Amusements and Meetings To-Night.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—"Aïda."
BIJOU OPERA HOUSE—"Won at Last."
BOOTH'S THEATRE—"Camille."
DALY'S THEATRE—"Cinderella at School."
HAVERLY'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—"Olivette."
HAVERLY'S NIBLO'S GARDEN—"The Shaughraun."
HAVERLY'S 14TH STREET THEATRE—"Fun on the Bristol."
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—"Hazel Kirke."
PARK THEATRE—"Musette."
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA HOUSE—Herrmann.
STANDARD THEATRE—"Billee Taylor."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—"Raymonde."
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FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1881.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—General Forgemol is likely to advance on Tunis. ==== The Palmyra has been towed into St. Johns, N. F. with her shaft broken. ==== The Roman Catholic prelates in Ireland have sent Mr. Gladstone a series of resolutions on the Land bill. ==== Revolutionary documents have been circulated in Moscow.

DOMESTIC.—In the United States Senate yesterday Mr. Butler, of South Carolina, attempted to prove a Republican bargain with Mr. Mahone and to reply to Mr. Frye's recent speech. ==== A committee was appointed yesterday by Republican Senators to consider the question of executive sessions. ==== The Joint Legislative Committee to investigate the Elmira Reformatory reported yesterday. ==== In the Assembly the bill relative to the opening and extension of Lexington-ave. was passed. ==== A ferryboat was capsized at Elgin, Ill., yesterday, and several persons were drowned. ==== Four school boys were killed at Louisville, Ky., by lightning, while playing in the street. ==== The Girard Point Grain Elevator, near Philadelphia, was burned yesterday; loss more than $600,000, partly covered by insurance. ==== Excitement has been created at Honesdale, Penn., by the reported discovery of rich oil deposits. ==== The strike of street railway employes at St. Louis has ended. ==== The Ludeling murder trial in Louisiana has resulted in a verdict of acquittal.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The Academical Department of the University of the City of New-York is to be abolished. ==== The chief engineer of the Department of Public Works pointed out the need of a new aqueduct. ==== Interesting awards were made at the Bench Show. ==== Several cases of smallpox were found on an incoming steamer. ==== Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½ grains) 87.59 cents. ==== Stocks active, fluctuating and higher, but closing weak at a material decline.

THE WEATHER.—TRIBUNE local observations indicate clear and partly cloudy weather, with lower temperatures. Thermometer yesterday: Highest, 71°; lowest, 48°; average, 59°.

The necessity of building a new aqueduct at once is strongly stated in a report addressed by Chief Engineer Newton to the Commissioner of Public Works. All authorities seem to agree that another aqueduct must be begun within a year or two, and the difference of opinion is only one as respects the time.

Senator Butler's resignation is in order. The testimony he submitted yesterday in proof that there had been a bargain with Senator Mahone cannot be accurately described as "irrefragable," and Mr. Butler promised to make it "irrefragable" or resign. One of the counts was that Mr. Mahone chose a seat on the Republican side of the Senate Chamber. If this is conclusive evidence, Senator David Davis, for example, is both a Republican and Democrat—and Mr. Davis says he is neither, for the fact is that Senator Davis is obliged to sit on both sides of the Senate hall at the same time. Mr. Butler should think about this.

It would be less than appropriate if Jersey justice were not upon the side of the aggrieved and bewitching widow and the forlorn and deserted maiden. A Paterson jury last night gave a widow $8,337 damages for breach of promise on the part of a brewer who has brewed himself into wealth. Obviously a most discriminating jury, and one qualified to estimate with accuracy and delicate feeling the precise extent of injuries to the affections. Why the seven dollars? These fractional verdicts are among the many mysteries of the jury-room. There was once a jury out West that gave a libelled citizen a splendid verdict—thousands of dollars, and then threw in twenty-five cents extra. Why? The methods by which these results are reached seem never to be known beyond the jury-room, and the results themselves fill the non-juror mind with awe.

The two new Maine Senators will evidently take a high place in the Senate. Mr. Frye's speech of a few days ago made confusion in the Democratic ranks from which they have not yet recovered. Half a dozen Senators have tried to answer it, and half a dozen more who are getting ready to answer it are plainly of the opinion that it has not been answered yet. Yesterday Mr. Hale made his first notable speech. It dealt with the recent admissions of Wade Hampton respecting Democratic frauds in the South, and the editorial frankness of *The Charleston News and Courier* upon the same subject. The speech seems to have been highly effective. It is hardly a proof of this that it demolished the speech of Wade Hampton's colleague; its merits were clear in their own light. Maine has not had two debating Senators of late. Mr. Hamlin rarely spoke, and Mr. Morrill, who preceded Mr. Blaine, still less. The Democratic minority-majority must expect to hear from the two young men from Maine.

Whatever else may be said of the work of the Joint Committee on Taxation, it must be admitted that they have no fears of unpopularity. They are laying up enemies for themselves in many quarters. It is not likely that the small "bulls" and "bears" of Wall-st. will cherish their names with affection for the proposition to tax every sale and purchase of stock, and thus add to the costs of a "turn" in the market on a margin. In the bill now approved, the committee set about getting the ill-will of other and more influential classes in the community. All bankers and banking corporations, except, of course, National banks, are to be required to pay a license fee of $1,000 and a tax of 1 per cent annually upon the average of the sums used in the business during the preceding year, the provision going into operation July 1. Liquor dealers are to pay a license fee of $100, and an additional tax in proportion to the amount of sales. It would be a sanguine person who would count upon the enforcement of this provision, with the failure of the "bell punch" and all other similar devices before his eyes. Manufacturers of ardent spirits must pay a tax of $50, and rectifiers one of $150. There is also a small fee to be exacted from retail tobacco dealers and a larger one from keepers of billiard-rooms—a specific license tax of $20, and $10 additional for every table over one. A system of tax collectors, one in each of the thirty-two Senate Districts of the State, is provided, who are to receive a percentage of the money collected. These projects will shake up some of the old-fashioned notions of taxation, and may expect spirited opposition.

THE NEW FACTION.

Irving Hall has sloughed. This, the largest and most important of the factions opposed to Tammany, appears hereafter under a new name and with an elaborate organization, to the perfection of which the best local statesmanship of the party has been strenuously devoted for the past three months. The rump of the old organization is left with a lease of the old hall, most of the old machinery and a considerable number of dissatisfied leaders, as the nucleus to which the inevitable discontents and bickerings which will presently arise in the new concern will begin before long to send reinforcements. The new faction appears just now to be in the ascendant in the party so far as numbers are concerned. The convulsive efforts of the leaders in the movement to stir up the masses of the party and bring out a large vote at the primaries were so far successful that the returns indicate a much larger vote than usually appears on such occasions, and the leaders are correspondingly jubilant. Out of the 123,000 Democrats who voted for Hancock last November there appear to have been between 18,000 and 20,000 who took part in the primaries. This is only a little more than one-sixth of what is claimed to be the full Democratic vote of the city; probably less than one-sixth of the registered vote. It does not seem to be an occasion for great congratulation that the industrious working up of the scheme, by combining all the elements hostile to Tammany, by constant appeals through the press and by mass meetings and persistent personal effort, has brought out so small a proportion of the voters.

But the leaders contrast the result with the primaries under the old system, when a few politicians made the arrangements and got out runners enough to do the voting, and congratulate themselves upon an enormous success. To an impartial observer it looks very much as though the only thing accomplished in the way of harmonizing and uniting the party—which was heralded as the object in view—was the addition of one to the number of factions already in existence, with, perhaps, a small increase in membership due to dissatisfaction in the older organizations. It had everything to favor it in the circumstances attending its initiation. It inherits from Irving Hall, of which it is substantially a continuation, the prestige of a sort of regularity, which, with the hold it is known to have through the personnel of its leadership upon the State organization and State Committee, gives it a strong claim upon those who study the main chance; it has the advantage of the general dissatisfaction with Tammany and its management; and, unlike any existing faction, it has no record to carry. Circumstances more favorable to the launching of a new organization could hardly be desired. The one thing lacking to bring about the "movement of the people" which Mr. Waterbury called for in his late manifesto, was something to believe in and arouse enthusiasm, in the aims and purposes of the party itself of which the new organization is a part. So far as the fight inside the party is concerned, everything favored it. The trouble is that the people who were to be moved have lost all faith in the party. Hence the faction fight called out only a fifth of the voters.

The most that can be said for the new organization is that it is just now, under the most favorable conditions, the strongest of all the Democratic factions in the city. The question is how long it will continue to be so. We do not understand that any of the existing bodies, not even the Irving Hall wing, which forms the substantial basis of the new combination, has actually merged in this or ceased to exist. Enough of the machinery and membership of each is left to offer constant temptations to the dissatisfied and disappointed, and the returning tide is sure to begin so soon as the nominations come to be made and the offices divided. That there has been a great rush of office-seekers and ambitious young politicians to the new concern is very evident. Indeed, *The Herald*, which has ably engineered the whole movement, and deserves whatever credit belongs to its present apparent success, recognizes this fact and counts it as a good sign, "for it implies the forecast of those sharp-"witted old fellows that the new machinery is "to be effective." Our contemporary is hopeful, however, that "the new organization will "know how to distinguish between politicians "whom the people may use, and politicians "who want to use the people." Possibly it will; but we venture the prediction that whenever this discrimination begins to be exercised, the scattering of the politicians who are supposed to "want to use the people" will leave this promising new organization in precisely the same condition the old halls have been in these many years.

The new organization starts off with a considerable flourish of trumpets, but the sanguine souls who indulge in hopes of a great revolution to be effected by it will do well to remember that the same politicians who have been engaged in the faction fights of Democracy for the past dozen years or more are huddled together in the new concern, and that they have experienced no change of heart. These men will keep the peace with each other perhaps till the time comes to divide the offices. Then the fur will begin to fly as of old. The fatal fact that rises up before this happy family is that there are not offices enough to go round.

THE TUNISIAN BORDER RAIDS.

The military operations in Northern Africa, which are brought before the eyes of our readers on the first page of this issue, have evidently been planned with painstaking care by the French staff. A landing has been quickly effected on the coast of Tunis, and three columns have been set in motion from the Algerian frontier toward a common centre in the territory temporarily occupied by the Kroumirs. The concentric movement of three or more columns from separate bases of supplies is a method of invasion approved by modern tacticians. The Russians conquered Khiva in this way, and the British had equal success in overrunning Afghanistan. On the other hand, the Russians met with humiliating reverses when they planned a concentric movement upon Erzeroum, the columns being defeated in turn and forced to retreat; and Lord Chelmsford was equally unfortunate when he invaded Zululand with three divisions. The French are not likely to encounter serious resistance from the Kroumirs. The advance is made with a superior force of at least 25,000 men, thoroughly equipped and well supplied, and the roving bands of marauders whom they aim to surround and disperse will not rise above the level of guerilla warfare. The campaign may be a tedious one, but the issue is a foregone conclusion. The military system, which costs the French people $110,000,000 annually, is of small value if the conquest of these Arab tribes subjects it even to a momentary strain.

The subjection of the Kroumirs is the only avowed object for which this expedition has been organized. They are restless children of the Desert who scurry up and down Western Tunis, and frequently raid across the border into Algeria. This warfare has been pronounced intolerable by the French Government, and as the Bey has declined to cooperate with the Algerian forces his country has been invaded and his frontier cities have been captured. The campaign will naturally end when the Kroumirs are punished. The Italians have viewed with alarm the preparations which have been made for the conquest of these tribes, but there seems to be no ground for their uneasiness. The French Government have disclaimed any intention of establishing a protectorate in the principality. There is no public sentiment in favor of any aggressive movement of this kind. The French people have not set their hearts upon foreign conquest or colonial enterprise. They are not vitally interested in what goes on outside their own borders, and they do not want Tunis even at small cost—much less at the expense of Italian enmity. Some indiscreet articles have appeared in a Paris print which is popularly supposed to be the mouthpiece of President Grévy, and there have been discreditable rumors in the air respecting Albert Grévy's connection with a Tunisian railway project; but there is no reason to suppose that the French Government are nursing ambitious schemes and deceiving the European Powers.

It does not seem probable that any international complications can arise from the French invasion of Tunis. The Bey is nominally a vassal of the Sultan, but his independence has been virtually guaranteed by the European Powers, who are represented in his administration by a consulting body of consuls, and also by a Finance Commission. The Sovereign's appeal to Europe to defend his territory has been met by a counter explanation that the French had crossed the frontier in order to defend Algeria. If the Texan frontier were constantly exposed to incursions from Mexico, and the Government on that side were either unable or unwilling to restore order, United States troops might be sent across the Rio Grande to chastise the marauders and cattle thieves. In like manner the French can suppress the border raids in Tunis without menacing the peace of Europe.

SILVER CIRCULATION IN FRANCE.

For the first time since the reserves of the Bank of France have been made public, the gold reserve in the Central Bank at Paris fell below $20,000,000 on the 14th of April. The drain from that reserve has been astonishingly large for eighteen months. The silver reserve of the Bank, meanwhile, has never fallen below $241,800,000, nor risen above $255,200,000. For all practical purposes this vast mass of silver lies in the vaults useless, worthless and dead. The amount of silver in circulation in France, estimated by M. de Parieu on the 7th instant at $1,000,000,000, seems to be more than can be used, even in that specie-hoarding and silver-using country, for the Bank has been trying in vain, with the vigorous aid of the Government, to force more silver into active circulation, so that gold could be withdrawn to meet the necessities of international exchange. The fact that the effort has completely failed to reduce the mass of idle silver in the Bank, or to replenish its gold reserve, gives greater interest to the disclosures recently made by the Minister of Finance. On the 7th, the Government being interrogated, the Minister described the efforts made by the Government to increase the gold reserve of the Bank; stated that the receivers-general throughout the country were ordered to pay into the bank all gold received for taxes, and to substitute silver for it in the circulation; and said:

> I was not bound to state publicly the amount of these operations, for it might have alarmed trade and the money market; but as the operation has now been going on for seven months, that fear no longer exists. The Bank of France has now 600,000,000 francs in gold, and since the month of October 200,000,000 francs has been paid into its reserve; but for these payments, the reserve would have been reduced to 400,000,000 francs, and the rate of discount would not have remained at 3½ per cent.

This statement shows that the revenue of the French Government paid in gold, during seven months, enabled its receivers to pay into the bank only 200,000,000 francs—a surprisingly small sum under the circumstances. But it shows, moreover, that the efforts of the Government have been futile, for gold has been drawn out, for export and for domestic uses, faster than it has been paid in. At the end of August, when this effort began, the bank held 761,000,000 francs in gold. On the 14th of April, the next statement after the Minister of Finance had spoken showed a gold reserve of 588,878,867 francs. Thus the bank lost 172,000,000 francs, in spite of the payments by the Government. The loss of the central reserve at Paris, upon which falls the chief demand for international settlements, was still greater. The following shows the gold reserve in the aggregate, and in Paris, and the silver reserve, held by the bank at the dates named:

	Gold, Francs. Total.	Gold, Francs. In Paris.	Silver, Francs.
August 26	761,404,607	338,004,607	1,258,148,967
April 14	588,878,867	94,518,867	1,217,616,644
Decrease	172,525,740	244,485,740	40,532,323

Surely it cannot be said that the efforts of the Government have been so far successful as to fill advocates of the double standard with enthusiasm. Less than one-fifth of the silver paid out in place of gold received has remained in circulation, and it may be added that the silver reserve has not decreased at all since January 1. But the whole amount of gold paid in, and nearly as much more, has been drawn out of the gold reserve of the bank—a sum amounting to 372,525,740 francs, or nearly four times the amount now remaining in the central reserve. If the Government was wise in concealing its operations months ago, because a knowledge of the danger might have disturbed trade, it is difficult to see how disturbance is to be avoided hereafter, when the next considerable demand for gold arises.

It is not strange that France wishes to enlist this country, and as many others as possible, to help it in bearing the load which the use of silver imposes. But France, above all other countries of the Western world, is the one in which, if anywhere, a large silver circulation can be safely maintained. It is the country which surpasses all others in the amount of hoarding habitual among the people; it is accustomed to the ordinary use of silver; and it has practically no small notes in circulation. The contrast between the United States and France, in respect to the use of small notes, is most instructive. Of notes not exceeding $5 each, the United States has in circulation $211,323,838, while France has only $1,449,026. Of notes of $10 and $20 each, the United States has in circulation $337,375,425, while France has $157,818,930. It follows that silver coin is used in France of necessity, as well as by national habit and popular preference, in all the ordinary retail dealings. Yet it now appears that even in France it is found practically impossible, though the Government and the bank have been working together to that end for seven months, to force any considerable additional amount of silver into circulation. In the United States, the channels of circulation are completely occupied with paper notes. The people prefer them in use, and have an ample supply for the retail dealings in which silver might be employed. It seems to be an inevitable consequence that in this country, far more than in France, it would be found impossible to force any large amount of silver into circulation, and that the consequences of any attempt to open the mints to free coinage of both metals would be much more disastrous.

THE CHARLESTON DISTRICT.

The death of Mr. O'Connor, the nominal member-elect from the Charleston, South Carolina, District, is an event of some political importance, in view of the closely-divided condition of the new House of Representatives. The Republicans carried the District last fall and elected their candidate, Judge Mackey, by a majority of over 2,000; but the Democrats, having the count in their hands, manipulated the returns to change the result, and then, finding they were at fault in their arithmetical calculations of the amount of fraud necessary to bring their man in, threw out a number of strong Republican precincts on one trumped-up pretence or another of the flimsiest character. The late Mr. O'Connor had no more moral right to the certificate of election issued to him than he had to the crown of England.

Death has removed the necessity of making a contest in the House to get him out of the seat into which the ballot-box stuffers and false counters put him. There will be a new election in the District to choose his successor, and there is some reason to hope, after Wade Hampton's recent confessions, that the Democrats will not venture to repeat the frauds of last fall. At all events, the Republicans of the District should organize without delay, and prepare to watch the ballot-boxes and get out their full vote. The whole country will observe the contest closely. If trickery and cheating are again practised, they cannot be excused on the [illegible] cover of the hurly-burly of a Presidential campaign.

DEATH'S SPRING HARVEST.

Whether, as [illegible] Mother [illegible] the world comes to an end in 1881 or not, there seems to be a [illegible] that the people in it will. [illegible] in the newspapers [illegible] of death or mortality. Typhoid fever is [illegible] St. Petersburg; smallpox in Vienna and [illegible] diphtheria in Berlin and throughout Russia, the [illegible] had gained fresh strength in Lisbon; typhoid and malarial fevers were [illegible] for [illegible] the seaport town [illegible] while the plague has [illegible].

Here, in New-York, we know the cause of our prevalent diseases from the [illegible] of [illegible] eye [illegible] typhus, they are directly referable to the filth in which we have been compelled to live. But we are not the only victims; in Philadelphia, where the streets are [illegible] and the drainage owing to defective traps and the level surface of the ground much worse than in this city, the same epidemics are found, with the addition of almost universal lung and throat affections and neural diseases. The "[illegible] wave" which medical experts now assert passes over the country at certain seasons is always at high tide in Philadelphia. Diseases which belong ordinarily to summer or fall are beginning to reap their harvest in spring. To add to the aggravation of horrors, Dr. Leidy, the physiologist and microscopist, has recently declared that the germs of almost every disease are to be found in the dust of the street, and are conveyed to the stomach by means of the meat and vegetables from markets, and provisions. Let no man call himself happy over his spring lamb and mint sauce; they are only wolves in disguise; typhus may hide its pallid face in an ice, or smallpox lie perdu in a strawberry.

From all parts of the country we hear of the prevalence of diarrhœa, cholera-morbus and other zymotic diseases. It is not likely that these are referable in every case to uncleaned streets and rascally commissioners. A much more probable cause is to be found in the fact that the ground was frozen to an unusual depth during the winter and that the spring rains and melted snow lay for a long time in stagnant ponds upon the surface; waste wells in towns and every other receptacle of filth have overflowed, and become breeding-places of death. Such a winter as we have had brings our national ignorance of sanitary science to light, and if it is followed by steaming intense heat such as we had last summer, we may expect to pay for that ignorance in a largely increased death-rate.

The catastrophe at Elgin, Ill., is peculiarly distressing. The bridge connecting the east and west sides of the city having been carried away by a freshet, a scow was used to transport children to and from school, and operatives to and from factories. This was upset, and thirty men and children were thrown into the swollen stream. Eight or ten of them are missing, four of whom are children. It was understood that this scow was not entirely safe, yet still it was used. This makes the case one of pretty nearly deliberate murder. Not long ago we chronicled the burning of an orphan asylum in Pennsylvania with great loss of young life. We said then what we now repeat, that this carelessness in protecting the helpless from fatalities which it is impossible for them to guard against is exceedingly discreditable to the manhood and womanhood of the localities in which it is exhibited. If it is to be often repeated we ought to be ashamed to say a single word against the conduct, usually deemed quite reprehensible, of Herod the King. If the Pied Piper of Hamelin had visited Elgin, and through his musical skill had carried off those children through a hole in the mountain into some invisible land, it would have been a misfortune not soon to be forgotten; yet within a week nobody except the poor parents will think much of these poor Elgin children, the victims of a boat which was known to be "old and unfit for the purpose."

We are glad to note that Mr. John French, Commissioner of City Works in Brooklyn, has at last taken steps to repair the asphalt pavements in a number of streets. The pavements on Flatbush-ave. and Schermerhorn-st.—through which the greater part of the carriages going to Prospect Park pass—have been in a notoriously bad, and even unsafe condition, for several months, and driving over them has been attended with little comfort and some danger. Some parts of Bedford-ave., the principal drive from the eastern part of the city to the Park (which, however, is under control of the Park Commissioners), is also in need of repairs.

No more talk from the Senate till Monday "Thanks, awfully thanks."

It is proposed that Mahone break the deadlock by withdrawing Riddleberger. In that case the Republicans should do their part by dropping Gorham. They have been fighting for a great principle represented by a small man long enough.

General Brady affects to be very chirpy, and even goes about telling humorous stories illustrative of his entire indifference to the scandals which are surrounding his name. He assures his friends that there is nothing new in the charges. "It is an oldish cooked over again and seasoned up to give it the appearance of freshness. There is absolutely nothing new in it. A darkey occupying a position of general utility man about a country hotel went through the halls one morning ringing a bell for breakfast. 'Is that the second bell?' asked a guest, sticking his head out of his door. 'No,' replied the darkey, 'it am de second ringing of de fust bell.'" If this is so in the present case, the first bell was rung so softly that nobody except General Brady heard it.

The startling news comes from Ohio that Uncle Dick Bishop declines to be considered as a Democratic candidate for the nomination of Governor. Which means, probably, that a statesman who has been out gunning for a Presidential nomination scorns to waste shot on smaller game—especially when he knows he couldn't hit it.

The Reorganizers will get a new Democratic party in this city all nicely built up just in time for John Kelly to hit it this fall. It won't look so handsome after that.

Who *could* have been the man who started the rumor of a quarrel between Senator Platt and Senator Conkling?

Senator Butler has made a speech, but not the one which he was said to be loaded with. He has wasted an hour or two in a wearisome attempt to prove the existence of a "bargain" with Mahone, and has only succeeded in showing that he cannot talk well about a subject concerning which he is entirely ignorant. South Carolina political methods are the subject for him. He knows all about that, and if he will throw his remarks into the form of a confession he will have the biggest audience of his life.

Senator Brown remarked recently to a friend: "I have now reached the summit of my ambition, and am satisfied." He appears to have mistaken the little end of the horn for a summit!

Hello! The Ohio Greenback party is still alive. Yet it hasn't even hope to live on.

There seems to be only one open question about the Ohio Republican ticket to be made at Cleveland in June, and that is who shall be put on it for the Lieutenant-Governorship. It is a matter of finding a first-rate man for a second-rate place, and is rendered of considerable importance by the contingency of political promotion for Governor Foster during the next two years. Nobody is mentioned in the newspapers yet for the place, except two or three light-weight local politicians.

As the Senators are evidently hard run for topics for their debating society, we would suggest the Darwinian theory and the nebular hypothesis. These subjects would be about as closely connected with the business of the session as anything that has been talked about for the past three weeks.

PERSONAL.

The late Asa Packer, it has just been discovered, left an estate of $5,413,849.74.

Senator Edmunds intends to leave Washington immediately, not to return there until next winter.

Franz Liszt is on his way to Berlin to be present at the performance of his oratorio, "Christ." The Wagnerites, [illegible] a firm friend of their chief, intend to give him a brilliant entertainment.

Mrs. Garfield, the President's mother, is quoted by *The [illegible] Journal* as saying to Mr. Frye, with a friendly pat on the shoulder: "Frye, I like you because you are stalwart. I don't want any son of mine ever to weaken in the face of the enemy."

Mr. Osgood at the Memorial meeting the other day of the Boston publishers and booksellers said many graceful and kindly things concerning the late James T. Fields. "One trait in particular characterized him," said Mr. Osgood—"his readiness to listen to the story of any one who came before him as an applicant for a situation, and the sense of duty he always felt to give the applicant every possible chance. His presence in moments of business anxiety and depression served as a tonic; in short, in his business life, as everywhere else, he was a signal illustration of that gospel of cheerfulness which he has so pleasantly proclaimed."

Mlle. de la Ramée—otherwise "Ouida"—is described by Mrs. Hooper as going about Florence in a lofty drag, holding the reins herself, and driving with such haste that she runs into hay wagons. Her long hair, which she used to wear hanging down her back, she has now cut short. She has dismissed some of her fourteen dogs, and cherishes fondly those that remain to her. One of her countrymen, it is said, recently called on her by permission, and showed much pride at being allowed to pay his respects in person to so famous a literary woman. He returned to the hotel at which he was staying yet all aglow with his visit. "Well, what did you do at 'Ouida's'?" queried one of his lady friends. "I fed her cat with buns." "And what did she say? What did she do?" "Nothing; she fed the dog, too."

The German Emperor's family presented to him on his birthday various pretty and simple gifts. His wife gave him several objects of art, among them a small table, the top of which, showing in the centre the imperial eagle with the escutcheons of all the German States surrounding the same, was painted by the Empress herself, as was also a tasteful little *étagère*. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess gave a metal vase and a cassette, likewise productions of home industry, besides a screen about four feet high, into which were inserted the photographs of the Crown Princely family, each likeness surrounded by a wreath of spring flowers, painted by the artistic hand of the Crown Princess. The Princesses Victoria, Sophia and Margaretha's offerings were pieces of handiwork. From a gilt frame the likeness of the young Princess Feodora of Saxe-Meiningen smiled at the good-natured countenance of the venerable great-grandfather. Princess Victoria was sure that her likeness and that of her betrothed, the Crown Prince of Sweden, could not but be acceptable to her grandfather.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Sarasate is in Spain with Rubinstein.

Madame Essipoff has returned to Vienna from Russia. She goes to Spain in the autumn.

The first part of Handel's "Semele" was recently performed in London for the first time since 1762.

Madame Clara Schumann and Herr Joachim have both left London, the Popular Concerts season being over.

A Liszt Festival is to be held in Antwerp during the first fortnight in May. The principal works are the Missa Solemnis, several of the Symphonic Poems and the piano concertos. Liszt will be present at the festival given in his honor.

The concert at the Trocadéro, Paris, in aid of the sufferers by the Nice disaster, realized over 70,000 francs. Mme. Adelina Patti, several members of the troupe of the Comédie Française and a host of other artists of all sorts, took part in it.

Miss Minnie Hauk has had great success in Switzerland, and especially at Zurich, where she was visited by the widow of Hermann Goetz, who came to thank her for the interest that she had shown in her husband's opera, "The Taming of the Shrew."

King Ludwig of Bavaria has promised the Bayreuth Patronage Association the services of the orchestra and chorus of the Theatre Royal, Munich, for two months every year, commencing with 1882, at the Annual Festival Performances, to be held in that town.

A concert with "Kinder-Symphonies" will be given at the hall of the Young Women's Christian Association, No. 7 East Fifteenth-st., on Saturday evening, for the benefit of the Sheltering Arms. Tickets may be had at No. 326 Fifth-Ave., or at No. 138 West Thirty-sixth-st.

Miss Emma Thursby has had a prosperous tour through Holland, followed by a second through France. She sang at the concert of the Conservatoire on April 3, and met with such success that she was invited to sing again at the ensuing concert—an unusual honor. From Paris Miss Thursby went to Spain, where she has some engagements. She intends to spend part of the season in London.

Mr. Mapleson's prospectus for the season at Her Majesty's Theatre announces only one novelty, Baron Bodog Orczy's "Il Rinnegato," and one revival, "Rossini's "Semiramide," with Mme. Christine Nilsson in the title part. His company includes most of the artists whom we have had here during the winter, besides Mme. Nilsson, Miles. Tremelli and Trebelli, and Signori Fancelli, Runcio, Rota and Nannetti, and Mr. Maas.

The departure of Miss Ada Cavendish, who sailed for England yesterday, was observed with sincere regret by many friends. Her career in this country has shown her to be an actress of brilliant abilities, and her simple, gentle, straightforward nature and many graces of mind have greatly endeared her in many American homes—where her name will be kept in honor and affection, and her return anticipated with honest pleasure.

The Lower Rhine Festival will be held at Dusseldorf on June 5, 6 and 7, under the joint direction of Gade and Tausch, the former conducting only his own works. The programme includes the suite in D major, No. 3 (Bach); "Samson" (Handel); Symphony in A major, No. 7 (Beethoven); "Lobgesang" (Mendelssohn); "Zion," Symphony in B flat major, for chorus, solo, and orchestra, and overture to "Michael Angelo" (Gade.)

A complimentary benefit concert has been tendered to Miss Florence Copleston, the clever young pianist, and will take place at Steinway Hall to-morrow afternoon. Some very distinguished artists will take part in it, and the programme will be attractive and full of variety. Madame Gerster, Miss Blanche Roosevelt, Mrs. Florence Rice-Knox, Signor Campanini, Mr. Adolphe Fischer, Mr. William Courtney and Mr. Broderick are among those who have volunteered their services.

Schubert's opera, "Alphonso and Estrella," was recently given at Carlsruhe with decided success. It is said that although the work is sixty years old this is only the second time that it has been performed—the first occasion being in Vienna, when Herr Fuchs tried the experiment of fitting the opera for the stage. The score is partly dated in the latter end of the summer of 1821, when the first two acts were written, at St. Polten, near Vienna, the remaining portion of the opera being finished in the spring of the following year.

GENERAL NOTES.

In the picture called "Dat 'Possum Smells Powerful Good," in *Harper's Weekly* for April 30, the citizens of Plymouth, Montgomery County, Penn., recognize the genial features of Samuel Jones, a colored brother and a local celebrity. Mr. Havenden, the artist, has recently visited Plymouth, and while there he made the sketch for his picture in the Academy, of which *Harper's Weekly* produces a fac-simile.

The projected belt railroad around Chicago probably will be built, as a portion of the right of way has been obtained and ample capital subscribed. The road will describe a circuit of about seventeen miles, terminating on the south at South Chicago, and is likely to work a revolution in the lumber business of the region. For years there has been complaint among Chicago lumber merchants of high dock rent, city taxes, etc., and now several of them have an eye on South Chicago as a more desirable location for their yards.

Last Saturday night a small frame building in Hannah Hollow, near Hudson, was burned to the ground. The only reason for mentioning the circumstance is that this humble abode contained the once famous Cardiff Giant. It was stored there by the late W. W. Hannah, who became its owner several years ago when the image was sold to satisfy a debt of the Olden Circus Company. The fire inflicted considerable injury upon the Giant, and the boys of the neighborhood still more, so that it can doubtless be bought cheap if anyone still craves the opportunity to saw it open in search of heart and lungs and liver.

The midshipmen from Annapolis had the worst of it at the dedication of the statue of Farragut on Saturday. Owing to the fact that some one had blundered, they were kept standing at the order of "attention," instead of at "parade rest," and, as a consequence, were compelled to support their muskets—"theirs not to make reply, theirs not to reason why." It was not as serious a matter as the charge of the Light Brigade, but it was sufficiently annoying, and several of the young men are said to have fainted owing to their fatigue and the excessive heat. However, there was doubtless no little compensation in General Sherman's declaration that the West Point cadets could not have surpassed their drill.

Patrick A. Collins, of Boston, president of the American branch of the Irish Land League, has received a printed set of the briefs, evidence and various other documents read by the counsel for the defence in the Irish State trials in Dublin. As an illustration of the scrupulous care with which "impromptu" oratorical embellishments are prepared in advance, it is interesting to note that these papers, which are of prodigious length, are accompanied by three solid pages full of Scripture texts bearing upon land, landlords and husbandry. It is easy to imagine the fervor with which such quotations from the Bible as these were rolled out: "The husbandman that laboreth must first partake of the fruits;" "This is a people that is robbed and wasted, there is none that saith restore;" "You have cast out the women of my people from their houses in which they took delight;" "Woe to them that make wicked laws, and when they write, write injustice."

Mention was recently made in this column of Dr. Lenz's decisive report that the project of transforming the Desert of Sahara into an inland sea was impracticable. Further quotations from Dr. Lenz's lecture before the Paris Geographical Society upon his return from Timbuctoo give many interesting facts about the great desert, and correct many generally accepted notions. The fresh water fossils, which are met with in many parts, show, according to Dr. Lenz, that the Sahara is not the bottom of a dried-up sea. The temperature is not nearly so hot as might be expected; wild beasts are rare, and the most formidable enemies to be met with are the Touareg tribes, who, according to report, have recently massacred the French Trans-Saharan Expedition. On the whole, the impression is conveyed that the Sahara is not half as black as it has been painted, and that it is entitled to an apology from the entire civilized world.

There is a savor of old times in a bit of news which comes from Griffin, Ala. Some theatrical manager of more enterprise than prudence, undertook to present to the Griffins the well-known drama of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." This roused a sentiment usually supposed to be extinct; and when the curtain went up the actors received tokens of the public feeling in the shape of eggs. *The Eufaula (Ala.) Times* approves this proceeding, and expresses the opinion that "the Griffin boys did the company right." It proposes that the actors shall be similarly greeted and treated "in every town in which the insulting play may be presented." It is hardly necessary to indulge in any great amount of indignation at this proceeding. It seems to show not so much wickedness as stupidity. There is no more sense in it than in the rage of a bull at the sight of a red rag. Possibly it indicates not only ignorance but idiocy—a total inability to comprehend in the least the situation. No man can be blamed for declining to pay his money to see "Uncle Tom's Cabin," but when he has paid it for that purpose, why should he miss the opportunity, besides wasting the eggs!

HINTS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NEVER ANY SLAVES IN VERMONT.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In THE TRIBUNE of the 25th inst., under the head of "Slavery in New-Hampshire," you state, in answer to a correspondent, that by the first census of 1790 there were seventeen slaves in Vermont. This was long a great puzzle to Vermonters, who knew that by their Constitution, adopted in 1777, slavery was positively and absolutely prohibited. Some twelve years ago the original manuscript report of the Deputy Marshal of the County of Bennington was discovered among the census archives in Washington, from which it appears that the seventeen supposed slaves which were assigned to that county were entered in his report as Free Blacks, and that there was no column in his report for slaves, and that none were reported. It was evident that in the compilation of the census for the State, as published by the Department, the seventeen free blacks had been erroneously placed in the column for slaves, which made Vermont appear to be a Slave State, contrary to the declared will of its people proclaimed in its Constitution. This explanation was made at the time in THE TRIBUNE, and also in General Walker's report of the census of 1870. I have in my possession a photograph copy of the original Bennington County census, showing as above stated that the mythical seventeen were free blacks and not slaves. Vermont from the beginning and always repudiated slavery.

Bennington, Vt., April 26, 1881. HILAND HALL.

[The correspondent is right. The error was made in the first census and not officially corrected until 1870, when the following note was appended to the table by Mr. Walker: "The census of 1790, published in