

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXVIII.....No. 106

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

- NEW FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, 728 and 730 Broadway.—Divorce.
WOODS MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.—The Garden's Child. Afternoon and evening.
ATRENIUM, 55 Broadway.—Grand Variety Entertainment. Matinee at 2 1/2.
NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston sts.—The Belles of the Bois de Boulogne. Matinee at 2.
OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker streets.—Hurricane. Matinee at 2.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Union square, near Broadway.—Frog Frogs.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street.—David Gairick.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st. and Eighth av.—Under the Gaslight.
BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third street, corner Sixth Avenue.—Daddy O'Dowd.
ST. JAMES THEATRE, Broadway and 28th st.—McEvoy's New Hibernian.
GERMANIA THEATRE, Fourteenth street, near Third Avenue.—Das Spitzvogel.
BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—Fastest Boy in New York.
THEATRE COMIQUE, No. 54 Broadway.—Drama, Burlesque and Olio. Matinee at 2 1/2.
THIRTY-FOURTH STREET THEATRE, 34th st., near 3d av.—Variety Entertainment.
MRS. F. R. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.—David Gairick.
BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st., corner 6th av.—Nero Minstrel, &c.
TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery.—Variety Entertainment.
STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—Readings and Concert.
BARNUM'S GREAT SHOW.—Open afternoon and night. Capitoline Grounds, Brooklyn.
NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—Science and Art.

QUADRUPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, April 16, 1873.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

'THE WORK OF THE HERALD COMMISSIONER IN CUBA LIBRE: A PRACTICAL REFUTATION OF THE SPANISH CHARGES'—EDITORIAL LEADER—EIGHTH PAGE.
MR. O'KELLY'S CASE DECLARED BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN CONSULS IN CUBA TO BE EXTREMELY CRITICAL: CEBALLOS WILL NOT INTERFERE: THE NEW CAPTAIN GENERAL TO DECIDE THE ISSUE—NINTH PAGE.

FREEDOM CUBA! THE HEROIC EFFORTS AND SUFFERINGS OF THE PATRIOTS PORTRAYED BY MR. O'KELLY: HIS PERILOUS MARCH TO CUBA LIBRE: NEWS OF THE WAR! HOW IT IS CONDUCTED: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CUBAN PRESIDENT: THE SITUATION DEPICTED: HENDERSON'S BOGUS INTERVIEW—FIFTH AND SEVENTH PAGES.

CUBA! A MAP OF THE WAR-RAVAGED GEM OF THE WEST INDIES—SIXTH PAGE.
BATTLE BETWEEN THE WHITES AND BLACKS IN LOUISIANA: THE NEGROES ROUTED, WITH GREAT SLAUGHTER: DRIVEN FROM THEIR TRENCHES, THEY SEEK REFUGE IN THE COURT HOUSE, WHICH IS FIRED, AND A HUNDRED ARE SHOT WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE—NINTH PAGE.

NO NEWS FROM THE MODOC BATTLE GROUND! A GREAT STORM BREAKS THE WIRES! ANXIETY FOR INTELLIGENCE OF THE MOVEMENTS AGAINST THE SAVAGES—NINTH PAGE.

GREEN AND THE CHARTER DISCUSSED: NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL OF THE STATE—MARINE INTELLIGENCE—TWELFTH PAGE.

THE KHAN OF KHIVA SEIZING THE REINS: HE EXECUTES HIS CHIEF ADVISER, IMPRISONING A RELATIVE AND OTHER LEADING MEN AND RELEASES IMPRISONED MUSCOVITES—NINTH PAGE.

MURDER MADNESS! ASSAULT UPON A COLLECTOR OF THE NEW YORK GAS COMPANY IN A DOCTOR'S OFFICE: THE DOCTOR MORTALLY WOUNDS THE COLLECTOR: A HOT CONTEST FOR LIFE—SEVENTH PAGE.

ARRAIGNED FOR WIFE MURDER! GEORGE SHEPPLIN'S TRIAL PROGRESSING: THE CRIME! INTERESTING POINTS RAISED IN THE CARL VOGT EXTRADITION CASE! OTHER LEGAL BUSINESS—TENTH PAGE.

A SLEEP-WALKING HORROR! A BOY OF FIFTEEN LITERALLY BUTCHERS A COMRADE WITH AN AXE! A REMARKABLE CASE—SEVENTH PAGE.

NEWS TELEGRAMS FROM CUBA AND MEXICO—MISCELLANEOUS TELEGRAPHIC ITEMS—NINTH PAGE.

A DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION IN THE BAY STATE! THE CHICOPEE COTTON MILLS AND SIX THOUSAND BALES OF STOCK CONSUMED! HEAVY LOSS—SEVENTH PAGE.

ON 'CHANGE! THE MONEYED BROKERS KEEPING UP THE USURIOUS RATES! DECLINE IN GOLD AND STOCKS! THE BUSINESS AND QUOTATIONS—ELEVENTH PAGE.

ERIE'S LEGISLATIVE CONTROL! MESSRS. MORRIS AND WELCH TELL WHAT THEY KNOW OF ERIE OPERATIONS AT ALBANY—REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS—TENTH PAGE.

THE GREAT STORM IN THE WEST, announced in our despatches, seems to be of unusual severity. The telegraph wires are down on the lines to the Pacific, and communication is therefore cut off for the present. Until the storm abates sufficiently to allow the lines to be repaired we shall have to wait for news from the seat of war in the lava beds. Let us hope that with the reopening of telegraphic communication will come the intelligence that the murderous Modocs are no more.

THE POPE.—A telegram from Rome reports that the condition of health of the Pope remained unchanged during the day yesterday. It was stated on Monday that his illness had almost disappeared and that he had given audience to different personages at the Vatican. Continued improvement from this point could almost assure convalescence. A Paris rumor of yesterday alleged that the pope was dead, but the statement was not confirmed at a late hour of the night. The Chamberlain of the Roman Church, Cardinal de Geisis, was summoned to Rome. The peculiar nature of the official functions of His Eminence after the death of a Pope, as set forth in our columns, coupled with the fact of his social call to the Vatican, afford ground for thought that the members of the Sacred College have become solemnly impressed with the idea that his presence may be absolutely essential at an early moment.

The Work of the Herald Commissioner in Cuba Libre—A Practical Refutation of the Spanish Charges.

We publish in to-day's HERALD despatches from the British and American Consuls at Santiago de Cuba, emphatically declaring that the life of our special Cuban commissioner, now imprisoned at Manzanillo, is in imminent peril, and a press report from Havana, which takes a more hopeful view of his case, although indicating that he may be for some time deprived of his liberty. Consuls Ramsden and Young, who are in that part of the island where popular prejudices is the strongest against the daring and successful correspondent, and where exaggerated rumors are the most likely to be circulated, evidently fear that Mr. O'Kelly may not be accorded a fair trial, and that his reasonable request for the transfer of his case to Havana will be refused. The Havana report, more likely to be inspired from official sources, states that the life of the prisoner is in no danger; that the trial will take place in that city; that the decision of the case will be left by the present Captain General to his successor, General Pieltain, who represents the republican government of Madrid; that the prosecution is based upon the fact that Mr. O'Kelly when captured had upon his person letters or a letter from Cespedes, and that the English Consul at Havana favors the release of the prisoner, although he "has acted contrary to the advice of the Consul in violating the laws of the country." Of the two conflicting views of the peril in which our commissioner stands we are disposed to accept as the most reasonable that which is taken from the standpoint of the seat of government. We can readily believe that the friendly interposition of President Grant and Secretary Fish, united with the protest of a generous press, may have induced the Captain General, who is all-powerful in the matter, to direct that when the case shall have been prepared through the preliminary examination, its trial shall be transferred to Havana, and we cannot fear the result if the tribunal before which the prisoner is arraigned shall be presided over by fair-minded and honorable judges. Hence, while we desire to express our high appreciation of the interest and zeal in our correspondent's cause manifested by Consuls Ramsden and Young, we incline to the belief that the fears they entertain are groundless.

Simultaneously with these reports we have received and publish to-day a timely and interesting letter from Mr. O'Kelly, giving an account of his arrival in the Cuban lines and of his interview with President Cespedes and other leaders in the insurgent camp. This important communication affords the best commentary that can be made upon both the despatches to which we have alluded. Its calm, impartial tone; its unvarnished picture of the condition of the insurgent government and of the insurgent forces; its unsparing denunciation of the savage cruelty that marked the conduct of the victorious Cubans in the affair of Jiguani; its just tribute to the bravery of the Spanish troops engaged in that encounter, are one and all unpremeditated rebukes of the threats made against our correspondent's life, and of the charges made against his honor. And while this letter, written and forwarded long prior to his arrest, when he had no reason to fear imprisonment or trial before a Spanish tribunal, furnishes irrefutable proof of the writer's neutrality and good faith; it also sets before the world in a powerful light the public importance and beneficial character of the mission in which he was engaged. It supplies the governments and the people of the United States and of Europe with information they have long desired and failed to obtain. They will learn from its contents the true condition of the insurrection—its weakness and its strength; the hard fare, the insufficient clothing, the scarcity of arms and ammunition, the roving government, toiling over mountains and hiding in forest fastnesses; the patient endurance of the men through all these trials and privations, proving their devotion to the cause of free Cuba and their determination to continue the desperate struggle for independence. For the first time Spain and the United States will be made aware, through the statement of General Calixto Garcia, that in the earlier days of the revolution the Cubans received encouragement and aid from England, and that the British government, eager to avert the supposed danger of the annexation of the island to the United States, proposed to the insurgents a confederation of the Antilles, expressing a willingness to abandon Jamaica for the purpose of facilitating its formation. Our statesmen will learn from this development that the formation of a Republic of the Antilles is not an impracticable scheme; that it may be promoted by the recognition of Cuba as a free and independent Power accompanied by a positive renunciation of all ideas and desires for an extension of our territory by annexation. They will discover that we may find in England a collaborer in the work of establishing independent republics over the whole American Continent where provincial governments now exist, if we can only succeed in removing from his mind the erroneous impression that we desire to absorb all outlying States in our own confederation. Mr. O'Kelly's letter will further show, on the authority of President Cespedes as well as on that of his generals, that the insurgents in the field have set their faces stubbornly against a union with republican Spain; that they have no faith in the stability of the Spanish Republic, and that their ultimatum is independence or extermination. No one will deny the public importance of all this information, both in a national point of view and in the cause of humanity. The sole crime of which Mr. O'Kelly has been guilty is that of gathering the intelligence from the fountain-head of the insurrection at the hazard of his life, and laying it before the world in a calm, dispassionate and impartial narrative.

It is unnecessary here to follow our correspondent through his stirring adventures, since no person will fail to read the graphic account of his visit to Cuba Libre from his own pen. His interesting letter brings vividly before the imagination his solitary and perilous wanderings through a wild country in search of the rebel pickets, whose first welcome might have been given in the whizzing of the deadly bullet; his ride with the wild, half-disciplined, bandit-looking raiders; the brief and savage fight at the ambuscade: the

search for the wounded through the dark woods, not for the purpose of merciful help but with the fendish object of completing the work of death; the painful journey over rocks and through thick underbrush, only rendered passable by the free use of the machete; the arrival at the rude headquarters of the President of the homeless and wandering Republic; the frugal breakfast with Cespedes in the hut, while over the rough, improvised table the two men held earnest converse on topics that may change the destinies of nations and influence the fate of millions. The story, intensely interesting as it is, will be read with avidity by all whose hearts beat in sympathy with the oppressed, and by all who desire to obtain reliable information of the condition, the hopes and the prospects of the Cuban insurrection. The HERALD is now more especially called upon to consider those parts of Mr. O'Kelly's letter which bear upon the present position of that gentleman as a prisoner in a Spanish dungeon. We are informed through the press report from Havana, evidently inspired from an official source, that the charge against Mr. O'Kelly is the possession of a letter from President Cespedes. The Spaniards do not care to inform us that the letter in question was addressed to the proprietor of the journal of which Mr. O'Kelly was the accredited agent; that, like the letter brought by our African commissioner from Dr. Livingstone, it was a mere formal expression of thanks for the interest taken by a leading journal in the affairs of the Cubans, and intended as a proof that the mission of our agent had been faithfully and thoroughly fulfilled. This fact is, however, made known to us through Mr. O'Kelly; and hence we insist that the possession of such a letter cannot be an offence against the Spanish laws, provided that such laws authorized any communication at all with the insurgent camp. Now, even if the Spanish military rules prohibit communication with the insurgents, they were nullified in Mr. O'Kelly's case by the express permission granted him by the Captain General to go wherever he pleased at his own risk, and by the failure of the Spanish authorities at Santiago de Cuba to restrain him from leaving their own lines to enter those of the insurgents, in accordance with his publicly avowed intention. Moreover, after his departure, the Captain General admitted that he would not be held to have been guilty of any offence if, on his return, he should be able to show that he had faithfully preserved the character of a neutral. It is true that Mr. O'Kelly was warned of the peril of joining the insurgents, but this warning only meant that he might lose his life in a chance encounter, or through the rifle of a scout on either side. He chose to brave the danger; he entered the Cuban camp, and in so doing he only availed himself of the direct and implied permission to do so extended to him by the Spaniards themselves.

Under these circumstances we insist that our correspondent has violated no laws of Spanish Cuba, and that the letter he bears openly from President Cespedes to the HERALD is not a document the possession of which could be distorted into an act of treason. We discredit the insinuation conveyed in the Spanish report that the British Consul at that place brings any such charge against Mr. O'Kelly. If he does he would be unfit for the position he fills. Mr. O'Kelly's instructions bound him to the strictest neutrality and impartiality. Neutrality was imperatively necessary for the proper discharge of his duty as a correspondent, for the HERALD is no partisan of either side, and desires only to place reliable and impartial news before the public. If we favor the independence of Cuba we do so on the broad ground of freedom and humanity; but if the Cubans are unfit for independence, or if their struggle, however praiseworthy, is hopeless, the HERALD will say so to the world, and advocate the cessation of the wasting and cruel struggle. Had Mr. O'Kelly disregarded his instructions and forfeited his character as a neutral we would have been prompt to denounce his conduct, even though we might have pleaded for his pardon. But, strong in our confidence in his honorable conduct, and confirmed in our judgment by every fact that has been brought to light, we proclaim his innocence of any offence against the Spanish-Cuban laws, we denounce his protracted imprisonment as a needless injury and insult, and we warn the Spanish authorities that any outrage committed upon him without legal warrant will arouse the indignation of the civilized world and recoil with terrible effect upon its perpetrators. Mr. O'Kelly's consciousness of innocence and his high sense of honor alone have placed it in the power of the Spanish authorities to hold him as their prisoner even for an hour. His letter informs us that President Cespedes offered to send him home by way of Jamaica, and the receipt of his present communication is the best proof that he could have escaped without risk had he chosen to do so. He declined the offer, and boldly entered the Spanish lines with all his notes and documents in his possession. He trusted to Spanish honor for his safety, and it will be unfortunate for the nation if that trust shall be found to have been misplaced.

We learn from our correspondent's letter that our first commissioner to Cuba, Mr. Henderson, committed a fraud upon the HERALD and upon the public when he pretended to have had an interview with President Cespedes. The statement was false, and the HERALD, in its duty as an independent public journal, hastens to expose and denounce the imposition. Our first duty is to the people, and while the deception might never have been brought to light, we cannot violate that duty by concealing the mortifying truth. Mr. Henderson did well enough without resorting to fraud; but, eager to make his success appear complete, he forfeited his honor and palmed off a false story upon the public through our columns. We make all the atonement in our power by this explanation, which will probably impress upon all correspondents the knowledge that our columns can never be made the vehicle for the imposition of false news upon the public. The dishonorable conduct of our first commissioner only serves to enhance the value of the information we are now receiving from the mountain home of Cuba Libre.

THE RECORD OF CANINE in this city received another startling addition to its crimson page yesterday. The victim in this instance, Mr. Murray, is a collector for the New York Gas

Company. He visited one Dr. Brown, in William street, for the purpose of collecting a gas bill, and while writing out a receipt for the same he was savagely attacked by the Doctor, armed with a hatchet. He succeeded in knocking down his assailant and making his escape, not, however, before he received injuries which may prove fatal. The motive in this case was probably cupidity, as the collector, in making change, had occasion to pull out a large roll of bank notes.

The Public Press and the Modoc Atrocity.

There is no more certain barometer of the state of popular feeling in this country upon any prominent topic than the public press. Hence, when any event of paramount interest occurs it is only necessary to consult the leading editorial columns of the chief daily papers to ascertain with a fair degree of accuracy how the pulse of the people beats. With that view we will lead our readers through the columns of a number of our principal exchanges of yesterday, and exhibit to them the state of the press sentiment in regard to the latest savage atrocity, the assassination of General Canby, together with the views in brief of the same journals in relation to the Indian peace policy of the government.

The Springfield Republican—"The peace policy in its essentials must be maintained—the peace enforced by might, not resting on treaty or tribal consent." The Washington Chronicle—"The massacre will be terribly avenged." Boston Journal—"The only policy now left is that of punishment, even to the point of extermination of all concerned." Boston Advertiser—"Recent occurrences (the assassination of General Canby, &c.) are no excuse for a reversal of the humane policy entered upon by the present administration." Troy Times—"General Canby lies dead to-day, a victim of lawless speculators, who desired the army to be kept in the vicinity of the lava beds for mere purposes of gain." At the same time the Times advocates the extermination of the good for nothing tribes on the Pacific coast. Hartford Courant—"There should be no mercy shown to the guilty brutes, and it would be a subject for gratification if their white confederates should be compelled to share their punishment." Rochester Democrat—"Let their punishment be swift, sure and as fierce as you will; but let not a single failure disturb the noble policy of civilizing the race to which these criminals belong." Washington Star—"There is only one righteous way of avenging his (Canby's) death—that is, by sweeping from the face of the earth the whole miserable band, and this, it is comfort in this sad hour to know, the government has ordered to be done." Hartford Times—"Extermination seems to be the word, and the small band of Modocs will apparently be destroyed from the face of the earth like so many hyenas." Albany Journal (administration)—"In the main the peace policy has been successful; but this Modoc tribe is evidently outside the pale of all rules, and must be dealt with in the most summary and rigorous manner." Newark Journal—"For humanity's sake let us have a complete ending of this childish, idiotic, yet cruel peace policy farce. Let us have no more palavering—no more temporizing; but let the policy be peace for peace, war for war; a heart for a scalp, a life for a life." Albany Argus (anti-administration)—"The war of extermination must go on. Treachery must meet its deserts. But, sad thought, a wise administration of affairs would have averted all." Newark Advertiser—"Extermination is the only penalty consistent with the dignity of the government or the preservation of any esprit in the army engaged in the thankless and inglorious task of fighting such a foe as the Indians." Buffalo Express—"They (the Modocs) have put themselves on a level with wild beasts and, like wild beasts, they will be remorselessly hunted down." Philadelphia Age—"The demand is general for the destruction of the band of savages who did the deed."

It will be seen from the above that the tone of the press is strongly in favor of the infliction of summary punishment upon the treacherous Modocs, while there still seems to linger a sentiment of sympathy for those poor and unoffending Indians who may be swept away in the general whirlpool of extermination which, by way of inexorable atonement, the assassination of General Canby demands.

The Erie Investigation and American Interests.

The English stock-jobbing firms who now control the Erie Railway have shown their appreciation of the method of handling boards of directors and legislators on this side of the Atlantic, and have already expended an enormous sum of money in obtaining possession of the Erie management. It is to be hoped that they will not influence the Assembly Investigating Committee to make a whitewashing report of the present condition of affairs in the Erie corporation under the protecting dust of legislative corruptions three or four years old. The question of immediate interest is whether the American interests in a great line of travel are to be sacrificed to the speculations and sharp operations of English brokers and capitalists? It is a notorious fact that the dividend declared on the Erie stock was paid by increasing the debt of the corporation, and not out of the earnings of the road. If the committee should pretend to ignore this or to cover it up as not satisfactorily proven, they will take their place by the side of the legislators who have been convinced heretofore by railroad "arguments." They have not thoroughly examined the accounts, which show for themselves that the sum of one million seven hundred thousand dollars was not earned in the last six months of 1872. They have not subpoenaed the ex-Auditor of the Erie Railway or any expert who could expose this fact. Have they desired to ascertain the truth?

It is also notorious that the English holders of stock and bonds in the Atlantic and Great Western road, which are a dead loss on their hands to the extent of nearly one hundred million dollars, have been prominent in Erie "reform" for the purpose of fastening the dead carcass of the Atlantic and Great Western upon the living body of Erie, and by this means recovering a portion of their loss. The Atlantic and Great Western, for the year ending August 31, 1872, made, in round numbers, net earnings of one million three hundred and fifty thousand dollars out of gross earnings of

four million eight hundred thousand dollars and operating expenses of three million four hundred thousand dollars. Its outlays in rents of branch roads and rolling stock, with seven per cent interest on fifty-nine millions of mortgage bonds, amounted to five million dollars, leaving the road with a deficit of over three millions six hundred thousand dollars. It is this rotten and bankrupt concern that the English speculators and smart capitalists are seeking to fasten on to Erie.

Will the investigating committee aid these English jobs, or will they protect the American public? On the side of the English shareholders is money; on the side of the American people justice. The Assembly committee must decide between the two. Let them bring in a bill to prohibit the payment of unearned dividends, and the making of any lease or contract between the Erie and the Atlantic and Great Western roads without the written consent of four-fifths of the Erie stockholders, and the people will give them credit for honesty. Such prohibition can harm no person if fraud is not contemplated. Let them refuse to do so, and attempt to whitewash the English jobbing management, and the people will know them to be —, well, we will explain what when the report is made, and an investigation of the investigators shall be in order.

An Imperial Coup in Khiva and the Czar's Opportunity in Central Asia.

The telegrams from St. Petersburg, which we publish in the HERALD to-day, report important intelligence with respect to the present prospect of the Russian march in Central Asia and the probable result of the imperialist campaign against Khiva. The first existing aspect of the case has been suddenly and completely changed by the execution of a coup on the part of the youthful Khan in favor of the pretensions and claims of the invaders. Nativist internal dissension induced the opportunity of the foreigner. The Khan put his chief councillor to death and imprisoned his aged uncle and other prominent Khivans who were strictly opposed to Russia. His Highness subsequently released the Russians who were held as prisoners by his government and despatched the liberated Muscovites on the way towards Orenburg in order that they should meet their armed countrymen who are advancing from that point against his capital. The Khan entertained, for some time, the most exalted patriotic resolve against the Russians. Why his policy has been so radically changed will be better understood by a perusal of the facts which we append to our news telegram. His throne was claimed by a relative who invoked Russian aid and protection. The Khan was placed in the position of an Orleans prince to a Bourbon, and it may be that his violent course was adopted with the view of heading off a relative and throne rival after the old-time fashion of royalists in more civilized countries. American correspondence, to the press and official, will soon give us the facts.

The Kiowa and Comanche Penitents.

Friend Enoch O. Hoag, Superintendent of Indian Agencies, in the pleasant city of Lawrence, Kansas, is a benevolent old gentleman, and lives, labors and waxes fat in the hope of one day drawing all the savages of the Southwest into the guileless ways of the followers of George Fox. His success, so far, has not been such as to excite extravagant enthusiasm in the people of the border or even in his assistant dispensers of benevolence and blankets. The manifest destiny of the "young men" of the tribes to kill and be killed is more manifest now than when Friend Enoch began his labors some five years ago. Lo he not permit his children to be "medicined" by blackboard alphabets, or seduced from the tribal "ways" by diabolical suggestions of arithmetic, and the schoolrooms on the prairie are not attended by inquiring papposes, as, doubtless, they should be. As for the Indian adults, they, of course, need no instruction from an inferior race, and will have none. Nothing short of a miracle or a very clever interpreter could, therefore, account for the petition to the Great Father, which, Friend Enoch says, was prepared and "signed" by the leading chiefs of the Kiowa and Comanche tribes, and which will be found in another column of to-day's HERALD. Now, as no interpreter or Quaker sub-agent would, of course, undertake to prepare this touching petition, the miracle must be accepted as genuine. Like most miracles, however, it has its doubtful side. In the first place, the United States government has not made captive "more than a hundred of their women and children," or any Kiowa women and children; but it has in captivity two of the greatest scoundrels on the Plains—Santata and Big Tree, chiefs of the Kiowas—for the self-confessed crimes of murder and robbery. They are now in prison in Austin, Texas, under sentence of imprisonment for life. They are there by process of the Courts of the State of Texas, condemned for the murder of a citizen. For the federal government to interfere, as it seems it will interfere, to release them from prison and return them to their "young men," would not only be an unjustifiable stretch of authority over the Executive of a State, but an exceedingly unwise act.

Santata was the war chief of the "young men" of the Kiowas, and not only of that tribe, but of all their allied vagabonds; and Big Tree was his right-hand man. When General Sherman turned them over to the Texan authorities for trial and punishment he appointed a crafty Indian named Kicking Bird as successor to Santata. This Kicking Bird pretended to have great influence in his tribe and to be an enthusiastic peace man. It turned out to be an enthusiastic peace man. He had to share authority with Lone Wolf and others, and marauding went on as before. The "young men" pined for the active leadership of Santata, who, as an organizer and commander of raiding parties, was unequalled, and the "young men" compelled the chiefs to continually agitate for his release. They seem to have succeeded at last. More insolent, treacherous and blood-thirsty than the Modocs, or any other tribe on the Continent, these Indians have done nothing to merit this dangerous act of clemency; but, on the contrary, have set the very worst example to the Arapahoes, Apaches, Cheyennes, Comanches and other bands affiliated with them. The release of Santata and Big Tree will stir the warlike bands to the highest pitch of enthusiasm; for, notwithstanding

staging the whining tone of this hypocritical petition to the Great Father, these insolent Indians will regard the return of the war chiefs as evidence of weakness on the part of the government, and will act accordingly. They are now as well armed as our troops; the grass is growing for the ponies; unfortunate Texas is rich in cattle, and there is a ready market on the other side of the Rio Grande. Verily this last phase of the Indian "peace policy" is worse than the first.

THE LOUISIANA MUDDLE has brought about a serious conflict between the whites and negroes in a little town named Colfax, in Grant parish. The disgraceful condition of affairs in that State rendered it impossible to decide as to the legality of the last elections, and the rival candidates in the town in question were advised by "Governor" Kellogg to settle matters between themselves. A collision and bloodshed were the natural consequence. The negroes took possession of the Court House, threw up breastworks, and were finally dislodged and defeated, with considerable loss, by an attacking force of whites. A sad commentary on the management of Southern affairs by the government and additional disgrace on Congress for leaving the rival parties in Louisiana in a quandary as to the legality of their respective claims.

THE GALLANT and important services of the Rev. Mr. Ancient at the Atlantic disaster will not go unrewarded, to judge from a despatch from Halifax which we publish to-day. A testimonial fund has been started by the gentlemen sending the despatch, and certainly there are plenty of admirers of pluck and humane endeavor to swell the list to large dimensions.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

General J. N. Knapp, of Governor Dix's staff, had quarters at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Ex-Congressman William Williams, of Buffalo, is stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Paymaster J. N. Campbell, of the United States Navy, is among the late arrivals at the Astor House. Ex-Senator Cole and family left Washington yesterday for California. Jesse Grant, son of the President, accompanied them. The dread repute that Victor Hugo made for his "devil fish" has been dissipated by a hungry "Jog fish" in the Brighton (England) Aquarium, which made a very good meal of the octopus in the same tank. Dr. Vaughan, Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford, lately delivered a remarkable sermon in Rome in eulogy of the Irish as "an apostolic race," set apart by Providence to do the missionary work of the Church. The case of the counsel of Laura D. Fair against that lady for the recovery of his fees has closed in San Francisco. Laura says lawyers, doctors and women have combined to fleece and injure her, Poor woman! The London Times of the 28th ult. had a long article on the conviction in Paris of the Trans-Continental Railroad bond operators, which it concluded by saying that the sentence of General Fremont, in his absence from the tribunal, "is a stigma on the name of Fremont which not even the gain of £140,000 sterling can efface." A crazed American, whose name is unknown, went to Windsor Castle one day last month and declared himself a son of Queen Victoria, saying that she had informed him of the fact while in Germany. Being informed that he persisted in an insane notion, the Queen's Castle would be closed in a lunatic asylum for life, he determined to forge his mother's affection, quickly complete his sight-seeing in England and return to America.

AMUSEMENTS.

"Divorce" at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. The reproduction of Mr. Augustin Daly's play of "Divorce" at the Fifth Avenue Theatre last night was an event of more than usual brilliancy. The stage settings were superb, and the cast was both the largest and the strongest of the season. With the exception of Mr. Griffiths, who is an actor of unusual merit, all the best members of the Fifth Avenue company not employed at the Grand Opera House were in the bill, and the result was a fair idea of the most excellent thing in the way of dramatic art which Mr. Daly can offer. The married Ten Eyck sisters were represented, as before, by Miss Devanport and Miss Morris, both playing their parts with discrimination—the one exhibiting the reckless impetuosity of the wife who wants a divorce because she cannot anger her husband, however much she tries, and the other the calm determination of the woman who has angered her without trying, and was injured thereby. Miss Fanny Morant, as Mrs. Ten Eyck, was skilful and artistic, as usual—the complete master of her art—but she showed at times the usual coldness and unconcern which of late has occasionally marred her acting. Mrs. G. H. Gilbert, as Mrs. Judge Knapp, was the wife of a great wealth and beauty, and with the exception of Miss Linda Dietz, as Grace, completed the list of ladies in the original cast. Mr. Long James, as Captain Lynde; Mr. Davidge, as De Witt; Mr. James Lewis, as Tompion; Mr. Geo. D. Whiting, as Judge Kemp; Mr. George De Vere, as Dr. Lang; Mr. Owen Farcott, as Jim; and Messrs. Chapman and Beekman as Christmas and Guinea, played their old parts with their old skill. The new faces were Mr. George Clarke as Alfred; Mr. Davidge, as Ringgold; the Rev. Harry Duncan, Mr. Charles Fisher as Burritt; Miss Sara Jewett as Flora Penfield, and Miss Kate Claxton as Molly. The latter portrayed an excellent picture of a man who married without consideration, suspected his wife on insufficient grounds, and suffered and repented like a gentleman who, having done a foolish thing, was slow in learning how to do a wise action. He makes the part extremely natural and very human. Mr. Ringgold, as Alfred, is an excellent clerk; and though he is called in the bill a successor to the martyrs, he can hardly be called a success. The part of Burritt falls below the general excellence of the piece, and is a great compliment to Mr. Fisher's abilities that he was able to make it of a playful and not altogether incongruous creation. Miss Jewett played Flora with sweetness and simplicity. Mr. W. Ringgold, as charming as the Florida groves, among which she was "a bud," the Florida scene, as Alfred, is a fine line, indeed, that in this case at least the scene painter improved upon nature, and improved upon it to a degree that hereafter we shall prefer Florida scenery on the stage to seeing it in Florida. But it was not left entirely to the scene painters to surpass nature, for Miss Claxton was too pretty to be left to the scene painter, and her brogue was sweet enough to secure the prizes of the General Scott, if he were still alive and a candidate for the Presidency. The piece went rather slowly last night and it was midnight before the curtain fell, but within a day or two, we presume, the time of representation will be brought down to the old limit.

Musical and Dramatic Notes.

Miss Cassey gave a reading and concert this evening at Steinway's. The second piano recital of Miss Anna Mehlig takes place this afternoon at Steinway Hall. A benefit concert, to take place somewhere, is announced in behalf of a tailor in Third Avenue. Signor Moderati, the musical director of the Tamberlik Opera Company, has arrived in this city from Havana. Williamsburg, which has been languishing for several years past for want of a theatre, is at last to have one. It is to be known as Apollo Hall, and will be opened on Friday evening with Mr. Edwin Eddy in some of his sensational specialties. Mr. Jerome Hopkins, whose efforts in the cause of the Orphan Society's free choir schools have been both praiseworthy and successful, gave last evening, at the Church of the Ascension, an extra-ordinary musical service of a very interesting character. Signor Abites introduced a number of his pupils before a large audience at the Union League Theatre on Monday evening. Miss Daly, Miss Eddy, Mrs. Gilman, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Simmons, Mrs. Burry, Miss Estelle and a number of gentlemen interpreted a very interesting program in Italian. Mme. Gazzaniga took part in the last from "Bisogni."