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JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

- WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street.—Brother Sam. Matinee at 1 1/2.
BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth avenue.—Richard III. Matinee at 2.
THEATRE COMIQUE, 814 Broadway.—O'Connor's Child. Matinee.
OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Horston and Bleeker streets.—Les Bugards. Matinee at 2.
ROBERTS THEATRE, Bowery.—Two Sports.—Crime, or, Secrets of City Life.
GERMANIA THEATRE, Fourteenth street, near Third av.—Der Meindobler.
WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—The Fastest Boy in New York. Afternoon and Evening.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth av.—Round the Clock. Matinee at 1 1/2.
ATHENIUM, No. 55 Broadway.—The Devil Among the Tailors. Matinee at 2 1/2.
NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—Leo and Loton. Matinee at 1 1/2.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Broadway, between Thirtieth and Fourteenth streets.—Athletick Court.
MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—D'YORCE.
BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st., corner 6th av.—Nero's Mistress, Secessionist, &c. Matinee.
TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 211 Bowery.—A Miser's Life. Matinee at 2 1/2.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, corner 25th st. and Broadway.—Etiollian Minstrelsy, &c.
STEWART HALL, Fourteenth street.—Grand Spectacular Concert.
NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—Science and Art.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Saturday, Jan. 11, 1873.

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FOREIGN DIPLOMACY AT THE COURT OF CHINA.—News from Hong-Kong, China, to New York, and published in the Herald, within twenty-four hours, affords another remarkable proof of the rapid progress of the civilizations which are interlacing the peoples of the earth in the community of knowledge. Apart from the fact of the rapidity of its transmission the despatch is not of very great importance to the outside population. It tells of the arrangement of an Asiatic-foreign diplomatic court coat-tail and breeches question near the throne of the Emperor. The foreign ambassadors have gained their point, and are to enjoy their triumph over a time-honored nativist custom on the first day of the next Chinese Moon, whenever that may occur. Perhaps the youthful monarch will find, like the Old Man in the Moon, that he "came down too soon."

Secretary Fish, the Cuban Question and the Spanish Government.

The State Department has epidemic fits and relapses on the Cuban question and in its intercourse with the Spanish government. The history of its treatment of that question during the four years of civil war in Cuba is a curious one, and not at all complimentary as to the consistency, ability or humanity of the American government. The long Washington despatch we published yesterday, revealing the action of Secretary Fish and Minister Sickles with regard to the Cuban insurrection, slavery in Cuba, the conduct of the Spanish authorities in the island toward American citizens and other matters pertaining to Cuba, shows one of these spasmodic but utterly fruitless efforts to induce Spain to execute her often repeated promises to do justice to our citizens and to grant reforms to Cuba. The substance of the matter contained in this synopsis of official correspondence between Mr. Fish and General Sickles has appeared before and been commented on in our columns, though our Washington despatch of yesterday was more full and authoritative. The communication referred to from Mr. Fish to General Sickles is dated the 29th of October last, and is an energetic protest against Spanish faithlessness, the maintenance of slavery in Cuba and the terrible state of things in that island. But since that was written the State Department appears to have relapsed into a state of indifference, being satisfied, we suppose, with having made the usual wordy red tape demonstration. We are led to this conclusion from the anti-Cuban and pro-Spanish tone of Secretary Fish's remarks to our Washington correspondent a few days ago. Thus the sea-saw of remonstrance and indifference, of apparent sympathy for Cuba and apology for Spain, is kept up, making this great Republic appear ridiculous in the eyes of the world and creating disgust in the minds of the American people.

While we regret that our government has not pursued a more consistent course, and that it did not persistently follow up the policy General Grant avowed shortly after his inauguration and while General Rawlins lived and was one of the Cabinet, we are ready to give Mr. Fish all the credit he deserves for his manly, vigorous and high-toned American despatch of the 29th of October to Minister Sickles. He calls General Sickles' attention to the fact that the present Ministry of Spain had given assurances to the public, through their organs of the press, and had confirmed the assurance to General Sickles personally, of their intention to put into operation a series of extensive reforms, embracing among them some of those which this government has been earnest in urging upon their consideration in relation to the colonies which are our near neighbors. The Secretary then goes on to show that the Spanish government, partly at the instance of the United States, passed a law providing for the gradual emancipation of the slaves in the West Indian colonies, and that this law remains a dead letter; that, in fact, the regulations issued professedly for its execution are not only inadequate to effect emancipation, but are really in the interest of the slaveholder and for the continuance of the institution of slavery. This is a serious charge against the Spanish government, though wrapped up in as polite diplomatic language as possible. It has not only broken its pledges to the United States, but has aggravated the offence by deception. If the Spanish Ministry ever did intend to act honestly in carrying out the law of emancipation, which is questionable, it is evident Spain was powerless to do so against the will of the volunteers and slaveholders of Cuba. In truth, we have seen that Cuba is no longer governed by Spain, but by that revolutionary Spanish faction which has sent a Captain General home, which slaughtered the boy students and which commits other outrages regardless of the will of the home government.

Secretary Fish, while acknowledging as a general rule the obligation of one nation to abstain from interference in the domestic affairs of another, claims that there are circumstances which warrant an exception to the rule, and then argues that the position of Cuba to and relations with this country justify action on the part of our government. As a consequence General Sickles was instructed to remonstrate, in decisive but respectful terms, against the apparent failure of Spain to carry into effect the emancipation act to which she is committed. He then adds that if Spain permits her authority to be virtually and practically defied in Cuba by a refusal or neglect to carry into effect acts of the home government of a humane tendency it is tantamount to an acknowledgment of inability to control the insurrection in Cuba. Here the Secretary has hit the nail on the head. Spain cannot execute the emancipation law if even she would. She cannot control the insurrection either of the Cuban patriots or of the volunteers. The volunteers and Spanish slaveholders, with others who are interested in maintaining slavery and who are making money out of slave labor, will not permit the Spanish government to abolish the infamous institution. In this, at least, they are as much insurgents against Spain as the Cuban patriots are revolutionists. There are, in fact, two insurrections in Cuba—that of the Cubans, who have formally and actually abolished slavery as far as they have the power, and that of the slaveholders and volunteers, who equally defy the home government.

"Four years," says Mr. Fish, "the insurrection has now lasted. Attempts to suppress it—so far futile—have been made, at a cost probably of more than a hundred thousand lives and an incalculable amount of property." Is this not an acknowledgment from the highest authority that a state of war actually exists? that the Cubans have been and are able to carry on the war? and, by parity of reasoning, that the Cubans are well entitled to be regarded as belligerents? The Secretary admits that our commercial and other connections with the island compel us to take a warm interest in its fate. Why, then, should we not extend to the Cubans that recognition of their status as belligerents which humanity, justice and sound policy dictate? Especially why not, when Mr. Fish knows that the war has lasted four years, and all efforts to suppress the insurrection have proved futile? After advertising to the vigilance of our government in preventing the sympathy of the people of the United States giving practical aid to the Cubans through arms or

armed expeditions, and thus showing the good faith that has been observed toward Spain, Mr. Fish says that unless Spain shall soon be more successful in suppressing the insurrection and ending the war this government will be forced to the consideration of the question whether it is not a duty to itself and to the commercial interests of its citizens to demand some change in the line of action it has pursued. He concludes by the remark that the inattention of the Spanish government to the claims of American citizens for countless seizures of property and other damages, and the referring backward and forward these claims between Madrid and Havana, have reached the very verge of the exhaustion of all patience.

We have no idea that the Spanish government either will or can act differently. It will, no doubt, go on promising emancipation of the slaves, a suppression of the insurrection and justice to American citizens, but will do nothing. It has not really, as we said before, any power to carry out its will in Cuba. What, then, will our government do? Will all these brave words of Secretary Fish we have quoted end in smoke? For four years the Spaniards have deceived and mocked the American government, and will continue to do so as long as it does nothing but multiply words of remonstrance. Surely it is time for action. The Cubans themselves would solve the whole difficulty about the island and make emancipation a fact if our government were to give them that recognition to which four years of heroic fighting and the inability of Spain to end the war entitle them.

Another Cold Spell—More Snow and Rain Coming.

Again we have strong indications of the approach of a cold spell from the region north of the lakes. For two or three days a heavy storm of snow and wind has been passing, from west to east, over the southern part of British America and has just reached the eastern shores of the Continent, near Newfoundland. The great snowfall, telegraphed from Lake Michigan on Thursday morning, extended yesterday to Lake Huron and Lake Ontario, as the weather reports show. Following eastward, behind the storm centre, the moving bank of cold atmosphere has given the boreal northwesterly winds and zero temperatures to the lakes and the lake-borders States as far as Western Pennsylvania. The latest thermometric readings give fifteen degrees below zero for the Northwest, and the thermal gradient thence to the Alleghany, the Catskill and the White Mountains is by no means steep, but hardly perceptible. When this cold undulation has reached our seaboard and precipitated its storm-bred air into the Gulf Stream vapor we may look out for the usual sequel of excessive change and the descending snow and rain.

The winter conditions are, however, now so firmly established over the United States that it is hardly possible we can have the southerly or equatorial current of air for a period long enough to furnish moisture for such a snowfall as took place last month. That pleasure must be reserved, probably, for a short time, until the sun, in his northward swing, nears the Equator. Meantime the immediate changes of temperature, which are the curse of our Eastern climates and make some sigh for the mild and balmy shores of the Pacific slopes, must be guarded against.

English Love of Justice.

There is nothing like English justice. When a scoundrel knocks down and robs an undefending citizen he receives twenty stripes with the "cat," administered by a shrivelled old pensioner. When a seaman excites the dislike of his officers, and is goaded into some slight act of insubordination, the penalty is four dozen stripes, being eight more than double the number dealt to the greatest villain on land, laid on by four of the strongest men, who leave not an inch of the victim's back unlacerated. Then, to make Jack far truly loyal to that portion of Britannia which rules the waves, he receives, at five o'clock in the evening, a basin of boiled tea and a quantity of biscuit so very hard as to require much soaking before it is in condition for mastication. And this is all the nutriment allowed a hard-worked seaman until eight o'clock the next morning, when the same sumptuous banquet is served, cocoa, however, being substituted for boiled tea. Is it marvellous that friend Jack deserts on the first opportunity? And is this not wise policy to pursue when every man costs some hundreds of pounds to fit him for fighting service? Going ashore, we find that English agricultural laborers and farmers are emigrating because they cannot afford to improve land belonging to landlords who can eject them on a six months' notice. Verily, England is a model for this demoralized Republic.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER CORRUPTIONS.—We publish in the Herald to-day the statements of Dr. Thomas C. Durant in an interview with one of our reporters, regarding the history of the Union Pacific Railroad and its connection with the Credit Mobilier. As Dr. Durant is an interested party his version of the story will of course be taken for what it is worth. It is evident, however, that he knows enough to make him a desirable witness before the Poland Investigating Committee. The Wilson Committee met yesterday and decided to call for the books of the two companies. It is to be hoped that the second inquiry will not be made to interfere with the business of the more important committee, charged with the duty of discovering whether the most prominent Senators, Representatives and other high officials have been guilty of selling their services and votes in Congress for a corrupt consideration.

TWENTY-SIX AMENDMENTS to the constitution are now pending before Congress. With but one or two exceptions they are all ill-timed and unnecessary, and ought to be withdrawn. They only furnish material for members to do a little buncombe tinkering on their own account, instead of attending to the legitimate business of the session.

THE "NEXT PARTY" has been started at Toledo, Ohio. It is moulded after the manner of liberalism and the "liberals of America" are called upon to organize and lay the foundations of a great national party, which shall demand the entire secularization of the national government. This new party has an organ called the Index, which, it is intimated, shall point the way the political wind will blow four years hence, if not sooner.

The Death-Scene of Napoleon III.—Sympathy for the Bereaved.

The last scene in the life of the late Emperor of the French was, according to the latest news, singularly touching. As we said yesterday, there was evidence that he was conscious to the last. Twice over, in his latest moments, he spoke to the Empress in a very feeble voice. The last life sign was a smile when the Empress knelt and kissed her dying husband. In addition to the Empress there were present at the closing scenes the whole household of Chiselhurst. The Prince Imperial, who had been summoned from Woolwich, was fifteen minutes late. The poor boy was deeply affected, and with streaming eyes kissed his dead father frequently. The Emperor died peacefully; there was no sign of pain; but the Empress, completely overcome, fainted at the bedside. When all was over the Empress refused to leave her dead husband, and for several hours remained by the bedside on her knees in prayer. The dead Emperor, the sorrowing Empress, the weeping Prince Imperial, the household looking on in sorrow—it was a sad, sorrowful, but withal beautiful tableau. In his last moments the deposed Emperor was not without the consolations of friendship.

The English Queen has already signified her sympathy with the bereaved lady. The English heir apparent paid a visit of condolence to the house of mourning, accompanied by the Prince Teck. The English newspapers publish laudatory obituaries of the deceased. A ball at London in honor of the Prince of Wales has been postponed, and the plays in the French language running at the English capital will, at the Prince of Wales's request, not be performed for some nights. The prominent supporters of Bonapartism in France are hurrying to Chiselhurst. Prince Murat and Prince Charles Bonaparte have already arrived. The question of where the ex-Emperor's remains will be buried does not appear to have been settled. The autopsy of the dead ex-Emperor reveals that he died because of the failure of the heart to act—a very open verdict as it reads.

In France the news of Napoleon's death does not appear to have caused any remarkable sensation. What is described as a "profound impression" means evidently a general surprise at the suddenness of the death. The French Assembly did not adjourn. Rentes rose yesterday in Paris as they did the day before in New York. Marshal McMahon, in a formal report to President Thiers, declares that the army, the supposed stronghold of imperialism, is "not affected by the death of Napoleon." In face of this the ex-Empress is about to publish a proclamation declaring herself regent during the minority of her boy. The Parisian journals differ widely in their views. Le Pays, edited by the Cassagnacs, the Mamelukes of the Second Empire, appears in mourning. L'Ordre and the Gaulois, the special Imperialist organs, also appear in mourning. The ably-written Journal des Debats says:—"He was the great delusion of the country; the mass of the nation dreamed with him; the awakening was terrible. Now the Empire is peace—the peace of the tomb." The monarchists are all hopeful and their organs pray for union. The Journal Official retains its temper, as M. Thiers desires, and thinks the number of pretenders lessened.

It is gratifying and creditable to French good sense to learn that the nation can manage to let an exile die, even though once an Emperor, without precipitating itself once more into chaos. The misfortunes which fell upon Napoleon were visited heavily upon France, and the chastening appears not without good fruit after all.

The Economy of English Monarchy.

Monarchy may be the bulwark of England's liberty, but we doubt it, and certainly think that the people pay a deal of money for the luxury of supporting an imported family in idleness. This bulwark costs no less than £1,000,000 sterling annually—£700,000 being spent upon the royal family alone, £12,000 on furniture for their palaces, £40,000 for stabling purposes, £60,000 for the Queen's "pin money" and £385,000 for the civil list, otherwise Her Majesty's household expenses. We hear of Victoria's generosity. Do naive republicans remember that the Queen annually receives from Parliament £23,210 to expend in charity? The people are taxed this number of pounds that "the first lady in the land" may not put her hands in her own plethoric pocket when the munificence of a Peabody and the daring of a Stanley suggest the presentation of a portrait and a snuff-box. The people—not the Queen—are responsible for these gracious acts, and it is about time for us to give credit where credit is due. Generosity is not a peculiarity of the descendants of George the First, whose one aim in life was to squeeze English money into Hanoverian chests.

Danger in the School-houses.

A wholesome effect is to be hoped for from the recent horrors which have called attention to the terrible insecurity of life in New York. When the Superintendent of Buildings asserts that there are many buildings as dangerous as that lately burned in Centre street he confirms a lurking fear in the public mind. In many of our edifices where people are gathered by hundreds there are abundant threats of casualties coupled with a general lack of means for escape. This is especially true of our school-houses. There are more than one hundred public schools in the city, in each of which is an average daily attendance of about one thousand pupils, ranging from almost helpless infants to youths fully grown. Hardly any of these schools are so situated or so furnished with facilities of escape that their occupants could possibly all safely flee, even from a false alarm of fire or other occasion of sudden panic. Many of the houses are warmed by steam boilers. It is believed the majority of these are under the care of persons who, though we admit them to be careful and anxious to do their duty, are not educated to control an apparatus of such dangerous capabilities. Are we justified in subjecting one hundred thousand school children to the risk of steam explosion by employing engineers inadequate to the task of properly managing an engine? Every consideration of prudence and humanity demands a full investigation of these dangers and the prompt application of efficient remedies.

A FULL JURY WAS OBTAINED YESTERDAY in the Tweed case, and the trial will proceed on Monday.

The Goat Island Job and San Francisco—Opinions of Army Engineers—A Hint for the National Treasury.

The Secretary of War yesterday, in answer to a resolution of the Senate calling for information relating to the expediency of reserving the island of Yerba Buena, or Goat Island, for military purposes, and also relating to the effects, if any, upon the harbor of San Francisco, in approaching said island from the mainland with railroad structures, submits a report from two boards of army engineers on the subject. The Secretary says that these reports substantially agree that certain portions of the island may be surrendered for commercial purposes without materially impairing the power of the seacoast defences projected for the island, and in this opinion he concurs. He thinks that no damage will result to San Francisco harbor in bridging the bay from the mainland, east side, to Goat Island, provided the structure is upon piles or piers of minimum dimensions, placed in the direction of the currents.

The Pacific Coast Board of Engineers, however, say that the whole of Yerba Buena, or Goat Island, should be retained by the government for the defence of the harbor and city of San Francisco, and that the effect of approaching the island by a bridge of piles, or by a causeway, would work serious damage to San Francisco harbor; that a surrender of any part of the island would interfere with the defence of the city, in resulting "in a commercial town in the middle of the bay, which, in time of war, might easily be set on fire, and thus necessitate the abandonment of the fortifications on the top of the island, and lead to the capture of the city of San Francisco. They therefore strongly oppose the proposed relinquishment."

This "commercial town in the middle of the bay" is really the main question. Let us briefly explain it. The city of San Francisco lies on and between the bay of the same name and the Pacific Ocean, and on the south side of the outlet to the ocean known as the Golden Gate. The bay extends south of the city some forty miles, and varies from five to twenty miles in width. Another large bay, San Pablo, connects on the north with the Golden Gate at San Francisco, and into this northern bay the two great rivers of California—the Sacramento and San Joaquin—are discharged. All these bays and rivers, therefore, are tributary to San Francisco. But here is the misfortune. The city, lying between the bay and the sea (some five miles only from the latter), is cut off from the main land east and north. The Central Pacific Railway terminus is at Oakland, some five miles, more or less, across the water from San Francisco. From Oakland the road carries its passengers and freight across to San Francisco in ferryboats. But between these two points, in the middle of the bay, lies, or, rather, rises, lengthwise in the stream, this island of Yerba Buena (Good Herb), or Goat Island, a beautiful but timberless mountain, as are all the mountains around San Francisco. This island embraces a superficial area of several thousand acres, with sufficient space of low ground on its flanks for the whole commerce of San Francisco.

Now, here we get the key to this "irrepressible conflict" for this island. In truth, it is hardly needed for the defence of San Francisco, as the lofty island rock of Alcatraz and the walls of the Golden Gate below afford such advantages of defensive strength as no other city in the world possesses. But here is the point: Should the Central Pacific Railway get possession of Goat Island its purpose is to build a bridge or causeway across the water to it from Oakland, and to make the island the receiving and discharging depot of all its traffic. Trains from New York, for instance, will go directly through by the Union and Central Pacific roads to Goat Island, and from Goat Island their goods will be shipped to the interior towns or for ports along the Pacific coast or for the Sandwich Islands, China, Japan, or Australia. The return trade by the railway will, in like manner, be delivered at Goat Island, and thus, within ten years, the Central Pacific Railway Company may get within their hands the bulk of the trade of San Francisco, if they are given a foothold on this Goat Island. The foothold which the company contemplate would be a bargain, we dare say, at one hundred millions of dollars; and yet they expect to get it as a free gift from the government.

What, then, is to be the action of Congress upon this subject? Congress has been giving away the public domain with a lavish hand to railways in every direction; but there should be some limit to this business. If the government has no use for Goat Island why not sell it to the highest bidder for cash, after duly advertising the proposed sale? If parties are to be found who, if put to the test, are ready to give twenty, fifty, seventy-five or a hundred millions for this property, in cash or good securities, why not save this money to the Treasury, for the general relief of the people? Why not add so much to the redemption of the public debt? We hope that this view of the case will not be overlooked in the discussion of the subject in Congress. If there were a sufficient depth of water at Oakland for ships of heavy draught there would be no conflict for Goat Island, and Oakland would soon become a great city at the expense of San Francisco. As it is, Goat Island, in the hands of the Central Pacific, will, by a bridge or causeway, be the projection of Oakland into the deep water of San Francisco harbor. In view, then, of its commercial value, if the island is not wanted by the government, it ought to be sold to the highest bidder.

CONGRESS YESTERDAY WAS IN A FINANCIAL MOOD.—The Senate endured a speech on the Banking act and then referred the matter to the Committee on Finance. It occupied the remainder of its time in dealing with the Indian Appropriation bill. An amendment was passed for the appointment of five Indian inspectors, to receive three thousand dollars a year and expenses. The gaping office-seekers will be glad to learn this good news, but whether poor Lo will be a gainer is extremely doubtful. The cutting down of the force of Internal Revenue Assessors has thrown quite a number of chronic office-holders on the market, and we may expect all the Congressional plausibles to occupy their ingenuity in placing their followers' heads once more neck deep in the public manger. The House, after receiving the regular Friday stock of private bills, took up the Legislative Appropriation bill and got through several clauses.

Results of the Sherman Astronomical Expedition.

The results of the astronomical expedition sent last Summer to Sherman, the summit of the Union Pacific Railway, have been partly made known, and promise to be of great value and interest. This expedition was organized under the auspices of the Coast Survey for the purpose of securing a series of astronomical and meteorological observations on some elevated point of the Continent, and principally to determine what advantage would accrue to spectroscopic work by placing the instruments at such great elevation. The temporary observatories were erected near the railway station, about eight thousand three hundred feet above the sea level, almost in sight of the Laramie hills and under the lee of mountains capped with perennial snow.

The solution of the principal problem attempted—the increased visibility of the heavenly bodies from this great altitude—is one which has long interested astronomers. In 1856 Professor Piazzi Smyth scaled the volcanic cone of Teneriffe, in the trade wind belt of the North Atlantic, and, though often assailed by the tempestuous upper currents of the atmosphere, he ascertained that its summit afforded unsurpassed advantages for telescopic gaze. The spectroscopic, that matchless instrument, the analyzer of the most remote atoms that form the far-off suns of space or are consumed on their burning crusts, was not then ready for scientific use. If between us and the stellar world there intervened neopane and impure atmospheric medium, capable of reflecting light and obscuring or corrupting the testimony of the telescope and spectroscopic, the sciences in which they are employed might make rapid advances. Although the highest stations of astronomical observations that can ever possibly be occupied cannot escape the disadvantages of such a medium, they can be greatly diminished, and on the lofty level of Sherman our observers found they had left more than a fourth of the whole atmosphere beneath them. When the sky was unclouded the air was found "of most exquisite transparency," says Professor Young, and "at night multitudes of stars invisible at lower elevations were easily seen, so that it was estimated nearly all the stars of the seventh magnitude were fairly within reach of the naked eye." In the bowl of the "Dipper" nine or more were visible to the unassisted eye, where in New England only three can be seen without the glass. The telescope entered the field with greatly augmented power and revealed astonishingly clear and full images. But the spectroscopic was wonderfully aided and its power heightened by the altitude. Nearly three hundred bright lines—or three times the ordinary number—were discernible in the spectrum of the sun's chromosphere, and, at moments of unusual solar activity or eruption, there were glimpses of double that number.

These results foreshadow the early occupation of the higher points of observation for the great instruments of science, and, as Professor Young suggests, it may make a difference of years and decades in our knowledge of solar and cosmical phenomena "if the new artillery opens its attack upon the heavens from the mountain tops instead of from the plains."

The Centre Street Fire.

The verdict of the Coroner's jury in the case of the Centre street fire will be found in another column. It contains a number of useful recommendations and some rather impracticable ones. It distributes blame and censure with an equally lavish hand. The careless use of benzine is properly condemned, and for the very sufficient reason that the floors become in time saturated with it. The employers are denounced for not informing the working girls how to escape in case of fire, and for not seeing that the fire escape was in proper order. A good recommendation is that employers should have printed notices posted in their warehouses how to act in case of an alarm of fire. The hose recommendations are good in this way: but of what avail would they have been in such a fire in such a tinderbox as that on Centre street? There are a number of building recommendations, such as making all staircases of iron, cased with corrugated iron; putting stone or iron floors in press rooms; covering the ceilings of all factories with corrugated iron; moving the elevators away from the staircases, which, addressed to house-owners, without the force of law, go for nothing. It will appear strange in the mass of censures that the Department of Buildings does not come in for its share. To condemn the house-owner was doubtless just; but why not censure the officer whose duty it was to see that the requirements of the law relative to a fire escape in good order were complied with. The commendation of the Coroner for waiting until private citizens came forward with subscriptions before "taking upon himself to exhume the bodies" is somewhat curious and might have been spared. The case of John McGloin is different. The model Coroner's jury seems as far off as in Shakspeare's time.

FRENCH COMMON SCHOOLS AND THE CODE.—Monsieur Dupanloup, Bishop of Orleans, made an effort to explain his views on the important subject of public education to the members of the French National Assembly during the session yesterday. The learned prelate was interrupted by the excitement of a personal altercation which sprung up suddenly between two of his co-legislators, and which was terminated only by the retirement of the disputants from the Chamber and their ultimate arrangement for a duel. The Bishop will, no doubt, become still more firm in his conviction that France requires an improved system of school discipline.

ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.—The Chicago Tribune took some pains to inform its readers the other day that the Legislature of New York would vote for United States Senator on the 7th inst., also that the Nevada Legislature has postponed the election of Senator until the 21st inst. The Tribune forgets that the time for election of United States Senators by the State Legislatures is fixed by law of Congress, passed July 25, 1866, to take place on the second Tuesday following the meeting and organization of the Legislatures, which, in the case of the States of New York and Nevada, occurs on the 21st inst. Under this law some States which hold only