

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXVII. No. 364

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

- WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street.—BROTHER SAM. THEATRE COMIQUE, 54 Broadway.—DRUG DOGS BELL. BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth avenue.—RICHARD III. OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Broecker sts.—LADY OF THE LAKES. WOODS' MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—JACK THE GIANT KILLER. AUTHEUM and Evening. BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—SWAMP ANGELS.—THE HERO OF TOLAND. GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth av.—ROUND THE CLOCK. NIEL'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—LEO AND LOTOS. UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Broadway, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth sts.—SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—OPERAS.—THE JEWEL. ATHENEUM, No. 55 Broadway.—THE THREE HENRIETTES. FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—NEW YEAR'S EVE. MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—DIORAMA. BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. corner 6th av.—NIGHT MINSTRELS, ECCECIVITATE, &c. TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 21 Bowery.—HURRY DUNNY. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, corner 25th st. and Broadway.—ESTRIPAN MINSTRELS, &c. HALL OF EAST SIDE ASSOCIATION, Eighty-sixth st. and Third av.—LECTURE, "CLEAR GUILT." ASSOCIATION HALL, 23d street and 4th av.—PIANO-VORTE SOIREE. NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, Dec. 29, 1872.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

- THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY FINANCES AND ITS EFFECT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CITY: COMPTROLLER GREEN'S INCOMPETENCY.—EDITORIAL LEADER.—SIXTH PAGE. A SEASON OF DISASTERS! SEVERE GALE AND SHIPWRECKS IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL! A BRITISH SHIP WRECKED ON THE LOOCHOO ISLANDS, AND THE CREW, SAVE FIVE, DROWNED.—SEVENTH PAGE. STORM RAVAGES ON THE NEW ENGLAND COAST! THE SUFFERINGS OF THE SHIPWRECKED! THE STEAMSHIPS CUBA AND SIBERIA IN PORT! OTHERS ANXIOUSLY EXPECTED.—SEVENTH PAGE. SNOW-BOUND IN THE SUBURBS! A TERRIBLE SIXTEEN HOURS ON THE RAIL! REPREHENSIBLE NEGLIGENCE OF RAILROAD OFFICIALS! SUFFERING PASSENGERS! HEROISM OF FRANK, THE CONDUCTOR.—THIRD PAGE. ICE GORGING THE FATHER OF WATERS! LOSS OF LIFE AND OF STEAMBOAT PROPERTY! A COAL FAMINE.—SEVENTH PAGE. EUROPEAN CABLE TELEGRAMS! FRENCH ASSEMBLY DISSOLUTION! THE POPE'S INSULT TO THE KAISER! A NEW CUBAN CAPTAIN GENERAL.—SEVENTH PAGE. A DREADFUL DISASTER IN HARLEM! A KITCHEN RANGE EXPLODES, A LADY'S CLOTHES IGNITE AND SHE IS FATALLY BURNED.—PROFESSOR TYNDALL ON RADIATION.—FIFTH PAGE. NON-RECOVERY OF THE REMAINS OF THE CENTRE STREET FIRE VICTIMS! THE WORKINGS OF RED TAPE.—THIRD PAGE. THE STRONGHOLDS OF THE NATION! FRONTIER AND SEABOARD FORTIFICATIONS: THE WORK DONE AND PROPOSED.—TENTH PAGE. DEPARTURE OF THE ADRIATIC! HER BROKEN PROPELLER BLADES: THE COMPANY'S AGENT AND THE CAPTAIN INTERVIEWED: NO DANGER.—THIRD PAGE. SPORTS FOR THE SEASON! SNOW SCULPTURE: THE SHOVELLERS HARD AT WORK: THE SLEIGHING CARNIVAL: SKATING AT THE PARK.—EIGHTH PAGE. FRIENDSHIP FOR CUBA! POPULAR AND PRESS ACTIVITY IN PERU AND CHILE FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE GEM OF THE ANTILLES: PERU AND JAPAN—MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL.—FOURTH PAGE. THE REBELLION ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE: INTERVIEWING THE MODOC BRAVES: VIEWS OF THE LEADERS: CAPTAIN JACK FOR PEACE—THE APACHE WAR.—EIGHTH PAGE. SPIRITED BATTLES BETWEEN NEW YORK AND TROY GAMECOCKS! HEAVY STAKES AND WAGERS: VICTORY PERCHES UPON THE TROJAN "WHITE TAILS"—FIFTH PAGE. CONTINUED TESTIMONY OF EDWARD S. STOKES! HIS COUNSEL RELY UPON ESTABLISHING THE THEORY OF TWO PISTOLS: PROCEEDINGS IN THE VARIOUS COURTS.—FIFTH PAGE. ON 'CHANGE! THE LONG-DRAWN-OUT MONETARY STRINGENCY: AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE WEEKLY BANK STATEMENT: GOLD LOWER—THE ERIE RESTITUTION.—NINTH PAGE. KU KLUX EN ROUTE TO ALBANY PENITENTIARY! CONFESSING MURDERS COMMITTED—THE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT ON THE ORIGIN OF THE RECENT CONFLAGRATIONS.—THIRD PAGE. THE RELIGIOUS RESUME! SERVICES OF TO-DAY: EPISTOLARY POLEMICS: THE ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S MASSACRE.—FOURTH PAGE.

FROM MEXICO we learn that the election ballot-count riots which have just lately disgraced Matamoros were renewed with fatal violence in the streets of Tampico. Eight persons were killed and wounded. Wretched results of a greedy democracy.

THE WEEK IN WALL STREET was a dull one in speculative circles owing to the intervention of the Christmas holiday and the great snow storm. Money was scarce and extravagantly dear, the stock brokers having paid as high as three-eighths per cent a day for its use in their business. Gold closed at 112.

THE OWNERS OF THE STEAMER ADRIATIC, which started for Liverpool yesterday with a damaged screw, deny that there is any danger in consequence of her condition, and insist that she will make good time over despite the injury. It is to be hoped that they are correct in their statements and that their confidence in the vessel is not misplaced. They have certainly incurred a serious responsibility, and notwithstanding their reassuring words the arrival of the Adriatic at Liverpool will be looked for with anxiety by those who have friends on board.

The Management of the City Finances and Its Effect on the Progress of the City—Comptroller Green's Incompetency.

We are quite willing to acquit Comptroller Green of any felonious designs upon the city treasury. We are prepared to concede his integrity in the matter of dollars and cents, and to admit that he is incapable of forging a city warrant or stealing any portion of the city funds. We have not so poor an opinion of the people of New York as to regard him in this respect an exception to other reputable citizens, and we cannot applaud the judgment or good taste of those who deem it necessary to continually blow their ram's horns in the public places and proclaim over and over again the wonderful honesty of our financial head. Nor can we, as public journalists, allow this loudly-heralded reputation to deter us from examining the Comptroller's public acts or from censuring his official conduct where censure is deserved. We see no reason why Mr. Green should be exempt from criticism in his official capacity any more than any other public officer. When the policy he pursues is detrimental to the public interest it is the duty of the independent press to expose and denounce it, and Mr. Green can no longer evade a reckoning with the people by the worn-out cry that he is being assailed only because of his superlative honesty.

We have called upon Comptroller Green to explain why in the first place he stopped the payment of interest by the banks holding the city deposits in the manner inaugurated by Chamberlain Sweeney, continued by Chamberlain Bradley and pressed upon his approval by Chamberlain Palmer, and why, in the second place, he neglected to enforce upon the banks the rule he himself laid down for the crediting of the interest to the several funds, and for a monthly report of the amounts so credited, if he believed this plan to be legal and practicable. The story is a simple one and cannot be befogged by side issues. Before Chamberlain Sweeney took office any interest that might be allowed by the depository banks, or any profit that might accrue from the custody of the city and county funds, went into the pocket of the Chamberlain. The balances in the treasury were kept at a very high figure for the profit of that officer, and upon nearly the whole of these large balances the taxpayers were paying seven per cent interest. The abuse was loudly denounced by the press and the people, and Chamberlain Sweeney, upon taking office, announced that the banks holding the city and county moneys would be required to pay to the city treasury four per cent interest thereon in lieu of simply paying the expenses of the Chamberlain's office. The amount thus received was paid to the Chamberlain and by him placed to the city's credit as a separate fund. This reform secured a double advantage to the taxpayers. As the Chamberlain was no longer interested in the deposits, and as it was not desirable that the city should pay seven per cent interest and receive back four per cent, the balances were kept at a low figure. Nevertheless, the fund thus handed over to the city by Chamberlain Sweeney and his immediate successor for interest received from the banks amounted to nearly five hundred thousand dollars. If the old system had been pursued and the treasury balances kept up to the old standard, Chamberlain Sweeney could have pocketed a million dollars during his term of office.

When Mr. Palmer became Chamberlain he proposed to keep up the practice pursued by his immediate predecessor. The law of 1866, chapter 623, did not require the banks of deposit to pay interest on the city and county moneys, or make any provision for its receipt by any city officer; but it did give the Chamberlain the power to appoint and dismiss at his pleasure a deputy chamberlain and clerks, and to fix their salaries, and it required the banks holding the deposits to pay those salaries and the rent of an office proportionately to the balance held by each. The arrangement inaugurated by Chamberlain Sweeney, and which Mr. Palmer desired to continue, was that the banks should pay four per cent interest on deposits in lieu of these salaries and rents. It was competent for the Chamberlain and the banks to make this compromise, and when the amounts were paid to the Chamberlain every month he made a public statement thereof to the Comptroller, and paid the sums over to the credit of the city. The money thus received went to the general fund, was used for contingent expenses, we presume, and thus was just so much profit or saving to the taxpayers. Comptroller Green, however, in December last, refused to receive the money any longer, and addressed a letter to the Broadway Bank, the designated depository of the city and county moneys, forbidding that bank to pay the Chamberlain any interest whatever, directing that the interest accruing on the daily balances should be placed at the credit of each account, and that the amounts thus credited should be reported each month to the Comptroller. The bank was further notified that no payment of interest would be sanctioned by the Comptroller, except made on warrant, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Comptroller Green, if competent to fill the office he holds, must have known at the time he made this singular order, first, that if possible to be complied with it would lead to confusion and discrepancy between the books of the depositories, who added interest to the several separate accounts, and of the Chamberlain, whose entries would not show any interest, and next, that the money accruing for interest could not be drawn as he proposed on any form of warrant prescribed by law. The arrangement could only be made between the Chamberlain and the banks, and paid by the former, as it had been paid, directly into the city treasury.

In January, 1872, Chamberlain Palmer notified Comptroller Green of these facts, tendered him the interest on the treasury balances, and proposed, if he would withdraw his prohibitory letter of December to the designated bank of deposit, that the checks for the amount of interest should be made out directly to the Comptroller himself instead of to the Chamberlain. In place of complying with this request Mr. Green on February 3 again wrote to the Broadway Bank, reiterating the instructions contained in his December letter, and adding, "As no statements of interest for the months of December and January have been received by this Depart-

ment, I would again request that the same be furnished as required without further delay." No such reports were ever furnished, and a year has been suffered by Comptroller Green to pass away without any interest on the city deposits being paid into the treasury for the benefit of the taxpayers. The city and county balances in the hands of the banks have reached the enormous average daily amount of five millions and a half for the whole year, and thus the taxpayers have been defrauded out of some two hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

Comptroller Green has made no direct official explanation of his singular action. Indirectly he at first professed ignorance of the fact that no interest had been paid by the banks on the city deposits, and pretended to believe that the amounts had been credited to the several accounts as directed by him last December. We exposed the falsity of this pretence by showing that the Comptroller must know of every dollar paid into the bank to the city and county account, and that he receives weekly statements from the Chamberlain of the exact amount placed to the city's credit. The Comptroller must, therefore, have been aware that no interest whatever was allowed or credited on deposits, even if the failure of the banks for a whole year to make the reports called for by him in December and February last had not sufficiently apprised him of the fact. Driven from this excuse the Comptroller endeavors to raise side issues, first, by pretending that Chamberlain Palmer, and not the Comptroller, was responsible for the non-payment of the interest, when he had himself tied the Chamberlain's hands and prevented him from receiving the interest, and next by denouncing the appointment of a bank President as City Chamberlain, and accusing the Chamberlain of illegal action in appointing his own deputy and paying his salary, the Comptroller claiming that the appointment of the Deputy Chamberlain should be made by himself, and that the Chamberlain "has no right to draw money out of the public treasury" to pay the salary of the deputy. "except on a warrant signed in the usual way." We know nothing and care nothing about Chamberlain Palmer's action in the matter, but the policy of appointing a banker as Chamberlain is by no means new. Sheppard Knapp, while Chamberlain, was President of the Mechanics' Bank. Chamberlain Edmonds during his term of office was President of the same bank, and Chamberlain Stout was President of the Shoe and Leather Bank. If Comptroller Green knows anything of the city laws he must be aware that the law of 1866 gives the Chamberlain directly the appointment of his deputy, and that the salary of that officer is not drawn out of the city treasury at all, but is paid by the banks holding the city deposits.

Comptroller Green cannot by these shifts evade the responsibility of having stopped the payment of interest on the city and county deposits and thus taken out of the pockets of the taxpayers unnecessarily in a year over two hundred and twenty thousand dollars. The impression prevails that his personal jealousies and enmities induced this singular and reprehensible course; that he was resolved that neither Chamberlain Sweeney nor Chamberlain Palmer should receive the credit of the creation of an important fund for the benefit of the taxpayers, which the one had inaugurated and the other was desirous of carrying to still greater success. At all events the Comptroller is bound to explain to the citizens an act which upon its face bears a very questionable appearance. The people would like to know why an officer who has been involving the city in suspicious litigation, and who has displayed such excessive watchfulness over the pay rolls of laborers and the accounts of scrub women, should have shown so much incompetency and neglect in a matter involving the loss of a quarter of million dollars to the public treasury. When the Comptroller explains this singular piece of official blundering we have some other questions to put to him on the subject of his management of the financial department of the city government.

The Centre Street Fire—A Cruel and Disgraceful Outrage.

The bodies of the victims of the Centre street fire still remain buried beneath the ruins, while city departments and public officials argue and squabble as to where the power rests to order the removal of the debris and the recovery of the remains. Relatives of the hidden dead hang heartbroken over the snow-covered mass or plead beseechingly to the authorities to restore to them at least the charred and blackened bones of those who were so dear to them in life; but still the ruins remain where they fell and the hands of the officials are bound helplessly in the bonds of red tape. There are those who would gladly undertake the work; the Police Department, the Health Department, the Department of Public Works, would either of them set vigorously to the humane task, without a moment's delay, regardless of authority, but for one fact. They have no money, and the cold shadow of the Finance Department falls upon them and warns them that any work performed in the cause of humanity, if not duly authorized by law and duly approved by the financial head of the government, will not be paid for.

The story is a sickening one and disgraceful to a Christian city. A fire occurs, and seven unfortunate souls perish in the flames and are buried beneath the burning ruins. The police are applied to by the sorrowing relatives of the victims to unearth the remains; but the police find that they are not authorized by law to do so, and they have no fund that can be used for the purpose. They would gladly undertake the work, but the Comptroller would be certain to refuse payment, and their hands are tied. If the Comptroller will sanction the expenditure they will set about the task without delay. The Health Department is approached, but the same reply is given. The Department of Public Works is sought, but there is no obstruction to travel or business, and so a similar answer holds good. The owner is begged to clear away the fatal pile, but if he touches it he vitiate his insurance. The lessee receives a similar request, but he cannot undertake the work—it is the business of the owner. Comptroller Green is the obstruction; get his promise not to throw a capstone, technical obstruction in the way of payment and the work can be done at once. The Coroner addresses a letter to the head of the financial department begging him to come

to the rescue, but night comes on and no answer is received from Comptroller Green. So the dead must lie rotting through the Sabbath in their horrible tomb, and the survivors must continue to sorrow for their double loss.

We are astonished that this outrage upon humanity should be suffered for a single hour in a civilized community. The victims are in humble life, and the apologists for the Fifth Avenue holocaust may on that account regard the recovery of their remains as a matter of little importance. But the dead of Centre street are as dear to the hearts of relatives and friends as are the dead of Fifth Avenue; and we do not believe that any red tape wound by the Finance Department around the arms of the city government would delay the removal of the ruins of a Fifth Avenue mansion, if they covered the remains of six or seven of the wealthy residents of that locality. We call upon the Police Department, as the best prepared and most active, to do this humane work at once, on this very morning; to put all the force necessary from the Street Cleaning Bureau on the job, and to demand the payment of the necessary expense or to charge it to the accounts of the Bureau. We should like to see what public officer would dare to repudiate the bill.

Cuba and the Allied Republics of South America—A Lesson for the United States.

We publish in the HERALD to-day an interesting letter from our special correspondent in Peru, from which it appears that the sympathy so long manifested by the South American republics with the cause of the Cuban revolutionists promises now to take practical shape and to lead to important results. About two months ago Chile led off in the movement in favor of Cuban independence and freedom by public meetings, by newspaper agitation and by the formation of a society for the purpose of extending material aid to the struggling patriots. The earnestness of the Chileans in the cause was manifested by the questioning of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives as to the sentiments and intentions of the government in regard to the Cuban conflict, and, although the Minister diplomatically evaded a direct reply, there are sufficient indications to show that the sympathy prevalent among the people is shared in by the government. Peru has followed the example of Chile, and enters vigorously into the championship of the cause of Cuban independence. The press of the Republic, divided on political questions, is united in advocating active interference to drive the Spaniards from the island. Three plans have been proposed—a loan to the Cuban Republic, secured by national bonds; a South American league, embracing Mexico, for the final liberation of the island, and the immediate enlistment of Peru single-handed in the struggle. Meanwhile it is evident that the Peruvians are in earnest on the subject, and that it would be hazardous for the administration of President Pardo to oppose the popular sentiment.

The developments made by the HERALD Commissioner in Cuba will serve to intensify the desire of the allied Republics to take up the cause of the revolutionists, and will probably hasten positive action on the part of those governments. When it is discovered that after four years' single-handed struggle against the power of Spain the patriots have now in active service an army of twelve thousand men, which would be swelled to fifty thousand if the supply of arms and ammunition enabled them to take the field, the people of Chile and Peru will be the more eager to extend to these brave men the aid which would secure to them the independence for which they have fought so well. The propositions of the Peruvians are not quixotic, as our correspondent mistakenly designates them. Spain is weaker as a military power to-day than she was when Chile won her independence, or when Peru scattered the Spanish army at Ayacucho. All the forces that the Spanish government can raise and rally upon are needed at home to prop the tottering throne and beat back the ever-returning wave of revolution. Cuba has already stood for four years unsubdued, despite the desperate efforts of the Spanish troops and the revolting barbarities of blood-thirsty volunteers. To-day the Republic has an army of ten or twelve thousand men in the field, and a united people behind it ready to swell its ranks as soon as weapons and ammunition can be secured. Very small outside aid is needed to turn the Cuban patriots into the aggressors and enable them to drive the Spaniards from their island, as they were driven from Chile nearly sixty years ago and from Peru within the last half century. An active movement of the South American Republics in favor of Cuban independence would render the final result of the struggle certain, and that result would be in favor of freedom, humanity and civilization.

The great Republic of the United States stands rebuked before the action of Chile and Peru. Again we hear of the disgraceful provision in the convention manufactured at Washington by which we sought to tie the hands of the South American republics and to deprive the struggling Cubans of any aid from those sympathizing friends. Chile and Peru refuse to ratify the convention because of this cruel provision, and our government has to add to the shame of this pandering to Spanish interests the humiliation of the defeat of its scheme. Apart from this, it is neither creditable to us as the leading republic of the world, nor flattering to our self-esteem as a people to allow the little States of South America to outstrip us in the race of humanity and to teach us the duty of a free government towards a people who, by a four years' successful struggle against foreign oppression have fairly won their title to independence. Nevertheless, we hail with satisfaction the prospect of an active movement on the part of the allied republics of South America in aid of the Cuban cause; the more so since it is certain that the brave policy of Chile and Peru will render it impossible for our government to remain longer in the unenviable position it now occupies with regard to Spain and Cuba.

ENGLISH AGRICULTURISTS.—Speaking of a late London meeting in behalf of agricultural laborers and better wages, the Standard urges that the proper cure for the grievance is emigration. It advises the ill-paid farmers to carry their labor where there is large demand for it and land is to be had for the taking. Pointing to the colonies it says, "There is your heritage." Our Castle Garden statistics show that very

many of the English agriculturists take the same view of the subject, except that they mostly locate their promised land south of the forty-ninth parallel and the St. Lawrence.

The Ice Flood in the Mississippi—Prepare for Ice Gorges in the Rivers.

The telegrams last night from the West give alarming tidings of the rising flood in the Mississippi. The snows, which began on the 19th instant in the Upper Valley of the "Father of Waters," were heavy and prolonged, and the indications are that they will be dissolved without delay. If the winter season were more advanced we might hope that the cold would be sufficient to retain them in the crystalline or solid state; but the appearances are now against this conclusion. At eight o'clock yesterday the thermometer in Western Minnesota had risen thirty degrees in eight hours, and at five o'clock in the afternoon the temperature had increased nearly twice as much, making a total change of fifty-four degrees, Fahrenheit, in sixteen hours. The change in the barometric column from high to low pressure was also indicated, and the same conditions prevailed southward and eastward of Minnesota to Keokuk and Davenport. The temperature also in the Upper Missouri was above the freezing point. The freshest at Memphis, reported as so high and destructive in the morning and at noon, had increased in the evening, and at five o'clock the river at that city had risen forty-four inches in the past twenty-four hours. At Cincinnati the Ohio had risen nearly a foot, and in a few hours promises to add its vast volume of ice and water to the already surging current of the Mississippi. Should the Missouri add its floods the devastation south of Cairo will be immense.

The evening reports indicate no rise in the Ohio at Pittsburg, and it is probable the fountains of the Upper Ohio are still sealed by ice. But with the eastward advance of the low barometric conditions, and the high temperatures from Iowa and the Far West, they must soon be unlocked. An immense amount of snow is known to have fallen in New York and along the Alleghenies, and it is not improbable there will be considerable volumes in all the rivers running westward to the Ohio as well as eastward to the sea. If the winter were more advanced the danger would not be so great; but no reliance can be placed upon the non-dissolution of the heavy snows of the past week. It may be well for the cities lying on the Hudson and the Susquehanna to secure themselves against all possibilities of heavy ice gorges.

Rome and Switzerland.

It is now some weeks since we called the attention of our readers to the little trouble which had arisen in Switzerland between Rome and the Cantonal authorities. The trouble was of a twofold character. According to the laws of the Helvetic Confederation no new diocese can be created or bishop appointed without the consent of the civil authorities. It is also contrary to Swiss law for the bishop to depose priests without the consent of the State. In both those particulars the laws of the Swiss Confederation have been violated by the Church. Some time since M. Mervillod, Curé of Geneva, was appointed by the Pope Bishop of Hebron, auxiliary of Geneva, exercising functions, however, in Switzerland. The State, of course, refused to recognize his authority; and the Bishop, rebelling, he was forbidden the exercise of his episcopal functions in Swiss territory. The matter was referred to the Pope, and the Pope stood by the Bishop. Such is the one case. The other case is that of the Bishop of Basle, who, without consent of the State authorities, dismissed two anti-infallibilist priests. The State authorities, after some patient consultation, denied the right of the Bishop so to excommunicate, enjoined him to rescind the excommunication he had pronounced, summoned him to appear before them to explain his conduct, and finally demanded the immediate removal of the Vicar General. The matter has at last been ended by the breaking up of all relations between the Swiss government and the Vatican. The Papal Chargé d'Affaires and attaches have been recalled, and the presumption is that the Papal Legation at Lucerne will be abolished. This must be a fresh source of anxiety to the Holy Father. It must, however, be admitted that in misfortune he fights well.

SNOW AND THE CITY RAILROADS.—The late storm has shown the inadequacy of our city railways. Some of them have suspended their trips entirely. Others, doubling their teams, have kept at work, though running irregularly. The Third Avenue Company, in particular, showed great energy in clearing its tracks. But, at the best, they only suggest how much better the service could be done by steam. It is to be hoped the experience of the last week may hasten the realization of some efficient rapid transit scheme. From various parts of the city we receive complaints that the companies, with their ploughs and patent sweepers, throw the snow from their tracks upon the sidewalks, to the great annoyance of foot passengers and householders. In consideration of their valuable franchises the companies should be required by city ordinance to clear their lines by removing the encumbrance from the street altogether. This they could do, with their large force of men and teams, at small expense, and it would be but simple justice to the residents along the lines, who are incommoded and put to expense by the present practice.

THE LONDON TELEGRAPH expects from President Grant's second term fresh additions to our galaxy of republican stars. It says the Cuban patriots have maintained their war of independence for four years, and concludes that the Spanish government is unable to put down the insurrection. If the insurgents are recognized as belligerents it thinks arms and ammunition from this city, and volunteers from our Southern ports, would soon turn the tide of the rebellion against Spain. It does not undertake to prophesy whether Cuban independence would lead to her incorporation into our Union. We take the liberty to say that the people of the United States will hail the independence of Cuba or of Canada, though they do not desire their annexation, and would prefer the formation of a confederacy of independent American republics which would enforce the Monroe doctrine against any European Power intermeddling in American affairs.

The Woman Suffrage Movement in England.

The woman suffrage question has begun to ripple the surface of political life in England. The *John Bull*, an ardent High Church and Tory journal, lately said editorially:—"We believe that the Tory party will cordially support the claims of women, themselves householders and possessors of property, to the electoral franchise, believing that the right to a vote should be given with regard to property and not to sex." The article in the *John Bull* has given rise to much discussion, the *Standard* adopting the suggestion and warmly encouraging the new idea. On the other hand, the *Daily Telegraph* is furiously opposed, and puts the question, "Why should not new elections turn on green tea, double pearl buttons or scarlet fever of a malignant type?" The *Daily Telegraph*, in the heat of its rage, uses language which does not speak well for its gallantry. This is not well:—"Votes and surgery are equally desired, simply because all daughters of Eve must by their nature long for forbidden fruit." Later the *Pall Mall Gazette* has taken up the cudgel, and, among other things, tells the conservative party that if they adopt the platform of woman suffrage "it will bring immense discredit on party consistency." It is a pretty little fight as it stands. It argues, we think, great poverty of ideas on the part of the conservatives. If they have no grander cause to champion than that of woman suffrage, they have but small chance to succeed in putting down the Gladstone Ministry. Mr. Gladstone can, with much more consistency than Mr. Disraeli, adopt the woman suffrage question.

Christmas Week in the Religious Press.

Christmas-tide and its eternal teaching of peace and good will to men receive from the religious editors this week their usual measure of enthusiastic attention, and, indeed, somewhat "crowds out," to use the technical slang of journalism, the discussion of more disputed topics. But this is as it should be. For surely, if ever secular knights of the quill can be moved by the gentle influences of this happy season into charity and mutual forgiveness, their religious brethren should at least "do likewise." There are, however, a few exceptions to this pleasant rule, as will be seen by our review below of the "spirit of the religious press."

The *Christian Union* indulges in some dreams of fancy about a "good time coming" in Congress, when the political lambs and lions shall lie down together and devote themselves to the making of good laws and not to the spouting of "rowdy rhetoric." This is about as remote, we think, as the millennium itself; but it is a wish which the genial influences of the season may well engender. And if it ever should be realized we quite agree with the sentiment of the following peroration:—

It is hoping for too much to hope that, sooner or later, the District of Columbia may cease to be the centre of mercenary intrigue and of minor politics—that within its limited area may be concentrated the best thought and the noblest designs of the country—that, free from the dangers and temptations of larger cities, it may show a beautiful cultivation of religion and of the arts of manly and womanly graces! of single-hearted patriotism and of a political wisdom so rare that we may well regard it as peculiar!

The *Methodist* confesses to being a little astonished to see "how patronizing the new school of sceptical science is to the Almighty." It then adduces Professor Tyndall's already famous criticism of the mechanism of the human eye, which our readers remember he indicted as marred by many defects. It adds:—

He is a bold man who can assume that he carries in his own mind the absolute norm of a world creation, or, what is the same thing, that he can decide that such and such is the absolute norm as it exists in the Creator's mind. The answer to such an assumption is that there are not any other men in a position to see all of the Creator's design, nor to comprehend the whole of the processes of creative art—in a word, that the extent of human intelligence must be remembered in all our criticisms of nature.

The rebuke strikes us as needed. Taking the eye as we find it, it seems to us to fulfil its purpose with a fair degree of success, and even if, as Professor Tyndall suggests, it might have been a much more satisfactory effort of creative art, we are, on the whole, quite content with what the Almighty has given us. In heaven, we have no doubt, the Professor will be permitted to model his own eyes. But perhaps the Professor does not believe in heaven.

The *Independent* and the *Golden Age* are at one, or nearly so, in regard to the Louisiana question, widely as they differed during the course of the campaign. The former cries out for "protection against domestic violence." It says:—

We are not alarmists, and certainly not hostile to the President, but the principles involved in this Louisiana dispute go far beyond the mere question of government. They raise an issue in respect to which we cannot be indifferent. If the results of state elections can be determined in the way which they were determined in Louisiana, and if the executive power of the President may be invoked to sustain these results, then, indeed, we have reached the end of State Government. They exist only by sufferance. The very provision of the constitution which was intended for their protection is at once and forever become the instrument of their destruction. We can have no sympathy with and lend no support to such a fatal centralization as this implies.

And the *Golden Age* expresses the same ideas in equally forcible words:—