

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET. JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

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- AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING. MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE... GERMANIA THEATRE... THEATRE COMIQUE... OLYMPIC THEATRE... NIBLO'S GARDEN... WALLACK'S THEATRE... UNION SQUARE THEATRE... ACADEMY OF MUSIC... WOODS MUSEUM... BROADWAY THEATRE... GRAND OPERA HOUSE... LYCEUM THEATRE... BOOTH'S THEATRE... METROPOLITAN THEATRE... PARK THEATRE... HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE... TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE... BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE... STEINWAY HALL... ROBINSON HALL... THE RINK... New York, Friday, Nov. 28, 1873.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

- *NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSPAPER MORALS! ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE ADVERTISING BUSINESS"—LEADING ARTICLE—FOURTH PAGE. AMERICA'S DEMANDS FOR REPARATION NOT YET GRANTED ANSWER BY THE SPANIARDS! MR. FISH AND ADMIRAL POLO ARRANGING "SATISFACTORY" TERMS! THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS! HE THINKS SPAIN CAN GRANT OUR DEMANDS WITHOUT A SACRIFICE OF PRIDE—FIFTH PAGE. HOW A FORMER CHARGE OF PIRACY AGAINST THE VIRGINIUS WAS TREATED BY A UNITED STATES NAVAL OFFICER AND CONSUL! FULL PROTECTION GIVEN THEN! SPANISH ARGUMENTS (?)—THIRD PAGE. AN EIGHT HOURS' BOMBARDMENT OF CARTAGENA BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT BATTERIES! A FORT SILENCED! THE INSURGENT NAVY PREPARES FOR A MOVE! THE REBELS BELIEVED TO BE ON THE POINT OF SURRENDER—FIFTH PAGE. MACMAHON'S NEW CABINET! THE OFFICIAL LIST! FURTHER CHANGES—FIFTH PAGE. ITALY MOVING IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE! INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION FURTHERED BY A CONGRESS OF PROMINENT PERSONAGES IN ROME—FIFTH PAGE. A NEW RUSSIAN LOAN! THE ROTHSCHILDS PLACING IT—FIFTH PAGE. REDUCTION OF THE ENGLISH BANK AND MONEY RATES! A SEVERE GALE PREVAILING ON THE COAST—FIFTH PAGE. TAKING TURKEY! THE FESTIVAL OF THANKSGIVING! THE ENJOYMENTS OF THE AFFLUENT AND THE RARE TREATS FOR THE NEEDY POOR! GIVING PRAISE IN THE CHRISTIAN SANCTUARIES—NATIONAL CHARACTER—SIXTH PAGE. ONE OF THE GREATEST ENGINEERING FEATS OF THE AGE ALMOST COMPLETED! THE TUNNEL THROUGH HOOSAC MOUNTAIN—EIGHTH PAGE. AMERICA AND THE ABORIGINES! THE PEACE POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND ITS RESULTS FULLY SET FORTH BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR—SEVENTH PAGE. PITTSBURG TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION SURRENDERS ITS CHARTER! PHILADELPHIA WORKINGMEN STRIKE HANDS WITH THE FARMERS! GRANGES—IMPORTANT GENERAL NEWS—EIGHTH PAGE.

ONE GOOD RESULT AT LEAST.—There is one good, if nothing more, likely to result from the present imbroglio with Spain. We refer to the restoration of kindly feeling between the Northern and Southern portions of the country, even to the obliteration to some extent of the deeply-drawn lines created by our war for the Union. If this desideratum should be fully accomplished the troubles arising out of our complications with Spain will be amply repaid.

CABINET RECONSTRUCTION IN FRANCE.—The President of the French Republic officially announced his Ministry, as it had been reconstituted, to the nation yesterday. There have been still further changes in the official personnel since the organization which was approved of on the evening of the 25th inst. MM. Beulé, Ernoul and Bathie have resigned their portfolios and retired. M. Depierre is made Minister of Justice, and M. Fourton Minister of Public Instruction and Worship, in place of MM. Ernoul and Bathie. Duke de Broglie remains in the office of Minister of the Interior. These changes indicate the existence of a slight feeling of uneasiness at the executive centre in Paris.

THE INTRANSIGENT INSURRECTION IN SPAIN.—The government forces bombarded Cartagena from the adjacent land batteries on the 26th inst. The city was under fire during the space of eight hours. The radicalists replied vigorously from the fortifications and with the guns of the revolutionist war ship Mendez Nunez. The besiegers appear to have gained a victory, silencing the outlying fort of Don Julian, besides killing, as is claimed, its commandant and several officers of inferior grade. The insurgent fleet lying in the harbor of Cartagena got up steam yesterday, but the purpose of the movement was not known. The rebel leaders requested, through the foreign admirals, a truce of two hours' duration, and the Spanish loyalists believe that they are preparing the wording of a proposition for surrender. When will the civil war in Spain cease? What will be the home consequences of its cessation?

Newspapers and Newspaper Morals—Advertisements and the Advertising Business.

We are not in the habit of discussing our business affairs with the public, or of explaining or defending our methods of doing business. Such discussions are rarely profitable. When any one of our friends is dissatisfied with the HERALD he has his remedy in his own hands. Now and then some enterprising contemporary relieves us of the responsibility of these discussions. The never-failing theme of that mysterious class of human beings who write "the New York correspondence" for country journals is the HERALD. What it does and what it means to do, its revenues and expenditures, the balloons it proposes sending up to discover "easterly currents," the expeditions it is fitting out against the North Pole, the subsidies it receives, now from one party and again from another; the gentlemen who write for it and gentlemen unknown to us who are about to do us this honor—these are among the subjects upon which we have information of a startling character by every mail.

Nor is it surprising that, with this tendency to write the history of the HERALD on the part of so many able and well-informed gentlemen, we should find ourselves under admonition and instruction as to our methods of doing business. Now and then an occasional neighbor, who has no reason to complain of overburdened advertising columns, insists that the HERALD transacts its business in open and persistent violation of public morals. Sometimes we are told, by one newspaper especially—an English newspaper, edited by Englishmen who fancy they fit themselves for American journalism by studying the newspapers of forty years ago; a journal as far behind the HERALD and even the average press of New York in enterprise and power as it is in dignity and common sense; which has no position in New York except to recall mournful memories of its founder—that the manifest and unblushing purpose of the HERALD is to profit by deeds of infamy and ill-fame. We have paid no attention to these murmurs, for, as our able and prosperous contemporary, the Tribune, so well remarks, we have no concern in the petty personal quarrels of our calling. But, as a consequence, that small portion of the New York public which interests itself in English affairs and confines its instruction to the journal in question is constantly informed that absence of advertising business is an evidence of high virtue; that the HERALD, as an especially successful newspaper, is especially immoral; that we pander to depraved tastes, crave the patronage of the worst classes of society, and that no advertisement is really welcome to these columns that does not embody some sentiment offensive to morals and good taste. As we have said, these averments do not disturb us. But let us look at them seriously for a moment or two—from a business point of view—without considering the malignity of our Bethnal Green critic, and then dismiss the subject from our minds.

We do not glorify ourselves or exult over when we say that no journal is less liable to the temptation of doing business in open violation of the laws of morals and good taste than the HERALD. For many years the people of New York have done us the honor of making our columns the medium for the expression of their general advertising wants. There has not been a time, within this generation at least, when the problem of the HERALD has been, not how to increase its advertising business, but to so control it that it could be transacted with advantage to the public and without loss to ourselves. Those who know the philosophy of the business of journalism understand that when advertisements go beyond a certain space their publication is a loss, and not a gain. This is the problem that vexed the managers of the London Times for so many years. The cost of the increase of the white paper necessary to print the extra pages required for unusual advertising purposes is so great that the added number of columns will not always pay for it. So we are confronted by two problems—how to print the news and at the same time do our advertising business. If we printed a small and limited edition of the HERALD, say about the same number of copies as our critical contemporary prints, this would not be a large consideration. The increased cost of white paper would then be a small item. But when the question involves the publication of between one hundred and twenty thousand and one hundred and fifty thousand fully printed papers every day, the cost of the increased supply of white paper is a serious matter. Remember, too, that a quadruple sheet of the HERALD—containing sixteen pages, or ninety-six columns, of closely printed matter, as book reading, let us say, as an ordinary octavo book of four hundred pages—is sold, wholesale and retail, at the price we ask for one ordinary sheet; and, as this selling price, like that of the other journals, is closely calculated upon the value of the ordinary sheet of white paper, every increase in the size of the HERALD—triple, quadruple and quintuple sheets—involves a largely increased expense for which we do not always receive an adequate return. Of course there is the return from the increased number of advertisements; but this largely increased expense consequent upon the enormous and necessary supply of additional white paper, is felt in the aggregate revenues.

This is a simple business explanation, and it tells the whole story. For twenty-five years the problem of the HERALD has been how to keep its business in control, and certainly not to increase it by dubious and improper expedients. We have a double duty. We desire to satisfy the business wants of New York, and at the same time to publish a complete newspaper. It is a daily perplexity with us to reconcile this double, or, it may be called, divided duty; so that nothing could be more absurd than the suggestion that we are compelled to strengthen our business revenues by seeking immoral advertisements. We will now take another view of the subject. We say that no journal in New York edits its advertising columns more rigidly than the HERALD has done for years. We say, further, that no journal is governed in its advertising business by stricter maxims than the HERALD. Every journalist feels that the existence of advertising agencies has the same effect upon journalism that a protective tariff has upon trade—a few are benefited and the real tradesmen are injured. The HERALD years ago proclaimed its independence of this

If Peace Now, How to Avoid War with Spain Hereafter.

Should peace be maintained through Spain according to the demands of our government steps should be taken to prevent the possibility of war hereafter about Cuba. As long as Spain holds the island, no matter what party may be in power at Madrid, republican, monarchical or any other, there will always be danger of serious difficulties or even of war. It has been so long time under different forms of government and must continue to be so. In fact, the colonial government in Cuba has ever been the worst despotism, whether Spain has been republican or monarchical. There can be no guarantee of peace for us but through the independence of Cuba. Our government should, then, adopt a policy to that end by recognizing either the belligerency or independence of the Cubans if even Spain accede to our demands in the Virginias case. There never was, and, probably, never will be, a better opportunity to remove a fruitful cause of dispute and irritation, to obliterate the stain of slavery in this hemisphere and to promote the cause of republican liberty over American territory. The administration and Congress will make a great mistake if they let this opportunity slip.

The Thanksgiving Observances.

Thanksgiving Day was very generally observed yesterday, not only in this city, but throughout the whole country. The celebration in the churches was perhaps the most marked feature of the day. At St. James' Roman Catholic church the Rev. Father Lake took strong ground against the policy of Bismarck and Victor Emmanuel, hoped for the restoration of the monarchy in France and denounced the public schools as godless and anti-Christ. At the Jewish synagogue in Thirty-fourth street the Rev. Dr. Vidaver preached a Thanksgiving sermon, in the course of which he was found occasionally to rejoice in the conviction and the punishment of Tweed, and to insist that the American people must punish the recent outrages in Cuba. The Rev. Dr. Storrs, of Brooklyn, took similar ground. All the principal churches in this city, as the Five Points Mission and the House of Industry, the Newsboys' Lodging House, the Howard Mission, the Sheltering Arms, St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, the Union Home and School, the Colored Orphan Asylum, and the orphan asylums generally, gave a Thanksgiving dinner to the inmates. There were no great military or civic displays, the festivities being generally confined to the home circle.

interest. One of the complaints of those who esteem highly the morality of the press is that conductors of newspapers accept advertisements for pay and print them as reading matter. In other words, the reader is deceived, by being requested to accept as the opinion of an independent editor what is the paid eulogium of an eager man of business. If we were disposed to permit this editorial explanation to degenerate into a controversy we might show from the columns of our critics that they perpetrate this fraud upon their readers whenever money enough is paid by an advertiser. For years no line has ever appeared in our news columns, no opinion has ever found expression in this paper, which was paid for as an advertisement. For years every advertisement handed over our counter has been submitted to editorial scrutiny, and we have always reserved the right to reject advertisements that do not meet this scrutiny. These and other maxims govern our business. We make it a rule that any citizen with a want, or a hope, or a purpose, has a right to be heard in these columns, provided he violates no law and commits no offence against morals and good taste. Every day advertisements are excluded because they do not meet these conditions—advertisements enough, we might almost say, to furnish a prosperous business to our critical contemporaries. Take the column headed "Personal." This is a column severely criticised; yet it is the most important column in the London Times. The HERALD column is exactly like that in the Times. We edit this column with particular care, and reject advertisements—numbers every day that are offered to us—because on their face they violate good taste.

So long as these rules are observed we do not feel that a journalist can go further. So long as an advertisement is not on its face a manifest violation of morals we cannot sit in inquisition upon the motives that inspire it and the meaning underlying it. That would be an endless, impossible task. If people desire to advertise for an immoral or illegal purpose they can do so in a hundred ways—in the column of religious notices or banking institutions. During our war, when people were forbidden to publish "personals" from the South because they might contain information for the rebels, the rebel leaders printed innocent advertisements offering land for sale, which served their purpose. So that, as we say, there is no process of inquisition that can be adopted in reference to advertisements in a daily journal that will have any value. No journal has a higher interest in the purity of the press than the HERALD. We may say that no journal has striven more earnestly to introduce into journalism courtesy, good taste, fair play towards opponents, justice to men of all opinions, honorable and honest criticisms of leading politicians of all parties, earnestness without rancor, a generous, elevating, all-embracing American sentiment, than the HERALD. And certainly with this as an animating purpose in our editorial columns—as all men know—it is only natural that we should strive, as we have striven, to bring our business under the control of similar principles—to deny no one these columns who does not violate the law and the canons of morals and good taste. As to the enactment of laws against a certain class of advertisements—lotteries and gift enterprises—that come up in questionable but not illegal shape, we say that such a law would meet our heartiest approval. We shall do our utmost to secure the passage of the most rigid laws in reference to the press and the character of general advertisements. We obey the law, and do not make it. Let those who make the law do their duty, and we shall do ours. We have more to gain from the operation of such statutes than any other journal in America. Let them be made as strict as possible, and we shall take pride in giving them full, hearty and uncomplaining obedience.

Spain Begging the Question.

We warmly commend the firm stand taken by President Grant on the grave difficulty with Spain. Conscious of the right which the nation possesses to protect its honor and dignity, the position of the administration should be as unyielding as well chosen. While we deeply regret as an unfortunate circumstance that the horrible Virginias outrage brings two republics into discord, we must strenuously insist that no sentimentalism shall permit a deliberate insult to our flag and the murder of American citizens to pass unatoned. We must further insist that this atonement be full and complete. The character of the government which takes the responsibility of the acts can make no difference in respect to the satisfaction to be given, for our honor cannot be made to have a different value, in our eyes, according to the monarchism or otherwise of those who assail it. The monarchist butchers of Santiago have brought about for Señor Castelar a state of affairs doubtless as regretted by that enlightened statesman as it is resented by us. If, acknowledging his inability to make atonement, he had referred the matter to us for settlement he might not only have jeopardized his power, but probably have committed what, as a Spaniard, he would consider a lapse of duty. By assuming the responsibility of the Virginias outrage his government have taken an attitude of self-preservation, and while this assumption, if it contemplated full reparation which it could not compel, would almost inevitably bring the question back to us for settlement, it makes the duty to press our claims all the more imperative. Between Santiago, Havana, Washington and Madrid the matter might, if the determination to exact reparation was relaxed, lose itself in a quagmire of diplomacy. Republic or no republic in Spain, this cannot be permitted.

The demands of President Grant have placed the Spaniards in a position where we can judge their intentions. They evidently desire to shirk any decisive reply by begging the question of the nationality of the Virginias. They go, in fact, behind her status as an American ship to prove a case for their own, and citing an insolent threat, made last June by a Spanish officer, are understood now to appeal to the governments of Europe to sustain them because the threat has become a sanguinary fact. This is a line of defence as insulting to common sense as the act it countenances is revolting to humanity. The threat in question was made by Lieutenant José M. Antran, commanding the Spanish gunboat Bazan, at Aspinwall, on the 23d of June last, when the steamer Virginias lay there protected by the guns of the United States corvette Kansas. This Spanish officer, finding his desire to sink or capture the Virginias frustrated by the presence of the American man-of-war, addressed a note, to her commander which will be found elsewhere, and which was published in the HERALD last July, together with the replies of Commander Reed and other correspondence upon the same matter. After inquiring whether the Virginias was covered by the American flag and had her papers in order, Lieutenant Antran proceeded very deliberately to say that the United States, "in case of covering that vessel with her flag, will compel Spain to take extreme measures or to ask the arbitration of some European Power in the filibuster question I am debating, because the beautiful example of arbitration we have contemplated between the Union and England urges us to follow it." In the capture of the regularly documented Virginias upon the high seas, in taking her as a prize to a Spanish port and butchering her passengers and crew, we see what Lieutenant Antran and the Spanish government meant by "extreme measures." After adopting these it is curious to see Spain begging European Powers to save her from the consequences. To murder a man first and then appeal to arbitration about a disputed point which was involved in the mode of life of the murdered, may suit Spanish logic in its present straits, or may be Spanish law, for that matter; but to us it is a cowardly begging of the question which we must regard with mingled indignation and contempt. Commander Reed's replies to the Spaniard's missives, supported by prompt action, put the law of the case on the right side, and were only imperfect in his reference to the responsibilities of blockade runners in his letter of the 26th of June to Lieutenant Antran. Therein he stated that the responsibility ended after the return voyage. As no state of war is admitted by Spain to exist in Cuba there can be no blockade, and the case of the Virginias cannot, in any way, rest upon it. But when Commander Reed, on learning that her papers were in the hands of the Consul, and in perfect order, he told the Spaniard that he considered her an American vessel and should act accordingly, he was right. The Spaniard thought fit to say, in a further letter, "I am convinced of my right to prevent her departure, and am resolved to do so." He did nothing of the kind, however. Now what sort of subterfuge is it which would rest a defence of the outrage upon this "talk" of Lieutenant Antran? We can state it in a perfect parallel which will place its absurd treachery in a clear light. A man sends notice to a policeman that he will murder a certain individual in defiance of all law. The policeman prevents the crime at the moment, but a fellow of the threatener cuts the individual's throat four months after, and claims in justification that he and his fellows had long threatened it. That outburst would be hanged for murder in the first degree. Of such is the latest Spanish argument.

The Hoosac Tunnel.

It is now nearly half a century since the Hoosac Tunnel became familiar to the readers of newspapers. As far back as 1825 it was gravely proposed to tunnel the Hoosac Mountain, in order that a canal might be made to connect Boston with the Hudson River at the junction of the Erie Canal with that river. Time passed on; proposal after proposal was made; contract after contract was entered into; but up almost until the present it has seemed as if the Hoosac Tunnel project had been kept alive merely for the benefit of politicians and contractors. It is only within the last few months that the work was so far advanced that the public had any assurance that the tunnel would ever be completed. The present contractors went into the work heartily, and such has been their success that it is confidently expected that before the Fourth of July next the tunnel will be open for the purposes for which it was intended. When completed this great engineering enterprise will take rank with the greatest works of the kind which will, in this age distinction in the years to come—with the Suez Canal, the Pacific Railroad and the Mont Cenis Tunnel; and the State of Massachusetts is to be congratulated on the prospective completion of a work which, while it will be a gain to itself, will be an advantage to the entire Union. The labor has been long, the expense has been great, but the completed work will be a full and satisfactory reward.

The family dinner, with the necessary turkey, was almost universally enjoyed, and for one day at least people seemed to forget that war with Spain was imminent, and even that a hard winter is before us. It was a day of thankfulness, festivity and feasting, celebrated as only a happy and contented people can celebrate a day of national thanksgiving.

Our Relations with Spain and Cuba.

From the record of the diplomatic negotiation with Spain, as generally made known, it appears that there was a material change in our position between the 19th and the 26th inst. On the 26th it was announced that Mr. Fish and Admiral Polo had agreed upon a basis of settlement, which was "the restoration of the Virginias; the release of the unmurdered captives; indemnity for the families of the slain. Our demands on the 19th were, "the formal delivery of the Virginias to officers of our government, in a port of the United States; the release and restoration to our protection of the surviving captives; a money indemnity to the heirs of all taken from on board the Virginias and put to death; the trial and punishment of General Burriel and all other responsible officers; the immediate and unconditional abolition of slavery in Cuba as the source of all the pending difficulties and complaints."

Mr. Fish's reported settlement of the 26th is, therefore, the ultimatum of the 19th emasculated. It is softened by every point that the Spaniards found troublesome. Instead of the formal surrender of the ship "in a port of the United States," we are to be content with her "restoration." That is, the Spaniards will simply cease to guard her where she lies in their waters, and we may go and take her. Instead of the restoration of the captives "to our protection," they are to be "released"—turned adrift outside a Spanish prison. No trace is left of the demands for the punishment of Burriel and for a guarantee against future misconduct. We consent, it seems, not to insist upon the punishment of this miscreant because he acted under orders, and his offence is, therefore, the offence of the government, and is condoned in the surrender of the ship and the payment of indemnity. If Burriel acted under orders in his assassinations, what becomes of the story that the Spanish government did its utmost to prevent precipitate action? Castelar, we were told, telegraphed that no punishment should be inflicted, and some evidence has been given that his despatch was received by Burriel after the killing of Ryan and Fry and before the wholesale slaughter. Upon whose orders, then, did he act in doing these murders if he had specific orders from Madrid not to do them? Do the shallow people who put forward this plea for an incoherent fiend mean to intimate that the Spanish authorities have some legal right to order their subordinates to murder our people? But the most important feature of change is that in the last report the demand for the abolition of slavery in Cuba is not present. Can we let that point escape us?

Slavery in Cuba is a point of such importance that it cannot, of course, be left out of view by us in any negotiation by which we may hope to establish more satisfactory relations for the future, and to secure ourselves against a constant recurrence to the barbarous outrages of Spanish officials. Indeed, the relative positions on that subject of the Spaniards and the insurgents ought alone to be sufficient to secure to the latter the moral support of our sympathy and good will, and whatever more active aid it may be lawful to give. Spain has acted in regard to the abolition of slavery with a duplicity that is not the less shameful for being an inseparable attribute of the national character of her people, and while she has amused us with fair promises has done nothing save invent fraudulent pretences to cover and excuse her inaction. In short, the present position of Spain with regard to Cuba begins and ends in the slave interest. It is not the result of any political necessity, nor yet, as has been so impudently said, that the nation stands on a point of honor with her colony; but it is simply a job in the interest of slaveowners and planters. Cuba is a source of enormous wealth, not so much to Spain as to certain Spaniards—and if they should lose the slave labor there would be as great a change as there was in the wealth producing power of our cotton fields by the abolition of slavery; consequently they have exerted themselves to prevent inimical legislation, partly by the use of their wealth, and partly by playing upon the popular delusion that the retention of Cuba is necessary for the maintenance of the national honor. It matters not to them how long the government may be compelled to fight a portion of the population, since the expense of the war comes out of the whole country and the benefit goes into their pockets. Only the Cubans suffer; the taxpayers pay and the sugar planters win all the time. It is for this reason that the inhabitants of Cuba are not permitted to share in any of the benefits of the Spanish revolution. No matter whether there is a republic in Spain or a monarchy—whether Carlos or Castelar be in the place of supreme power—Cuba will remain where she is; slavery will be continued and a barbarous repression will be the only indication the home government will give of its knowledge of the existence of the colony.

To such a state of affairs there is no necessary limit in time, if it be not that the continuation of a war that lapses more and more into simple barbaric butchery must eventually compel civilized neighbors to interfere, not merely for the sake of humanity, but also to protect those commercial interests that suffer when, under cover of the war they pretend to wage for their own defence, the Spanish cruisers sally out like Algerines to capture and kill, taking our ships, and ruthlessly murdering all persons they find on board. The actual occupation of the island might eventually be thus made necessary to us, unless we act now in such a way as to help the Cuban people to their freedom. If we insist upon that abolition of slavery that we have already demanded we shall do a great deal for them in this direction, for we shall cut the very ground from under the Power that keeps up the agitation for holding the island; but if we recognize them as belligerents, and give them the same rights to equip ships in our ports that Spain has, we shall perhaps do still more for them than we could by obtaining the abolition of slavery, and we shall be a short-sighted people if we let the present opportunity go by without doing one or the other.

The seizure of the Virginias upon the high seas is not condoned by such an insolent, lawless threat, but exaggerated in criminality thereby. Some of our public men, it is stated, entertain this worse than flimsy Spanish argument; but President Grant is to be commended for disregarding all such displays of bringing brow-beating to the aid of criminality. Spain will not admit that there is war in Cuba; she can, therefore, claim no belligerent right of search or visitation. Much less can she seize an American vessel in time of peace upon the high seas; much less can she be permitted in doing this act of robbery to haul down the American flag and murder those who are entitled to find their protection beneath it. No truceless threat, four months old, can justify such atrocities. The

The Cost of War.

Those who are for peace at any price endeavor to influence the public mind by talking about and exaggerating the cost of war. Undoubtedly war is a great evil and to be avoided, if possible; but national dishonor and humiliation cost more in the end than pecuniary losses amount to in a just war. A war with Spain could not be either a long or a very costly one. Spain has no resources for prosecuting a lengthy or vigorous war. We should require only a small army or land force to operate in Cuba. The Cubans, if supplied with arms and sustained by the United States, could drive the Spaniards from the island. The greatest cost would be in fitting out an efficient navy and putting our coast defences in good order. It is necessary this should be done anyway, war or no war, and the expenditure for it need not be very great. As to the Spaniards landing a force or damaging property to any extent on our own soil, that is not possible. Our commerce might suffer for a time and Spain might set adrift privateers to prey upon our merchant marine, but we could retaliate and seize as much, probably, as we should lose. Then, nearly all of our most valuable commerce is carried in foreign bottoms. The appropriation or independence of Cuba might be made worth as much to the United States as the money cost of a war. Besides, this everlasting source of trouble, the Spanish possession of Cuba, would be removed forever. The war could not be long or very costly.

A Reform in Opera.

A response has at last been vouchsafed to our long and earnest appeals for Italian opera to be presented to the American public as it is given in the principal opera houses of Europe. A reform has taken place of such a sweeping character as to sink into utter insignificance all previous attempts in that line. The first representation of Verdi's latest work, "Aida," on Wednesday night was a complete surprise for all opera habitués in this city. Mr. Strakosch seemed to have gone from the extreme of operatic poverty in regard to the mounting of an opera to the uttermost limits of stage effect, exceeding even the best efforts of our theatrical managers. The seven scenes of the opera presented nothing that has ever been seen before on the boards of the Academy of Music, and they were placed before the public in a manner with which no one can find fault. The costumes and other appointments were equally worthy of commendation, and the general rendering of the music was praiseworthy. The chorus and orchestra did wonders, considering the weakness of these departments for many seasons past, and the conscientious efforts of Signor Muzio were productive of the most satisfactory effect. Altogether the production of this grand work marks a new epoch in Italian opera in this country, and it is but reasonable to expect that it will be a criterion for the future in the presentation of great works on the lyric stage. Each subsequent performance will prove the correctness of the manager's judgment and will be an additional triumph to Impresario Strakosch and his unrivalled company. "Aida" produced a popular sensation on the first night, and to-night it will, likely, be a greater success.

The Hoosac Tunnel.

It is now nearly half a century since the Hoosac Tunnel became familiar to the readers of newspapers. As far back as 1825 it was gravely proposed to tunnel the Hoosac Mountain, in order that a canal might be made to connect Boston with the Hudson River at the junction of the Erie Canal with that river. Time passed on; proposal after proposal was made; contract after contract was entered into; but up almost until the present it has seemed as if the Hoosac Tunnel project had been kept alive merely for the benefit of politicians and contractors. It is only within the last few months that the work was so far advanced that the public had any assurance that the tunnel would ever be completed. The present contractors went into the work heartily, and such has been their success that it is confidently expected that before the Fourth of July next the tunnel will be open for the purposes for which it was intended. When completed this great engineering enterprise will take rank with the greatest works of the kind which will, in this age distinction in the years to come—with the Suez Canal, the Pacific Railroad and the Mont Cenis Tunnel; and the State of Massachusetts is to be congratulated on the prospective completion of a work which, while it will be a gain to itself, will be an advantage to the entire Union. The labor has been long, the expense has been great, but the completed work will be a full and satisfactory reward.