

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET. JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

VOLUME XXXVIII. No. 1

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

- BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth Avenue. RICHARD III.
OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Broadway Sts.—IN THE FAIR.
WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth St.—JACK, THE GIANT KILLER.
BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—Matinee at 2—THE TWO SISTERS.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third St. and Eighth Ave.—ROSE AND THE CROWN.
NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston Streets.—LEO AND LOTUS.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Broadway, between Thirtieth and Fourteenth Sts.—SON OF THE SOIL.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth Street—NEW YEAR'S EVE.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirtieth Street.—BROTHER SAM.
THEATRE COMIQUE, 814 Broadway.—DICK DODD.
TERRACE GARDEN THEATRE, 5th St. between Lexington and 3d Aves.—ADVENTURES IN ITALY.
STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—OPERAS-DER FARSCHT.
GERMANIA THEATRE, Fourteenth Street, near Third St.—DIE MARIENFELD.
ATHENIUM, No. 155 Broadway.—THE THREE HUNGRY MARINES.
MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—DIVORCE.
RYAN'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third St., corner 6th Ave.—THE MARRIAGE.
TWO PASTORAL COMEDIES, No. 31 Bowery.—THE TWO SISTERS.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, corner 5th St. and Broadway.—STAND UP AND SING.
CANTERBURY VARIETY THEATRE, Broadway, between Bleeker and Houston.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.
NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 63 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

New York, Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1873.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

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News from HONG-KONG, CHINA, to NEW YORK in one day, and published in the HERALD on New Year's Day. An encouraging fact for the cause of progress and civilization.

FROM THE WHITE BEARS OF ALASKA to the alligators of Florida what varieties of holiday costumes will mark this day the different climates of the States and Territories of our great and glorious country!

TWIDDLING IN ENGLISH SCHOOLS.—England has been greatly exercised over the practice of "tiddling" in Winchester school, one of the most prominent boys' seminaries of the Kingdom. This is a punishment of flogging with wyes of ground-lash, inflicted by the prefects, who are elder pupils, upon their juniors for offences against discipline. Young Macpherson, a plucky lad, lately had a bundle of the tough whips worn out upon his back for refusing to attend an examination in "notions"—that is the vulgar slang of the school—a branch of education he had no taste for. After an official inquiry into the case the governors of the school have decided that this barbarous practice shall continue. That may answer in a school for young English gentlemen, but would not be tolerated for a day by the parents of incipient American citizens.

OUR JANUARY TEAR, or something very much like it, set in yesterday. If it should continue to-day it is to be hoped that our city authorities by general consent will make it, without regard to the objections of red tape, a day of unparalldled activity in the removal of the slush and snow from our blockaded streets.

The New Year.

Repentance ought to be represented with one hand to the plough and her eyes wistfully looking back. In this sense she cannot be said to be fit for the kingdom of heaven. She forsakes father and mother for the sake of a principle, and sacrifices fleshly delights at the beck of conscience; but no sooner is the self-denial made than it is regretted, and her penitential spirit yearns after the very iniquities from which she smarts. Robbed in sackcloth, she pines for the pruriencies that she tasted in satin. Crowned with ashes, she covets the coronet of roses she has just dashed at her feet. The sinner with an over-sensitive conscience is one of the hardest cases with whom psychology has to deal. There is no knowing where to have him or how to keep him. His moral nature, like changeable silk, reflects all hues. One moment you detect him in a crime and the next you find him prostrate before the altar. To-day he is triumphant in vice and encased with a pachydermatous cynicism; to-morrow he is as soft as the answer that turns away wrath and as pliant as an obituary in the Philadelphia Ledger. It would seem severe to say that he peras hell with good intentions; but he certainly tessellates his path through life with them, and the mosaic is so nicely inlaid with good actions and so finely variegated with picturesque crosses purposes that there is no saying in what bourn, whether of bliss or bane, that path will terminate. It is a platitude with praying people that their very tears need rinsing and their prayers purification. But how much more entirely this is true of the prayers and tears of vacillating penitence! With your man of broken promises the rapture of pardon is sandwiched with the sweetness of sin, and the cup of thanksgiving alternates with the intoxicating bowl. The daily bread for which he supplicates is not half so reliable to him as the stolen waters that he has vowed never to taste again, and the communion of saints grows flat and vapid beside intercourse with sinners. Repenting sulpinely upon his bed of roses he envies (or affects to envy) martyrs who writhe on beds of fire. He sits at the table of Dives, yet looks forward with trembling hope to the bosom of Abraham. If he takes up the Cross he tries to whittle it into a fairy's wand. Surely the eyes of the Recording Angel are red with the effacing tears they have shed over the weak man's broken resolutions. And when the New Year dawns and the penitent turns a fresh page even angelic sympathy might naturally grow exhausted and consent to let the prospective catalogue of new iniquities remain unblotted.

These considerations do not seem altogether inappropriate to New Year's Day—a day which may be called the opening eyelid of the year. Having devoted the past twenty-four hours to conviviality and congratulation, those of us who are yet young (and some who are no longer young) become introspective and take account of our moral stock. We involuntarily attribute a magic influence to the hour, and persuade ourselves that a clean start being made, the future will take care of itself. We seek to establish a sort of perpetual motion in our morals, and would gladly believe that the temperated machinery, once put in order and set going, will adjust itself from time to time without jar or stoppage. How consistent such a superstition is with the manner in which the first day of the New Year is generally spent it may be interesting to consider. Perhaps the good resolutions that are invariably made on the 2d of January are attributable in some slight degree to the wine drunk upon the first. What is called the sting of conscience may be merely a disordered stomach, just as remorse is frequently another name for dyspepsia. The convictions of sin and folly which accompany so many people through the first week of the new year are linked quite as closely with memories of champagne as of opportunities wasted. The despondent brooder reflects that he has made so many calls and so few successes, and wishes that he had paid less compliments and more debts. If civilized humanity offers to the cynic one sight that is more refreshing than another, it is that of the youthful New Year's caller, with yellow-kidded hands and legs in lavender, gradually liquoring himself up to incoherency; and the same misguided being twelve hours after, with notebook in hand and memoranda before him, making a careful diagnosis of his moral nature, composing an obituary upon his animal desires, and drawing up a series of pious resolutions over the corpse of sensual passion. Probably we have all been through this process, and those of us who are not yet forty will go through it often again. But let us not sneer too much at the 2d of January penitent. If his good resolutions do not succeed in making him a model of virtue perhaps they keep him from being quite so bad as he might otherwise become. If they do not convert him into a prig they prevent his development into a hopeless reprobate. To-day he is picking out all the Scripture texts that denounce strong drink; yesterday he was just as assiduously gleaming all that were in favor of it. He seems to sin in order that grace may abound, and when retribution comes he blames the institutions that made his fall so easy. Our besetting sins are like young kittens, which we feel it our duty to drown, but, pleased with their sleek aspect and their pretty ways, we let them live against our better judgment, only to be scratched and tormented by them when they attain full size, but beguiled every now and then by the treacherous purr by which they assure us that they mean no harm. If this be so it is a comfortable reflection that our periodical repentances (like those which visit us at the New Year) save us from being quite as much tortured in this way as we might otherwise expect to be. The universal joviality with which wishes for happiness are interchanged at New Year's is in touching contrast to the network of suffering, sin, accident and crime of which so great a part of the twelvemonth just elapsed is composed. Humanity does not improve so rapidly as to warrant us in believing that the cycle upon which we have just entered will be much freer from these elements than the one which yesterday ended. Few who do not take the trouble to review the events of 1872 can appreciate how fine and various is its web, how wonderful and complicated its woof. And the spirit of all these events will be reproduced in 1873. If we entertain no Grand Duke from Russia we shall possibly act the host to an ex-Prince Imperial out of France. Mr. Tweed's movements will continue to be watched, and some yet untried Fisk will

boast that he can change the name of New York at will. Other Laura Fairs will emerge to prove the beauty of homicide, and fresh Mrs. Millers attempt to demonstrate that Providence meant woman as a checkmate to man, not helpmate. Heaven grant that the future holds in the hollow of its hand no ruined Boston and Chicago; though statistics forbid us to believe that no clergymen will be found in gambling houses, or that the catalogue of murders and suicides will suffer any material diminution. Poisoning cases will probably loom up in Baltimore or nearer home. The frauds at the Custom House will survive, in some shape or other, to be a godsend to the writers of didactic editorials, and ministers like Theodore L. Cuyler will be visited with just retribution for yielding their pulpits to women. Philadelphia will have the opportunity of growing excited again over the proposed purchase of Independence Hall by the general government, and some question akin in interest will supersede the Alabama claims. Topics kindred to the French arms scandal will share the attention given to Quarantine abuses, and every other month the world will hear with consternation of the famines and the epidemics being endured at the end of it. There will be other rescues of Erie and other overthrows of other Goulds. Black Fridays will reduplicate themselves, and the Tichborne trial shall see its lineaments reflected in the mirror of the future. Earthquakes shall, haply, shake the Atlantic as they have the Pacific coast, and a moral and intellectual tidal wave run through all the affairs of men. Fresh Professor Fisks shall lecture on new aspects of the religion of cosmism, and the orthodox world shall howl at Tyndall until he charms it to silence with his fluorescent light. There will be deaths from hydrophobia in places far and near, culinary explosions, miasma from manure dumping-grounds and the average number of careless toppers burned to a crisp by spontaneous combustion. The servant girl question and the expense of living will furnish the confirmed letter-writer with his habitual newspaper complaint; and if we forget the frauds in food and in Methodist Book Concerns it will be because Gilmore will seduce us with a miraculous jubilee. The Indians will pay us their periodical visits, and Miss Nellie Grant repeat her European tour, and Vanderbilt's underground railroad come up for discussion, and day continue to break in Spain. Artists like Rubinstein will charm the astonished ear of music, and singers like Lucca and Kellogg carry on a friendly war. Other Gambettas will be triumphantly interviewed, and Thiers solve the problem whether he is to become a "doddering" old man. Sothorn will be asked his opinion of the Prince of Wales, and Train give his on the mortality at the Tomb. And if the coming year reawake no rivalries between a Froude and a Father Burke, depend upon it 1873 will be quite lively enough without them. Fate, or Providence, or force—call it what you will—will go on elaborating the wonderful universe, and humanity will search vainly after the unknowable and seek to attain unto things that are too high for it. But let us hope, meanwhile, that the world, on the whole, tends to be a better world, even when the progress is sometimes imperceptible.

"Is This Crowner's Queest Law?"

An interesting question is now agitating the public mind, and that is, why were certain witnesses who were at hand and ready for examination (according to the statement of the Coroner) in the case of the unfortunate woman who came to her death by being dashed into a Brooklyn dock in a runaway carriage, some nights ago, not brought forward and duly examined? It is idle to say that a Coroner's duty ends with the mere fact of his jury finding a verdict of "found drowned" in a case like the one before us, and it was not alone to satisfy "perils or morbid curiosity" that a more searching investigation into the circumstances attending the death of this wretched woman was demanded. There seems to be some strange mystery surrounding the whole occurrence. Why was not the woman's companion on the night of the fatal ride produced before the Coroner's jury? Why were not the relatives of the deceased called upon to identify the remains? Why did the Coroner himself make the unprecedented speech he did to the jury, in which he expounded "Crowner's" law as it never before had been expounded? Why is the fact that no screams were heard from the carriage while its inmate was on her terrific death ride to eternity not enlarged upon or an attempt made to account for the tomb-like silence? Why, in short, were the entire proceedings before the jury conducted with but little more ceremony than if a log of wood picked up adrift had been the subject under investigation and not the mortal remains of a human being? There may be family or other reasons for throwing the mantle of oblivion over this melancholy affair, but at the same time the community have some rights in the premises which Coroners and Coroners' juries should be compelled to respect.

"FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY, these three;" "but the greatest of these is charity," saith St. Paul. Good every day in the calendar, but particularly good on New Year's Day.

THE BRITISH ISLANDS have seventy-seven million acres of land and thirty-two million inhabitants. Farm laborers complain of a lack of employment, workmen in all other branches ask higher wages on account of scarcity and high price of food, and discontent reigns in all quarters among all classes. The London Standard prescribes emigration as the cure for the trouble, instead of adopting the proposition to cultivate the parks and commons, which would afford only small and temporary relief. Canada and Australia have abundance of virgin land open to settlement, while our own boundless prairies offer to colonists not only homes of plenty, but free citizenship and an equal share in the control of governmental affairs.

OUR GREAT NEW YORK FESTIVAL.—Thanksgiving is the great social festival of New England; Christmas is the time-honored day of all the days in the year "down South," but New Year's Day, handed down to us from the solid Dutch patriarchs of New Amsterdam, is the great "at home" anniversary of New York. And so, in the expressive formula of the sociable Rip Van Winkle, we submit to our fellow citizens respectively, and to the stranger within our gates, "Here's to you and your family, and may they all live long and prosper."

The Herald Excitement in Cuba—The Independent, the Party and the Official Press.

By some freak of the mail or from some other occult cause the letter of our new Special Commissioner to Cuba, under date of the 21st ult., has reached us three days after his communication of the 24th, which we published in the HERALD of Monday last. The important interview with the Captain General, which we now publish, will throw additional light on the correspondence which passed between our Commissioner and General Ceballos. We observe that while the Captain General registers his refusal to accord the same privileges to Mr. O'Kelly that he did to Mr. Henderson, on grounds which have a suspicion of pique rather than logic, he assures him of his safety under the protection of a vised passport. Our Commissioner has certainly passed the argument of his position before the Cuban Executive in a light not to be misunderstood. As the representative of the HERALD he can claim no consideration under any condition into which the neutral character of his mission does not enter. The neutral representative of an independent journal is the character in which he asks for facilities to judge unbiassedly of the deplorable warfare. The Captain General, neither in the interview nor the correspondence, denies a point of this representative capacity. The nearest approach to his reasons for denying the safe conduct would appear to be that our present Commissioner must suffer all possible dangers and inconveniences in the fulfillment of his mission, because our late representative displeased, misrepresented or deceived the Spanish authorities. Our Commissioner, with a high sense of duty, accepts the position, perilous though it be, having in all courtesy informed the Captain General what is the simple truth, that any accident befalling him will more probably result from the refusal than from the extension of protection. The reply of General Ceballos we hold, however, to be a strong guarantee for Mr. O'Kelly's safety, although not expressed in a formal order to his subordinates in the island.

Never in the history of journalism was a single journal so much the cause of governmental and popular discussion as the New York HERALD. Foreign governments, feeling something of its power, treat its utterances as indications of the national intelligence in its broadest sense; political parties court its influence, without understanding the spring of its declarations. Rivals in art, the drama, the law, on the floor of Congress become continually mystified as to its policy. "Why is it," every one of these will ask, "that the HERALD, which supported the view held by us to-day, does not follow us into the view we may hold to-morrow?" The answer is frank and curt—Because the HERALD is a truly independent journal and pins itself to no government, to no individual, nor to any man's policy. In this one respect of independence it exceeds all other journals in the world, as it stands at the head of all newspapers in the particular of collecting news. Curious, indeed, while on this point of news-collecting, is it to ponder over the Diario's correspondent, whose profound knowledge of things in general is evinced in his tribute to the HERALD as a paper of "advertisements and news." Much as he wished to hide this tribute under petty supervenient malice, it would crop out in spite of all his poorly guarded intentions to serve his patrons.

A proper gauge of this estimation of the HERALD will be found in the regard in which our representatives are everywhere held, not merely as irresponsible partisans or personal emissaries to color facts to suit individuals, but as the ambassadors of a tangible independent power which has its master only in the public intelligence. We have agents in every part of the world. When they serve us faithfully we feel at liberty to praise them; when they fall unnecessarily, intentionally deceive us, or disappoint just and reasonable expectations in any particular, we are not afraid as publicly to condemn them. The scrutiny bestowed upon their work and the important public character which they fill place them, as General Ceballos observes to our Commissioner, more in the rank of ambassadors than anything else. This high trust—the great embassy of public opinion—causes their actions and utterances to be still more carefully weighed. Hence it is that our agents are not treated by us with the mincing leniency in which other partisan, personal or merely official journals hide the shortcomings of their representatives. Our duty is to the public, and no personal considerations can weigh in influencing our expression.

One side or the other of a question is nothing to us unless the truth inheres in one of them. We never hesitate to place both sides before our readers. When we thought Mr. Henderson failed in his Cuban mission we did not seek to conceal that fact, as a journal not having a proper sense of its public duty might have done. When subsequently we found he had accomplished more than we supposed at first we were not sparing in our expressions of approval. If this course puzzled some of our contemporaries in America, and the entire Spanish and Cuban press, it is because they knew not whether to wonder most at the enterprise in carrying out such a mission or the bold independence in dealing with our own Commissioner. The strictures of the official press in Havana or Santiago de Cuba on the mission of Mr. Henderson could not be so severe as to prevent our publication of them when they stated anything in the shape of fact. It is a system of fair dealing we would recommend to those whose station in that fair but troubled island places them, thought to a limited extent, in the position of guides of public opinion. We give their articles as we gave the President's Message on Cuban affairs, or as we give to-day Minister Zorrilla's declaration against tolerating foreign intervention in Spanish colonial affairs.

A new year now opens upon the strife in Cuba with the gathering notes of Spain's determination still to wear the Gem of the Antilles in the crown of Ferdinand. A new year breaks in hope or in desperation on the revolutionists in the field, who strive to pluck that gem from the Spanish diadem and set it in the strong clasps of republican independence. Without sign of ruth the warfare will be waged to the bitter end. Whatever that end may be we pray on the threshold of this young year that the final may be soon, and

that next New Year's Day may shine over the beautiful island on men at peace, and, under whatever flag, that there be neither bond nor free, but all alike.

THE STOKES TRIAL has been adjourned till to-morrow. A witness whose name is Jester appeared and testified to seeing a lady pick up a pistol on the stairway at the instant of the tragedy. Commodore Vanderbilt testified that Fisk was a most unscrupulous man. The case does not seem to call for comment while it is in progress, though the result of the trial is of the utmost importance.

The Outgoing and the Incoming Administrations.

The State and municipal administrations change hands to-day. The democrats go out in Albany and New York and the republicans come in. Reversing the rule of nature, the young men disappear and the old men step into their shoes. The terrible tribe of Tammany becomes extinct and the glorious company of reformers springs into existence. Corruption closes its career when the hands of the dial point the hour of noon, and Honesty holds everything henceforth in its own hands. The tribulations of the taxpayers are to cease from to-day. The rate of taxation is to be lowered from the present moment. The State finances are to be redeemed from bankruptcy as soon as both hands on Trinity church clock unite on the highest figure of the circle. From the instant that the big bell ceases to ring out its twelfth stroke all city accounts are to be properly audited, all city vouchers are to be carefully scrutinized and rescrutinized, all sinecure offices are to be abolished, all jobs are to end, all canal rings are to disappear, and the people are to be relieved from all oppressive burdens. Glory, glory, Hallelujah!

There may be those who desire to say a kind word to the retiring officials; to compliment Governor Hoffman on the dignity he has thrown about the office of Chief Executive of the State, so long in the hands of such men as Clark, Morgan and Fenton; to concede to Mayor Hall the possession of qualities which have been useful and creditable to the city which he has represented for the past four years. But they will, no doubt, meet with fierce denunciation from those who, in the continued Shibboleth of "Tammany frauds," seek to deter the people from recognizing the more recent facts of the Louisiana usurpation and the Credit Mobilier corruptions. It is possible that some people may be disposed to regard Governor Hoffman's public services with favor and to give him credit for having faithfully discharged his official duties; that they may consider Mayor Hall's twenty years' labor—three as Assistant District Attorney, thirteen as District Attorney and four as Mayor—deserving of some grateful recognition, even though he may have found himself at the close of his voyage on a pirate ship, and may or may not have been careless in the auditing of the accounts of the crew while they were sailing under false colors. But of course the people who entertain such outrageous opinions will be severely censured for their heresies, and will be sharply reminded that no good can come out of Nazareth. To be sure, Governor Hoffman has been endorsed by all parties as a faithful Executive in the city and in the State. To be sure, Mayor Hall won golden opinions from all sorts of men when he held the important office of District Attorney. But are they not both Tammany officials? And are we not, as good and faithful republicans and office-seeking reformers, bound to denounce them as pariahs? Are we not, as honest citizens, called upon to rejoice at the termination of their official careers? To be sure we are. Glory, glory, Hallelujah!

It is consoling, at least, that whatever diversity of opinion may exist in relation to the outgoing State and municipal administrations all candid and fair-minded men can unite in commendation of the incoming administrations. In General Dix the people have secured a Governor who will do honor to the office both as an honest and able official and a courteous and accomplished gentleman. In the sterling integrity of Mayor Havemeyer the citizens of New York feel satisfied that municipal corruption must be a thing unknown. Both our new Executives are advanced in life, numbering over seventy years, and they succeed young men. The general belief has been in old men for counsel, young men for action; but if Governor Dix and Mayor Havemeyer unite, as we believe they do, the heart of youth with the head of age, the political millennium must be at hand. Glory, glory, Hallelujah!

BISMARCK'S POSITION.—From the Spener Gazette of the 16th ultimo we learn that the resignation of the Presidency of the Prussian Ministry by Prince Bismarck does not withdraw him from the Prussian Ministry. He will retain the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs, and thus maintain the coherency between the Prussian government and that of the German Empire.

THE TAXPAYERS OF NEW YORK will be glad to see by the statement from the Commissioner of Public Works, which we publish elsewhere, that the receipts from water rents for the year just passed have been \$158,458 10 in excess of those for the year 1871, while the expense of collecting has been reduced \$37,227 67. The net revenue of the city from Croton water is thus increased nearly two hundred thousand dollars in a single year. If Commissioner Van Nort has been equally efficient and economical in the administration of the other bureaus of his department the people of New York may well congratulate themselves upon having so capable an officer in this important position. His statement, and the promptitude with which it is made—on the first day of the New Year—are proof of the efficiency of his administration.

THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS having adjourned over to the 6th of January, there will be comparatively few of the members present to assist in the official festivities of Washington; but, nevertheless, the receptions of the President, of the members of his Cabinet and of the Diplomatic Corps, and of the Governor of the District, and of the city officials, &c., &c., will make a great day for our national capital.

A DELIGHTFUL CHANGE.—The change from the dreadful fire bells to the pleasing chimings of Old Trinity in honor of the New Year. They carry peace even to the porturbed spirit of Annoke Jena.

Premier Gladstone's Policy Toward the British People and Foreign Nations.

The Right Honorable the Secretary for War of England addressed a public meeting at Oxford on the 30th ultimo. The points of his speech have been reported to us by cable. The expression is important in the view that it may be accepted as affording an unofficial outside inkling of the policy which Premier Gladstone will pursue toward the British people and the foreign nations during the next session of Parliament. Mr. Cardwell's responses to the Ballot bill, the shortening of the term of army enlistment and a probable fusion of the toning down of the military system, of the army establishment with the militia, proves that Her Majesty's Ministers have estimated the power of Anglo-Saxon democracy, and that they will endeavor to lead it in its advance toward the consummation of a safe and liberal plan of citizen enfranchisement. The Secretary's allusions to the United States generally, and to the result of the Geneva arbitration specially, breathed the spirit of a cordial international fraternity which is rendered still more sincere, perhaps, by his knowledge of the fact that in the result of the more recent intercommunion between America and England the English people have discovered the essentials of a grand supplementary and inevitable addition to their bill of rights or Magna Charta, while the great nations have found in it an exact definition of the principles of an honest neutrality in time of war.

THIS NEW YEAR will be distinguished in New York by the inauguration of our new Governor for the State and our new Mayor for the city. Reform! Reform! Let us hope that they will in reality give us some good works in reform, beginning from this day. We await with more than ordinary interest the Inaugural of the Governor and of the Mayor.

The Weather for To-Day—The Western Rivers Again Rising.

The weather reports premonish a wet and rainy New Year's Day for the Middle and Eastern States. The telegrams from the West on Monday night announced a considerable rainfall in the Central Mississippi and the entire Ohio Valley; and so perilous had become the loosening ice gorge at St. Louis that it was said that unless the rain ceased the great bridge there would be abandoned by travel. From midnight to the morning of Tuesday torrents of rain—ninety-nine hundredths of an inch—fell at St. Louis, and the rain belt, of several hundred miles width, extending from St. Louis to Memphis, and thence northwardly to Western Pennsylvania, was precipitating large quantities of water into the Ohio Valley. The same precipitation probably prevailed also in the Lower Valley of the Missouri, and these combined down-pours will undoubtedly swell the already swollen volume of the great Western rivers, producing an almost vernal rise.

These recent rains belong to a storm located in the Lower Ohio Valley yesterday afternoon, and then moving northwardly toward the lower lakes of Pennsylvania and New York, the effects of which we shall probably feel to-day. It has frequently happened that the Missouri and the Ohio rivers have frozen over in the early Winter, and have broken up in the first part of January, for a brief interval, to be again solidified. With the high temperature prevailing in the West yesterday it is highly probable these rivers will liberate their ice masses and be temporarily reopened. While the Upper England above Poughkeepsie and the New England rivers are more likely to hold their crystal ice bridges till the Spring thaw, it is more than possible that the Susquehanna and the Potomac will break up the last of this week, with the rainfall now imminent over the Middle States. The moving ice masses in the Lower Hudson yesterday fully verify the warning of the HERALD published on the morning of Sunday last. The latest weather indications threaten increased mifall and a fresh rise in the Hudson to-day and to-night, and our river men and ferryboats must be doubly vigilant.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

- Judge Ferry, of Boston, has brought up at the St. Denis Hotel.
Bank Commissioner D. C. Howell is staying at the Astor House.
General Albert Pike, the "Arkansas poet," is at the Coleman House, near Plattsburg, has sprung up at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Ex-Governor Stanford, of California, has arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel.
Congressman Oakes Ames, of Massachusetts, is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Ex-Congressman D. A. Bridges, of Pennsylvania, is at the St. Nicholas Hotel.
Colonel Charles Boyd, of the British Army, has arrived at the Grand Central Hotel.
Fred K. de Luca, Italian Consul in this city, is at present stopping at the Astor House.
Colonel Owen Hale, of the United States Army, has quarters at the Grand Central Hotel.
Baron J. Wrangel, of St. Petersburg, Russia, is calmly enjoying at the Grand Central Hotel.
Colonel Daniels, a Richmond (Va.) editor, will enter the lists as a contestant for the Clerkship of the next House of Representatives.
General W. S. Hancock, the Commander of the Department of the East, will remain at the Westmoreland Hotel through the Winter.
Governor Converse, of Vermont, who a few days ago lost his wife, is now called to mourn the death of a niece, Miss Lura E. Edson, who has long been a member of his household.
Senator Lyman Trumbull, of Illinois, will resume the practice of law after the 3d of March, the day on which his Senatorial term expires. He has been in the United States Senate since 1855—seventeen years.
John Bell will sail from England for America on the 9th of January. Mr. Bell was at one period of his life a Congregationalist clergyman, officiating in London. He subsequently joined the Church of Rome as a layman. He is of rare oratorical ability and has lately given some very attractive readings in England, which may, perhaps, be repeated in the United States.
Don Jose Maria Morales, a merchant, and Colonel of the First battalion of Volunteers in Havana, is now pretty well stricken with grief. Having been, for some days his illness assumed such a grave character, that it was considered necessary, as a last resort, to apply the consolations of the last sacrament. On the 15th ult. the priest of his parish, who carried the holy host, on foot, under a pallium, was accompanied by a double line of volunteers, militia and members of different professions and commerce, all personal friends, each with lighted tapers. Three bands of music and the charitable association of the Brotherhood of the Holy Sacrament, with their lighted lanterns, also formed part of the cortege. Although very weak Mr. Morales insisted on being dressed in his volunteer uniform, and received the eucharistic water in that dress and on his knees.