

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXVIII.....No. 19

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

- BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—SHERMAN AND CRANES. This evening.
WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—ARTS. Afternoon and evening.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth av.—RODOLPH THE CLOWN.
ATHENIUM, No. 23 Broadway.—GRAND VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2 1/2.
NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—LADY LOTUS.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1873.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

- 'SOME PLAIN FACTS ABOUT THE CREDIT MOBILIER CORRUPTION! WILL THE IMPLICATED CONGRESSMEN RESIGN?'—LEADING EDITORIAL ARTICLE.—SIXTH PAGE.
STANLEYIZING CUBA! MR. HENDERSON'S LETTER EXPLANATORY: HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SPANISH LEADERS AND SUDDEN DEPARTURE: MR. O'KELLY'S NEWS TOUR: THE SPANIARDS PUZZLED.—FIFTH PAGE.
EUROPE BY CABLE! LIMITING THE FRENCH EXECUTIVE: RAPID RISE IN RENTES: THE AUSTRO-FRENCH WAR ALLIANCE AGAINST PRUSSIA: MORE SPANISH TROOPS FOR CUBA: A CARLIST DEFEAT.—SEVENTH PAGE.
NAPOLEON! DISTINGUISHED ARRIVALS FROM FRANCE AND LONDON AT CHISELHURST: QUEEN VICTORIA TO VISIT THE EX-EMPEROR.—SEVENTH PAGE.
THE PERSIAN SHAH'S TOUR! HE WILL VISIT EUROPE IN APRIL: THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND PERSIA.—SEVENTH PAGE.
ITEMS FROM THE FEDERAL CAPITAL! THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE JOB: THE CREDIT MOBILIER UNKARTHING: THE LOUISIANA AND MISSOURI SENATORSHIPS.—THIRD PAGE.
FIAT JUSTITIA! PROMPT PUNISHMENT TO BE METED OUT TO ALL CLASSES OF CRIMINALS: THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY RESOLVED UPON REFORM—RAPID TRANSIT INSURED.—FOURTH PAGE.
NEWS FROM ALBANY! THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE: A SHORT SESSION PROBABLE.—SEVENTH PAGE.
MRS. WHARTON'S SECOND ARRAIGNMENT! STRANGE STORIES OF THE EFFECTS OF VARIOUS LIQUORS PARTAKEN OF AT HER HOUSE: VAN NESS' FEELINGS.—TENTH PAGE.
CREDIT MOBILIER PLACINGS! ANTE-ELECTION DENIALS OF COMPLICITY AND THE SWORN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS: THE AIMS OF THE WOLVES AND THE DUPED INNOCENTS: THE WILSON COMMITTEE AT WORK.—FOURTH PAGE.
BOUTWELL'S POWER OF INFLATION! REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE DENYING THE SECRETARY'S RIGHT TO ISSUE THE \$44,000,000 OF GREENBACKS.—THIRD PAGE.
A JERSEY WAR! PROSPECTIVE RIOT AT COMMUNIPAW AGAINST THE CONTINUANCE OF THE FERTILIZING FACTORY NUISANCE! THE ABATTOR COMPANY CUT OFF THE WATER SUPPLY.—THIRD PAGE.
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION! THE OFFICERS ELECTED—THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS—BUILDINGS INSPECTED BY SUPERINTENDENT MACGREGOR.—THIRD PAGE.
OUR FILTHY STREETS! WHAT THE STREET-CLEANING BUREAU SHOULD DO, BUT HAVE NOT DONE: WADING THROUGH 'THE DEMD MOIST, UNPLEASANT' SLUSH.—FIFTH PAGE.
ON 'CHANGE! THE MONEY RATE LESS THAN SEVEN PER CENT: ERIE, UNION PACIFIC AND GOVERNMENTS UPWARD BOUND: THE JANUARY STOCK SPECULATION.—NINTH PAGE.
SETTLING TWEED'S RESPONSIBILITY! DEPUTY CHAMBERLAIN PALMER UNSOUGHT AND MR. FOLEY ENJOINED! LITIGATIONS IN THE OTHER TRIBUNALS.—EIGHTH PAGE.

HONORS TO THE DEAD EMPEROR.—Yesterday several distinguished persons arrived at Chiselhurst for the purpose of attending the funeral of the ex-Emperor. Among these were Marshal Lebon, General Froissard and General De Failly. It speaks well for these men, who were wont to bask in the sunshine of imperial favor, that they have the courage in these dark hours to show their attachment to the memory of their deceased chief and to sustain by their presence and their sympathy the surviving relatives and friends. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Commandant of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, where the Prince Imperial is a cadet, has forbidden all entertainments at that institution until after the funeral of the Emperor. All this is very well, and it is not improbable that at some future day the kindness will be amply repaid.

ERIE RAILWAY AFFAIRS are assuming fresh and livelier interest under the latest of the several régimes which succeeded that of Fisk and Gould. Yesterday the Board of Directors authorized a new loan of ten millions of dollars (which shall not be disposed of at less than par) for the purpose of more fully equipping the road, inclusive of a double track, and procuring its gradual alteration to the narrow gauge system.

Some Plain Facts About the Credit Mobilier Corruption—Will the Implicated Congressmen Resign?

It is about time that the people of the United States should understand the true character of the Credit Mobilier transactions, in the investigation of which the Congressional committee, presided over by Judge Poland, is now engaged. The testimony taken by the committee yesterday, and the comparison of the statements made by the implicated Congressmen before and after the recent election, which will be found in to-day's HERALD, must be sufficient to satisfy every impartial mind that the whole business, from first to last, has been foul with corruption, and that the exposé is one of the most disgraceful ever known in the history of dishonest legislation. We are told that the ostrich, when it buries its head in the sand, believes that its whole body is successfully concealed from view. The Congressmen who were debauched by the Credit Mobilier Ring have displayed a voracity and a power of digestion equal to those of the ostrich, and it is possible that, following the peculiar characteristics of that singular bird, they imagine that the elaborately prepared confessions which they have, one after another, read before the committee, will blind the eyes of the people to the true character of their acts. They will find themselves deceived. No amount of sophistry, no special pleading, no ingenious attempt to conceal the revolting features of bribery and corruption behind the mask of pure business transactions, will cover up the fact that they were tempted by the offers of Oakes Ames and the prospect of large pecuniary advantage to betray their trust as representatives of the people.

Look at the plain facts of the case. The Union Pacific Railroad is a corporation aided by the government of the United States and responsible to the government for its honest and proper management. To guard the public interests in the corporation a certain number of government directors are appointed on the Board, in addition to those duly chosen by the stockholders. These representatives of the government in the direction are in fact trustees acting on behalf of the people. A "ring" of directors is formed, and its members, as stockholders and directors of the Credit Mobilier, let themselves the contracts for building the road at a price enormously above the just cost of the work, and in other ways plunder the Union Pacific Company out of millions of dollars. In order to carry out this conspiracy successfully it is necessary to secure the friendly co-operation of the active government directors and the friendly silence of Congress. An exposure of their plot would inevitably be its defeat, for they are in the power of the government and Congress of the United States. The active members of the "ring" take certain shares of the Credit Mobilier stock, worth eight or ten times its face, which are entered to their credit on the books as "trustees," and these shares they sell at par to the members of Congress in the most prominent positions or likely to be the most troublesome as enemies of the ring. When a Congressman has no money they advance him the amount of the nominal payment or take it out of the heavy dividends, which are made almost as soon as the "sale" is completed. The members thus favored become the warm friends of the Credit Mobilier. In the unsophisticated language of Oakes Ames it has become their interest to "look into the business," and they are so well satisfied of its merits that they can be relied upon to put a parliamentary quietus upon all inconvenient inquiries that may be started by outside parties.

This is the plain English of the transaction, and there is no manner of question or doubt that if no quarrel had taken place between the members of the "ring," if no lawsuit had been commenced which was certain to bring all the transactions of the company before a Court, if no facts had been brought to light during the campaign, every dollar of the Credit Mobilier stock "placed" by Oakes Ames would have remained in the pockets of the Congressmen to whom it was assigned. The consciousness of guilt was upon every Senator and Representative who had received stock at the hands of the "ring," and it was this alone which made many of them run like frightened sheep as soon as exposure was threatened, and return to their tempter the stock which he had "placed" to them. The disinclination to be involved in a lawsuit is a bald pretence. The suit feared by these holders of Oakes Ames' tempting shares was a suit in the court of public opinion. The judgment they dreaded was the verdict of the people declaring them to be the agents of a corrupt job, bribed to do its work on the floors of Congress. Why else did they shrink from retaining the richly-paying investment they had made on the very first inkling that the secret history of the close corporation would be exposed in a court of law? Why else did they positively deny during the campaign all knowledge of the Credit Mobilier stock and lead the people to believe, by their solemn asseverations, that they never had any connection with the corporation, directly or indirectly? Why else did they induce Oakes Ames to publish before the election the letter which is now proved to have been false by his own testimony before the committee of investigation and by the testimony of every other witness who has been examined?

The whole story of the implicated parties from beginning to end is a fabric of deception and fraud. It is not usual in an honest business transaction to purchase stock and allow it to stand in the name of a "trustee," drawing the dividends through him. It would not have been necessary in an honest business transaction to conceal the truth or to cover up a single act connected with the affair. The testimony of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Credit Mobilier, given before the Committee of Investigation yesterday, is alone sufficient to establish the character of the whole proceeding. "I deny that the general public has a lively interest in this matter; only a few newspapers care anything about it," says this pert official, and he proceeds to testify with impertinent indifference that "the books went travelling about the country to prevent people from seeing them who had no interest in them;" that "the stock transfer book has disappeared," and that he has no information or belief as to the whereabouts of the missing books. A nice condition,

truly, for an honest company to be in, and a nice secretary and treasurer for an honest company to be represented by before a Congressional committee! In the light of such evidence it is easy to understand the value of Congressional silence to the Credit Mobilier. "We wanted no legislation," says the bland Oakes Ames; "I never asked a single member with whom I placed stock to vote for any measure connected with the Credit Mobilier." This was the cry of Tweed and Fisk and Barber, and this is the cry of every corruptionist who buys and sells legislators like cattle at so much a head. "Let us alone," said the old Erie direction when they paid over their money to Senators and Assemblymen at Albany. "Let us alone," echoed the old Tammany Ring when they thrust their bribes into the pockets of the thieves at the State capital. "Let us alone," whispered Oakes Ames, as he "placed" his valuable stock "where it would do most good." So, when the corruption is unearched, the plea of the corrupted is universally the same. Their profitable negotiations are all pure business transactions, and they never promise to give any consideration in legislative services for any favor they may receive.

Can these Congressional ostriches and their apologists hope to persuade the people that men who enter into honest, bona fide business transactions involving large amounts of money are so careless and indifferent as to keep no accounts, and to be utterly unable to tell whether they have paid or received dividends on stock at all, what amounts they have paid or received, and at what dates they purchased or relinquished the securities? Do they think that all their carefully prepared and nicely dovetailed confessions will blind the people to the fact that an honest tale needs no such elaborate caution, can be told by word of mouth, and does not require to be drawn up in writing with legal cunning and precision? Do they imagine, in fact, that plain, sensible men do not know that every one of them would have had his Credit Mobilier stock in his pocket to-day, like Mr. Charles H. Neilson, but for the fear of the exposure that has now come upon them? If they do, the sooner they take their heads out of the sand and look about them the better. They will then see that the people have a lively interest in this matter, and that the best thing they can do is to resign their positions in Congress and retire from public life. During the campaign it was well enough to cry down the charges brought against them as electioneering slanders, but this plea is no longer available. The people have no more confidence in any Congressman connected with this miserable business than they have in the Tweeds and Ingersolls and Garveys of the old Tammany Ring, and resignation is the only atonement the tainted members can make for their offence. We have no hope that Congress will have sufficient fearlessness and independence to expel them from Senate and House. We have no confidence in the investigating committee. But the cause has been tried before the people; the popular verdict has pronounced the word "Guilty," and the best thing the defendants can do is to throw themselves upon the mercy of the Court and retire into private life.

The Defeat of General Blair.

After seventeen ballots in the caucus of the democrats and liberals of the Missouri Legislature Lewis V. Bogy, of St. Louis, was nominated for the place, in the United States Senate, of General Frank Blair, the present incumbent. The decisive vote was—For Bogy, sixty-four; for Blair and others, forty-seven. There were a baker's dozen of candidates in the contest, including a liberal proportion of ex-Confederate army officers. But the essential point in the case is, that among all these candidates General Blair has been defeated, and so, on the 4th of March next, he will retire, at least for a year or two, from public life.

This is a remarkable case. General Blair and Governor Gratz Brown were, in fact, the chief contrivers of the liberal republican movement of the Cincinnati Convention and of the Presidential coalition ticket of Greeley and Brown. The fusion of the democrats with the anti-Grant republicans in Missouri, 1870, had been so successful, in the election of Brown for Governor and Blair to fill the remnant of an unexpired term in the Senate, that these men, with Carl Schurz, really believed that their Missouri coalition might be extended over the whole Union with the same success. Hence the Cincinnati Liberal Convention and the co-operating Baltimore Democratic Convention on the liberal ticket of Greeley and Brown. From the general shipwreck of the fortunes of this coalition hardly a man has been left to tell the story. We had supposed, however, that in a democratic Legislature General Blair, as a democrat, would escape the shoals and breakers and come safely into port again. But he, too, goes down, and the Missouri democrats, in abandoning him, have evidently had enough of the "passive policy" of his "new departure."

THE DEPUTY CHAMBERLAINSHIP.—In the application for an injunction against John Foley, who claims the office of Deputy Chamberlain under the assumption of the power of appointment by Comptroller Green, the Court decided yesterday that Deputy Chamberlain Palmer, in whose name the application was made, had no standing in Court, the proper person to complain being the Chamberlain, and not his deputy. Thereupon the application was made in the name of the Chamberlain, the temporary injunction against Mr. Foley was continued, and the final hearing set down for to-morrow. As yet the attempt of Comptroller Green to force upon the Chamberlain a deputy to whom he objects has resulted only in entailing a needless expense upon the city.

A PROPOSITION made in the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention to remove the State capital from Harrisburg to Philadelphia is objected to by some of the country press on account of the temptations that would surround the verdant rural members in case the change should be made. But, then, lobby accommodations would be hugely augmented and back-and-forth operations greatly facilitated. It would, therefore, be the same in the long run.

THE DEATH OF NAPOLEON continues to have an improving effect upon the Paris Bourse, where French notes yesterday were quoted at 54.27—an advance of forty-five centimes since the night previous to the fatal event at Chiselhurst.

The Tribute to Independent Journalism in the Banquet to Stanley.

To those who do not habitually look beneath the surface of things the gathering on Saturday at Washington to do honor to Mr. Stanley will not assume the importance we propose to show in hereto. A good deal of the popular wonder that would have surrounded the circumstances, had it happened forty or fifty years ago, has been worn off by the progress of journalism itself. The notable fact, however, remains that the representative of a thoroughly independent journal receives the greeting and the praise of men high in the leadership not merely of party but of the nation itself. That a hundred interests and numberless points of etiquette would have prevented such a gathering in the long past days of the reign of the party press is as patent as that the party press could never have originated the enterprise which the assembly met to honor. It was a simple act of justice to the independent press, and as such we wish it to be appreciated. We can fancy the surprise which would light up the ghostly features of an old-time editor could he have risen from the grave he has tenanted for forty years and looked in last Saturday evening upon the gathering at Willard's. His surprise would be as great as that of the most conservative mandarin in the Chinese Empire who would witness the Emperor and his Ministers rowing an eight-oared race with the Harvard crew upon Lake Quinsigamond. The disciple of Confucius might console himself with a whiff or two of opium and then die; the resuscitated party editor would hurry back to his grave and never leave it until Gabriel's trumpet roused him up for his last great earthly surprise. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Vice President elect, the Commander in Chief of the Army, half a dozen United States Senators—liberals, democrats and republicans—the leader of the House of Representatives and half a score of his fellow members of every shade of party and interest, the Secretary of the Treasury, two Assistant Secretaries of State, Judges, Governors, Generals and Commissioners were present, and warm notes of apology were read from the President, the Secretary of State and other distinguished personages. The hosts of the occasion—the journalists of Washington—too, must be taken into account. They represented, collectively, as much intelligence, as much influence and as much patriotism and high sense of official responsibility as those we have previously enumerated. It would be difficult, indeed, in the capital of our country to collect a number of gentlemen of whom it could more truly be said that they represented that great tangible giant of unmeasured force called public opinion. And yet the object of all the kindly outpouring of well-wounded welcome was merely the representative of an independent American journal. Verily, if the ears of the dead editors of the party press could hear the force of that welcome their bones would rattle in protest. Now for the reason.

In the palmy old days when party patronage and a partisan subscription list were the only legs under editorial chairs no great representative of a political party would dare to publicly honor the man who represented a journal opposed to that party. As soon would the Captain General of Cuba make a complimentary speech over a glass of post-prandial champagne to the editor of *La Revolucion*. The feelings of the editor of the *Diario de la Marina* upon such an occasion, be on a par with those of the resuscitated party editor. In honoring the representative of the HERALD Secretary Fish paid respect to a journal which, in its fearless independence, has found grave fault with his official career. This instance alone will suffice to point out meaning, although in the persons of almost, if not quite all, of the public officials present at the banquet the instances could be multiplied wherein we have from time to time felt called upon to pass censure upon public acts of theirs. But their presence or their written compliments testify that the journal which, through its heroic representative, they honored, is one above party, and, therefore, in a position, without loss of dignity or party standing, to be treated in a friendly way. It is, in fine, the triumph of the independent press, signalized in the most emphatic and impressive manner.

We would further mark that its special fitness arises from the concentrated compliment being paid to the HERALD in the new field of journalism of which it is proud to be the pioneer—the field of action. It tells unequivocally that the new departure in journalism has in its myriad paths of public good the assurance beforehand of manifold appreciation, increased dignity and material profit. There is a key to all this, which will be found an easy means of solving what appears mysterious at first sight. It is that the HERALD holds before itself a reliance on the people as a whole and a consideration only of the general good. In carrying out a course guided by such conditions it is natural that condemnation of the acts of a man, no matter how high his position, or a party, no matter what its pretensions, must have its place, as well as the approval which at other times creditable deeds may call forth. It is in the certainty of this high impartiality in criticising and unceasing activity in collecting facts that a truly independent paper like the HERALD finds its influence and its power. It is a lesson that those who run may read, and we heartily commend it to all.

THE RECENT SEVERE WEATHER IN MINNESOTA.—We are told by the farmers that abundant snow is admirable protection for the winter wheat and promotes plentiful harvests. In that view Minnesota may anticipate prosperity in the coming Summer; but that can hardly compensate for the hardships of the present season, as detailed in our telegraphic despatch. So severe has been the cold to many settlers exposed to the blasts which sweep over the wide plains from the far distant mountains to the northwest that the polar air wave has benumbed their limbs and stopped their heart-flow even when screened by thick buffalo robes. Railroad work has been checked and teamsters were frozen to death on their journeys. Never before since settlement in that region began has such a terrible storm been known as that of last week. With the advance of cultivation there will be more opportunities for shelter, and it is safe to believe, as we surely hope, that we may never again hear of such fatal effects of cold in the thriving State at the headwaters of the Mississippi.

A Welcome Thaw—The Beauties of Reform Street Cleaning.

After the cheerless and blustering weather that followed in the footsteps of Santa Claus and ushered in the New Year yesterday's thaw was decidedly welcome. It was more efficient than even the formidable brigade of Italians belonging to the Bureau of Street Cleaning. Beneath its balmy breath hillocks of frozen snow and mud became beautifully less, and in the principal thoroughfares vehicles did not present the appearance of vessels in a heavy sea, rolling and pitching about as they have done for a fortnight. The condition of the streets since the memorable snow storm on the 26th of December needs no extended comment, as the suffering pedestrians from the Battery to the Park can testify. Here comes a snow storm of unusual rigor and inclemency, granted, but lasting only one day. Nearly three weeks have passed since this winding sheet enveloped Manhattan Island, and what has been done by our much-vaunted Reform Bureau of Street Cleaning to remove the piles of snow and frozen mud that threatened to put a stop to all business and travel? Of course Broadway began the first attention, and a force of men began to operate on our principal thoroughfare. Aided by the stage companies and many private firms they succeeded in a few days in making Broadway somewhat presentable, at least, as far as Union square. But after this effort the reform broom was hung up and the rest of the city was left to get along as well as wind and weather would permit. All the high-sounding promises which inaugurated the new bureau were forgotten. The heavily-taxed, long-suffering and patient citizens hailed with delight last year the change of brooms, innocently thinking that the millennium of street cleaning had at last arrived. The new bureau seemed to pray for some terrible storm or unnatural fall of snow to have the opportunity of showing what might be done by a municipal broom and shovel properly directed. The opportunity came nearly three weeks ago, and the famous broom and shovel have not effected any more than when the brave arms of the irresponsible Brown wielded them. The consequence is that business in many respects has been completely paralyzed, the streets have been impassable and reform street cleaning has proved to be a delusion and a snare, like its predecessors. If there was a lack of funds some excuse might be made, but the Reform Bureau costs double what former contractors were allowed. How easy it would have been, immediately after the snow storm, to have gone earnestly and honestly to work and to have accomplished the same results in other streets as made a portion of Broadway navigable! It is a very simple matter to keep the streets clean in the Summer and Fall months, when sun and occasional showers assist in the work, but at the very time that the efficiency of a reform bureau undergoes a real test down tumbles the entire fabric, and the too credulous and oft-deceived public find themselves wallowing in the Slough of Despond, like the desperate pedestrian running the gauntlet opposite the new Post Office, or a hard-worked horse floundering in West street. The principal sufferers are those whose homes are in Jersey or the City of Churches. The approaches to the ferries are, if possible, many degrees worse than other portions of the city, even where the dingy tenement house raises its multitudinous stories. Surely, something might have been done to keep these lines of travel in passable shape; but Reform regards them with the same indifferent eyes as it does the commonest purlieu. It is useless for the delinquent bureau in question to seek for excuses in the magnitude of the work of keeping the thoroughfares unobstructed after a heavy storm. The work can be done; the funds are always at hand, and will and honesty are the only requisites with which street cleaning commissions in this city seem to be unacquainted. If the present bureau declares its inability or unwillingness to do the work entrusted to it let us try another broom, and another, until, sooner or later, we hit upon the right article.

A COLORED UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM LOUISIANA.—There is trouble in the Kellogg camp in New Orleans. The federal bayonet Legislature has elected the shrewd negro Pinchback to the Senate of the United States, and the slate of the Kelloggites has been broken to pieces. The bargain had been made to send a carpet-bagger from New York to Washington as Kellogg's successor, and it was said that this programme was bargained for before Judge Durell's famous decision was rendered overthrowing the State government. But Pinchback proved too smart for the leaders and wireworkers, captured his colored brethren in the Legislature and carried off the prize. The people's Legislature will elect and send forward their Senator, and then the contest must come up in the United States Senate. The chances are that the colored aspirant, Pinchback, will be admitted to the seat, although his chances are probably not so good now as they would have been before election.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA'S PROPOSED VISIT to the great courts of Europe and to Constantinople denotes the arrangement of a diplomacy which will be very likely to lead to important consequences in the management of Eastern affairs. His Highness, having concluded the Seistan arbitration with the special commissioners of the Queen of Britain, has become, no doubt, anxious, although at an almost fatal moment for his own interests, to ascertain how the arrangement is likely to work. The causes which tend to disturb his mind are set forth in our news telegram.

THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION has granted the use of their hall in Philadelphia to the Women's Rights Association for two evenings, for the purpose of discussing the subject of female suffrage. The *Age* thinks the advocates of women's rights are entitled to a hearing without ridicule or prejudice, but suggests that at present the public appeal lacks backing in private, so far as the women of Pennsylvania are concerned.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.—We have seen no reformation by the management of this company of the very damaging charges made in our columns by a policy-holder in this company. Silence in such a case is generally taken as an admission of guilt. The trustees owe it to themselves that specific charges of a grave nature shall not pass unnoticed. The policy-holders will not be satisfied without a thorough ventilation.

Affairs at Albany.

In the State Senate, yesterday, the standing committees for this session were announced. They are substantially the same as last year, excepting the three liberal republican Senators—Palmer, Allen and Harrower—who are removed from the chairmanship into the back seats of their several committees. Having bolted from the regular republican church, they are by it classed as "assistant democrats." As now constituted the Senate Committee on Affairs of Cities is Messrs. Woodin (Chairman in place of Palmer), Perry, Benedict, Adams, Weismann, Palmer and Tiemann. The name of Senator Tweed appears nowhere in the list of the committees, and, from the fact, perhaps, that he has not reported in person, he is not recognized at all, and his district remains unrepresented. His engagements in this city will probably prevent his going up to Albany for some time. Indeed, it is surmised that he has no idea of going up this session, having no further interest in city charters, Tammany republicans or legislative schemes of any sort. He simply says to the Senate, "I remain here in New York, and what are you going to do about it?" Mr. James Wood, who received large money favors from Tweed and the old Erie Ring while Senator, and who supported all their measures, is continued as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Bills were introduced in the Senate giving power to juries to find a verdict of murder in the second degree on an indictment for murder in the first degree; providing for two terms per month, excepting July and August, for the Court of General Sessions, and that no witness in a criminal case shall be held more than fourteen days in custody, and providing for testimony *de bene esse*. Senator Tiemann gave notice of his intention to introduce soon his plan for a new city charter, giving the Mayor absolute power over the heads of departments in their appointment and removal respectively. The Board of Aldermen is to be informed of the fact in the case of a removal or appointment; but they are to have no voice in the matter. During the week the House Committee, with the Senate Committee on Cities, will hold a meeting for the purpose of hearing arguments on the various new charters proposed for this metropolis. We dare say, however, that that of the Republican Central Committee of the city will be adopted substantially by the committees on the subject and by the Legislature. Still, let every reformer who has prepared a new city charter for us go up to Albany and hand it in and expound it to the committees on the subject. In a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom.

In the House the standing committees were promptly announced. Mr. Fort, of Oswego, is the Chairman of Ways and Means, and hence the nominal leader of the House, although he is not likely to be so practically. Mr. Prince, of Queens, heads the Judiciary. Mr. Pierson, of Albany, has the important position of Chairman of "Affairs of Cities," and with him are associated Messrs. Patterson, Opydyke, Blumenthal and Deering, of New York; Cocheu and Higgins, of Kings; Alberger, of Erie, and Gere, of Onondaga. Of the other important committees the chairmen are as follows:—Of Canals, Mr. Batchelder, of Saratoga; of Commerce and Navigation, Mr. Alberger, of Erie; of Railroads, Mr. Hancock, of Fulton; of Insurance, Mr. Tobey, of Essex; of Banks, Mr. Burritt, of Monroe; of Federal Relations, Mr. Worth, of Kings. The selections appear to be good ones; but as they did last year, and yet the session did not justify the great expectations raised at its opening. Let us hope for a better result this year.

The French Parliament and the Presidential Power.

The sub-committee of the Committee of Thirty, which was recently empowered by the National Assembly of France to report on the constitutional relations and privileges which should exist and be exercised between the Executive Chief and the Parliament and by the two branches of the government towards each other, has just presented a project of law at Versailles. The plan is simple and likely to be effective. The President may communicate with the Legislature, but by message only. He may, however, be heard personally, provided he previously announces his intention of exercising the right of speech. The debate will be adjourned after the conclusion of his address, so that the vote shall not be taken while the Chief of State is in the chamber. A prompt promulgation of all urgent laws, when passed, is insisted upon, and suggestions are made for the drafting of an election and registration law and the defining of the period for the creation of a second chamber of legislation. M. Thiers spoke on the subject. He expressed himself suspicious of the intent of the checks and balance system, but was, it is apparent, unable to say much in opposition to the plan as a whole. This moderate and sensible action of the French committee is highly creditable to the democracy of the nation, to their representatives in the Chamber and to their Chief Magistrate. They have eliminated the essentials of a modern Magna Charta—one applicable to the wants of the people of every country in Europe. They have accomplished their work at a very critical moment in the history of their country—a moment when the latest representative of the "gloom of the glory" of war, which induced their ancestors and themselves to perpetrate so many fatal mistakes in the policy of their country, lies dead in exile in a foreign land.

GOVERNOR OGLESBY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS ON Monday shows him to be in accord with that enlightened public sentiment which demands such law reform as will make intelligent readers of newspapers eligible as jurymen in criminal trials. He also suggests that prices of produce, which in Illinois means wheat, corn and pork, should be subjected to legislative inquiry. As no State can make a valid law which will overrule the great trade law of demand and supply governing prices, it is likely Governor Oglesby will call the attention of the Springfield Bolons to plans for cheapening the freight on their breadstuffs and meat to market—a most sensible subject for their action, and one in which our own State and city are deeply interested. As long as Western farmers find corn ears their cheapest fuel there will still be room for improvements in transportation between the regions of the bread-growers and those of the bread-eaters.