

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- THEATRE COMIQUE, 614 Broadway.—Disco Dingo Bell.
BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth Avenue.—Richard III.
OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker Sts.—Les Cinq Yveues.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 1872.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

- "THE FINANCIAL POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND TO WHAT IT LEADS"—CHIEF EDITORIAL TOPIC—SIXTH PAGE.
OCCIDENTAL INFLUENCE IN EAST AFRICA! HONORS BY THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR TO UNITED STATES NAVAL OFFICERS! HIS LOVE FOR AMERICANS AND PROMISED AID IN CRUSHING THE SLAVE TRADE! SIR BARTLE FRERE—SEVENTH PAGE.
WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRUSSIAN LEGATION FROM THE PAPAL COURT! THE AMBASSADOR QUITS ROME! GERMAN JOURNALS THREATENED WITH CONFISCATION—SEVENTH PAGE.

The Financial Policy of the Government and to What It Leads.

The Treasury Department has been for some time past the most active and powerful agent in fostering speculation, and, consequently, in disturbing values and demoralizing the business community.

It is but fair to admit that this state of things primarily grow out of the war and the financial measures of the government during the war. The suspension of specie payments; the enormous loans and indebtedness of the government; the establishment of the national banks and their hybrid currency, which is a governmental and private bank currency at the same time; the revenue system, with a mixed currency taxation and specie imposts that draws a vast surplus revenue from the country and keeps the Treasury gorged with gold, and the practice of purchasing bonds in liquidating the debt and selling surplus gold arbitrarily and without fixed rules, have, to some extent, resulted from the necessities and consequences of the war.

While making due allowance for the legacy of the vicious financial system or policy which the present Secretary of the Treasury inherited, we insist that he is inexcusable for following in the old war rut seven years after peace has been established, and for not bringing the country out of the mire. Looking at the almost boundless resources of the country, at the fact that the enormous floating war debt, as well as a large amount of the fixed debt, had been liquidated four years ago and before he came into power, and also at the fact that he has had both the time and influence to improve upon the past and to establish a sound system of finance and currency, it is evident he is incompetent for the important position he holds.

Seven years of peace, plenty and surprising growth in wealth, through the blessings of Providence, a fruitful country and the industry of the people—a material prosperity unprecedented in the history of nations—yet the credit of the Republic is below that of many other nations, notwithstanding Mr. Boutwell's palpable misstatement to the contrary; and the people are yet taxed almost as heavily as in war times, and we are about as far from specie payments or a sound currency system as ever. Gold gambling and speculation are as rampant as ever, from the same causes that operated during the war—the unsound principle upon which the national finances were conducted and the mismanagement of them, and the want of a good and well defined financial policy on the part of the government.

The policy of the Secretary of the Treasury, or of the administration, as well as that of the dominant party in Congress, has been in favor of rings or cliques of individuals, as distinguished from and in opposition to the general welfare. The government all through might properly be called a ring government. There is the well-known Treasury ring, which profits by Mr. Boutwell's gold, currency and bond operations in the market; the syndicate ring, which manipulates the national securities and makes enormous fortunes by the process; the national bank ring, which takes twenty millions a year from the public as profits on circulation, and which aims at extinguishing the greenback legal tenders, absorbing the whole currency of the country and making that currency irredeemable; the railroad ring, which seizes all the best of the public lands and calls for subsidies besides; the postal telegraph ring, which wants the government to buy or establish telegraph lines, or to become responsible, and then to give it the control and profits; the rings for gigantic internal improvements at government cost, or under the guarantee bonds of the government, as recommended by the President in his Message; and a number of other rings to draw money from a plethoric Treasury and to fleece the tax-paying people. These are all favored by the Treasury Department, and have numbers of interested and partisan supporters in both houses of Congress. The main object of the high officials of government and Congressmen is now to make themselves or their friends rich by all sorts of schemes and at the expense of the people. There never has been before, in the whole history of the country, such demoralization among public men—such a determination to favor jobs of all kinds, and so much indifference to principle and the

The East African Slave Trade—The United States Steamship Yantic at Zanzibar.

A cable despatch from Zanzibar, dated December 18, special to the HERALD, informs us that the United States steamship Yantic, commanded by Captain Wilson, had arrived at that port on the 10th instant, and furnishes some interesting particulars of a visit made to the Sultan on the following day by the United States Consul, Mr. John F. Webb, Captain Wilson and the officers of the Yantic.

According to the despatch the reception given to the company was of the most cordial description. As they approached the palace the Sultan advanced towards them through lines of body guards, drawn up in front of the royal mansion, and for the first time in fifteen years a salute was fired by what is called the Water Battery in honor of an American vessel. The formal introduction having been got over, the Sultan led Consul Webb, Captain Wilson and his officers to the Divan, where, according to Eastern custom, coffee and sherbet were served. Captain Wilson took advantage of the opportunity to express, through Consul Webb, the sentiments of the American people regarding the East African slave trade, with the maintenance of which His Majesty was so much identified. It was the hope of the American people, as Captain Wilson put it, that the Sultan would consent to the abrogation of the clause in the treaty arrangements made with England in 1840—a clause which permits slavery to be maintained in Zanzibar and throughout the dominions of the Sultan. It was necessary for the Sultan, before he could give a formal and definite answer to the address of Captain Wilson, to consult with his Vizier, or Chief Minister. There was but little delay, however, for on the 17th the reply was received. According to the Sultan it is now thirty-three years since he was forbidden by his father to export slaves to the territory of Muscat. Since that time the only slaves that have arrived at Muscat from East Africa have been taken there without his knowledge or consent. It is the chiefs of the tribes of Ouman along the Persian Gulf who are to blame for whatever of the slave trade is now carried on in those regions. It is the determination of the Sultan, however, that, if there has been any remission on his part hitherto, there shall be no neglect of his duty in the future; and in deference to the wishes of the American people, whom he loves, he has promised to put forth all his strength to make an end of slavery throughout his borders. In addition to the Yantic, Her Britannic Majesty's war steamer Briton is now lying at Zanzibar. She awaits the arrival of the British yacht Enchantress, which brings Sir Bartle Frere and suite, and two other vessels which are expected, The Yantic, it is added, will not leave Zanzibar until the arrival of Sir Bartle Frere.

The Brooklyn Ring—Are the People To Be Cheated Out of Reform?

The good people of the city of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's and other churches made a vigorous attempt at the last election to secure for themselves a solid and substantial municipal reform. They entered into the contest against corruption regardless of former political associations and did their best to break that powerful piece of municipal mechanism known as the city "ring." A Committee of Reform was established—fortunately for the Brooklynites it was composed of only fifty members—meetings were held, virtuous speeches were made, virtuous resolutions adopted and nothing was neglected that could aid in securing the triumph of virtue at the polls. Such energy could not go unrewarded, especially as the fifty did not seek offices for themselves, and the consequence was that in most instances the reform candidates were elected. The tainted gentry—the men with diamond carthwheels in their shirt bosoms and a ruby tint in their bloated faces—made a desperate struggle before the Board of Aldermen, for in that power, experience told them, was to be found the most promising source of profit. But the reformers succeeded in obtaining a majority of two, we believe, in the Board, counting republicans and reform or independent democrats; and "our army in Flanders" never swore more roundly than did the army congregated about the saloons in the vicinity of the Brooklyn City Hall when this result was ascertained.

There has recently been a revival among the members of the old "ring," however, for it has been whispered about that certain Aldermen, elected under the banner of reform, were prepared to sell out to the gang, and to restore to them their power to plunder the city at their will. Bargains have been reported to have been made looking to the distribution of the several appointments and to new ring combinations for business in the Board. Two or three reformers have displayed a sort of reluctance to act with their associates, a disposition to cavil and obstruct, which is entirely inconsistent with their professions before election; and this has given color to the rumor. Of course, they are unwilling to declare boldly their intention to take part with the corruptionists who were overthrown by the people last November; but they hang back from their honest associates, and linger to listen to the words of their dishonest tempters. The reformer who hesitates is lost, and the natural conclusion is that these vacillating Brooklyn reformers are making up their minds to lose their virtue.

The people will keep their eyes upon these men, and will hold them responsible for the defeat of reform if, directly or indirectly, they aid in retaining in power a single member of the old Brooklyn "ring." They cannot betray their trust and escape condemnation. If they are honest they will act with the reform majority—republicans, independent democrats and all. The war against corruption is one independent of party. On that issue the battle was fought and the victory won at the polls. If the fruits of that victory are to be sacrificed, and if the citadel, after being carried, is to be treacherously surrendered back to the enemy, the people will mark the traitors in their camp, and hold them to a strict reckoning in the future.

A PRINCE CONVICTED OF FORGERY.—Prince Michael Lousignan, a lineal descendant of the kings of Cyprus, Jerusalem and Armenia, has just been tried in St. Petersburg under an indictment charging him with forgery. He was convicted and sentenced to exile in the Ural country. The Prince's father was, at one period of his life, one of the most brilliant of the adopted sons and soldiers of the Empire of the Czars. The career of the son was unfortunate. Penury came to him, and crime followed. The history of the case is exceedingly melancholy, particularly in view of the fact that the aged father of the convict was present in court during the proceedings.

Imperial government generally. On Sunday we printed a cable despatch from Berlin giving brief extracts from the North German Gazette, a government journal. The Gazette, alluding to the Papal allocation, speaks of the "colossal impudence of the Pope," declares the language used in the allocation to be "an unpardonable insult to the Emperor of Germany," and says that it "proves the inevitable necessity which exists for the immediate passage of a law defining the boundaries between the State and the Roman Catholic Church."

This morning we print another cable despatch from Berlin on the same subject. The journals of Königsberg and Posen have been forbidden, on pain of confiscation, to publish the insulting references to Germany contained in the allocation. In addition to this we have it reported that there is a probability that the German Chargé d'Affaires at the Vatican will be forbidden to attend the reception of the diplomatic body by the Pope in the Vatican on the 1st of January. Later reports have it that the German Chargé d'Affaires, after having told Cardinal Antonelli that he had instructions from Berlin to take unlimited leave of absence, had actually closed the Legation and left Rome for Berlin. If this is not an open rupture, it looks like one. Who is to blame is a question which by different persons will be differently answered. It is more pertinent to ask which will suffer most, Rome or Germany, the Pope or Emperor William.

Journalism in the United States—The Lesson of Mr. Hudson's Book.

The publication of Mr. Frederic Hudson's book on journalism in the United States has one or two aspects which are as interesting as they are novel. No one had ever before attempted a systematic history of the American newspaper press, and few publishers would have been bold enough to bring out a book dealing exclusively with a subject upon which everybody thinks himself thoroughly well informed. Harper & Brothers, almost as much as Mr. Hudson, are entitled to credit for occupying this fresh field and contributing to the advance of the newspaper profession by the publication of a work which so fully details both the history and the theory of American journalism. Regard it in whatever way we may choose, Mr. Hudson's book is of great practical worth. As a repository of facts it is invaluable. As the first formal outgrowth of journalistic thinking it cannot fail to have a decided influence. In many respects it must give a new impetus both to newsgathering and to the growth of the American newspaper.

People nowadays read the papers almost exclusively for the news. Opinions are not valuable, even when they are free from the bias of prejudice or self-interest, unless they throw some additional light upon the topics of the hour. That paper has the largest circulation which most nearly supplies the public want. Class papers are confined to the classes for which they cater, and as a rule are unsatisfactory even to these. There are papers intended for the different nationalities in America, but people look to the HERALD rather than to them for the news from European countries. Literature and art have their representative journals, but everybody looks to the HERALD for the freshest criticism on books and actors and singers, and expects to get it as crisp and forcible as any other matter of news. Politics has its press, but the distinctively political journal is becoming a thing of the past. There was a time when no editor attempted to print a newspaper unless he sustained his party and was in turn sustained by it. The decay of the party paper began with the birth of the independent press. Mr. Hudson asks, somewhat mournfully, "Where is the Globe, the Thunderer of Jackson's administration? Where is the National Intelligencer, that controlled the destinies of the Whig party? Where is the Boston Atlas? the Courier and Enquirer? Where are hundreds of journals that made their mark on the public mind within a short space of time? All gone. Where are the power and influence of the Albany Argus and Richmond Enquirer and Ohio Statesman today?" The value of his work is, to a great extent, in tracing the career of these papers to their downfall or decay; but it is even more valuable in showing the progress of the journals which fill a wider and better place.

The Centre Street Exhumations.

During the whole of yesterday the dismal work of searching for bodies in the ruins of the Centre street fire continued. A large force was employed, doing earnest work, but night came on without the discovery of any of the missing companions of Jennie Stewart, the exhumation of whose remains soon after the work began on Sunday stimulated the laborers and demonstrated the propriety and necessity of the undertaking. After the matter had once been cleared of its disgraceful entanglement of red tape by Justice Dowling's generous offer to defray the expense, there was no fear of its pausing until the last fragment of the wreck had been moved which could conceal any trace of those unfortunate operatives whose lives have been sacrificed to the recklessness of landlords or employers. No doubt the article in Sunday's HERALD exposing the infamy of the delay to search for the bodies was the prompting cause which led to the action of Justice Dowling and Captain Kennedy. In that we spoke the sentiment of the people. This was recognized by our citizens generally, as it was in the Council of the International, which resolved without waiting for the municipal authorities to begin the search. No sooner had the manly and impulsive Police Justice, in response to our article, uttered the magic words which called a battalion of laborers to the work than his example was emulated by Mr. Morgan Jones with a liberal offer of money. Yesterday Alderman Peter Gilsey put five hundred dollars in the hands of Captain Kennedy to be expended in the search. We are happy to state that at length, on the matter being brought to the attention of Comptroller Green, that officer has assured the Coroner of his co-operation and support. Since, therefore, there is no further difficulty about the financial responsibility for the work, it will be carried forward with that zeal for which Captain Kennedy is distinguished, and whatever the elements have spared will be recovered to tell the frightful tale of the Christmas Eve holocaust.

Germany and Rome.

It was only on Saturday we announced the formal breaking up of all diplomatic relations between Rome and the Swiss Confederation. It now seems as if a similar rupture had taken place between Rome and Germany. It will be remembered that a few days ago we printed a brief synopsis of the Pope's allocation, delivered at a Consistory held in the Vatican on the 23d instant, and in which he spoke severely of Spain, bitterly of Italy, and denounced in the most unqualified terms the German Emperor particularly and the German

Imperial government generally. On Sunday we printed a cable despatch from Berlin giving brief extracts from the North German Gazette, a government journal. The Gazette, alluding to the Papal allocation, speaks of the "colossal impudence of the Pope," declares the language used in the allocation to be "an unpardonable insult to the Emperor of Germany," and says that it "proves the inevitable necessity which exists for the immediate passage of a law defining the boundaries between the State and the Roman Catholic Church."

The Last Day of the Dying Year—The Record of 1872.

Give him a place to lay his regal head, Give him a tomb beside his brothers gone, Give him a tablet for his deeds and name. We have entered upon the last day of the dying year, and with "the iron tongue of midnight" we shall have again the old chorus—"The King is dead; the King lives; long live the King." There will be many sad memories revived over the king that goes out; but there will be general rejoicings over the incoming of his successor. The old year, in the political affairs of mankind, has been comparatively a year of peace; but in the strange perturbations of the physical world it has been unusually tempestuous and disastrous. Since the last day of last December the peace and the general confidence in the peace of Europe have not been disturbed, save by apprehensions, from time to time, of a revolutionary crisis in France, or by revolutionary outbreaks in Spain, or by the shadows of the International; and yet the great Powers have each and all been actively preparing for war. The meeting of the three Emperors at Berlin was proclaimed as an imperial conference in behalf of peace; yet Germany, Russia and Austria are all arming as industriously as France. They have no hostile designs against France, but, with all their professions of good will, they distrust her turbulent republicans and they distrust each other. They are all anxiously awaiting the reopening of the crisis in the French Assembly, and Germany stands ready to act at a moment's warning. The peace which has prevailed in Europe through the year is, indeed, only the peace of an armistice, and until some regular form of government, by the will of the people, shall have been proclaimed for France there can be no reliance upon this uncertain peace of Europe.

In our own country we have had a year of extraordinary political excitements and agitations, from January to December. On the 1st day of January in New York the outgoing Common Council adopted articles of impeachment against Mayor Hall, which were promptly repealed by the incoming Common Council on the same day. The chapter of accidents and incidents in the cause of city reform since that day will culminate to-morrow with the retirement of Mayor Hall and the inauguration of Mayor Livingston. Again, on the 3d day of January last there were political riots in New Orleans and a split in the Legislature which resulted in the removal of Speaker Carter. To-day the confusion of the Louisiana State government, in all its departments, legislative, executive and judicial, is worse confounded than ever, with no prospect of an immediate pacification between the adherents of Warmoth, the Governor deposed, and of Pinchback, the Governor set up in his place. The year has also been marked by one of the most exciting, embittered and scandalous of all our disgraceful Presidential agitations, and by results the most remarkable and decisive, and in some respects the most melancholy and deplorable in all the vicissitudes of our political parties and party leaders. With all the attending circumstances, from the beginning to the end, there is hardly a more lamentable chapter in the history of our party politics than that of the rise and fall and death of Horace Greeley. On the other hand, since the re-election of President Monroe in 1820, no administration at Washington has been so emphatically endorsed by the people as that of General Grant in his overwhelming re-election. If, however, General Grant is inclined to the idea that this popular endorsement of his first term is equivalent to a carte blanche for his second term, he will act wisely in wholly rejecting it. We do not suppose that he has the remotest idea of presuming upon the will of the people or of assuming doubtful responsibilities; but the new departure of lavish expenditures suggested in his recent Message, including internal improvements and steamship subsidies, is, indeed, a wide departure from his original programme of economy, retrenchment and reform. We know not what may be the developments of his second term, but let us hope for the best.

Even from his late Message we have hopes of a new line of policy in reference to our relations with Spain and Cuba, and with the reconstruction of his Cabinet we look for some definite movement in the right direction. Having settled our late outstanding accounts with England and enjoying the most amicable relations with France, Germany, Russia and Italy, he has at least a most inviting opportunity for a definite and comprehensive settlement with Spain. Upon this subject, too, with the passing away of the year 1872, the prospect of a settlement satisfactory to the American people is much better than it was a year ago. Hardly any other event within the year, at home or abroad, has excited so much of public interest and satisfaction as our African explorer Stanley's discovery of Dr. Livingstone, and never has the finding of a lost traveller promised so much to Africa and to the general interests of civilization as Stanley's finding of Livingstone. We trust that the enterprises of the HERALD during the year which we are about to enter will be marked by successes as important as those of the year which is closing; for though Livingstone has been found and the Swamp Angels have been exterminated or dispersed, and though Cuba appears to be hard nut to crack, there are still opening before us many inviting fields for the modern journalist, of which we may give a good report. And, "with malice toward none and charity for all," let us "speed the parting and welcome the coming guest."

Of them many newspapers have ceased to exist. So far journalism has been too much of an experiment, and it was not till after the establishment of the HERALD that its true functions came to be understood. The success of this paper has demonstrated that it is the newspaper that best succeeds, and Mr. Hudson's book, so full of facts as to be the storehouse of newspaper statistics, enforces the same lesson from the beginning to the end of the volume.

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