When federal judges are permitted to invade the rights of State officials, and arrest them in the exercise of their authority, then State rights are is imminent perit. The precedent set in Louisiana is an exceedingly bad one, and it should be so thereoughly rebuked that it will not be repeated. It is, in fact, the overthrow of a State government by the interference of federal officers; and no party zeal snould defend it for a moment. The principle at stake is one of the highest consequence to the whole country. The question now is not one of parties; not who is the best or the worst man, warmoth or Kellogg; not whether Kellogg or McEnery was actually elected by the people; not whether gross frauds were perpetrated by both of the contending factions; but whether the constitutional government of a State shall in time of peace be subverted by federal power.

The issue could scarcely be stated in clearer

The issue could scarcely be stated in clearer language.

The Christian Union, after a seasonable column reference to the Star of Bethlehem and the Feast of Hope-a bad new name for a Christmas dinner-points out to the liberal republicans, or the "men without a party," as it styles them, that if they are true to themselves they may do good service yet in the cause of political purity. Thus, they may be perhaps "more earnest defenders" of civil service reform than many of the "orthodox republicans." And the reason for this is laid bare in words which breathe a delicately cynical and man-of-the-world tone that is singularly pleasant in the mouth of a "gentleman of the cloth.'

In general it is much easier for a minority to be steadfast in principle. That is its stock in trade. But the virtue of such steadfastness in the present instance lies in the circumstancs that the declared principles of both parties are so nearly alike as to require of the minority on many questions the surrender of the pleasures of opposition. To follow one's own cold's when another pears them is sometimes a severe test of loyalty. But this, we trust, the liberal republicans will do.

The Chaptur has something to say about

The Observer has something to say about olergymen and funerals. It contends that clergymen are often very discourteously treated in such matters, and this is probably true. But it says, further: -

true. But it says, further:—

Many people turn their back upon the Church, despise and vilify its ordinances, and are openly and avowedly godless and proiane; yet when death comes into their families they call for the rites of religion, and claim them as a matter of course. This is a testimony that in the secret conscience the value of religion is acknowledged. Not clergyman would refuse to render the service they demand; but it should be understood, if it is not, that such a demand is wholly unreasonable, and is compiled with only in that spirit of enlarged Christian charity which is exemplified by no class of men more constantly and magnanimously than by the pastors of churches in a great city. In no department of labor are ministers subjected to more thoughtless wrong than in the matter of funerals. They are expected to be ready at any hour of any day to give their time, without regard to previous duties or present health.

The Methodist hails the last position taken by Strass as a proof of the unsatisfactory

by Strass as a proof of the unsatisfactory character of modern philosophic scepticism. It professes to believe "more and more in our prediction that by, or even before, the close of the present century there will be such a reaction to Spiritualism as the world has never before seen. Men must and will recoil from the despondent results of modern scepticism. They will do so logisally, because they will do so from an overpowering law of their highest nature."

The Golden Age, apropos of the Free Religious Conference the other day, says: -

ious Conference the other day, says:

Until our rationalistic friends make religion their chief objective point, leaving this freedom to come of itself in its own good time, they will count their followers by tens when otherwise they might count them by thousands. There is immense significance in the catholic feeling expressed by Wiseman years ago, that freedom without religion would prove an unmitigated curse. We are realizing something of the truth of his exaggerated statement in all our cities to-day. Freedom without religion is designed in the catholic freedom that is religions can come only from a religion that is free and makes free.

This is the sober opinion, probably, of all

This is the sober opinion, probably, of all who have ever felt the peace that springs from an obedience to that religious instinct which, whatever he may say or try to think, lies at the very depth of every man's true nature. The Tablet discusses the education question

again in a two-and-a-half-column article. It complains that Protestants and infidels seem everywhere anxious to exclude the Catholic clergy and teachers from the public schools. In Prussia, Switzerland, Great Britain, even in France, the same spirit is displayed. Then it expresses the following frank opinion of modern civilization:-

It is, in many respects, below that of our American Indians. It is less spiritual, and more purely ani-