EVENING REPUBLIC.

Monday Evening, Jan. 24, 1876.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

The diplomatic correspondence in relation to the Cuban question has been transmitted to the house of representatives in compliance with the resolution which called for it. The most important document is a note of Secretary Fish to Minister Cushing, of November 5, 1875, in which the complaints of the United States government are set forth. These are in part of a general character, having reference to a condition of things in Cuba, by which American interests are injured and the personal and property rights of citizens of this country constantly endangered. But special grievances are also enumerated—grievances based upon arbitrary seizure of American property, trial of Americans by court martial in violation of the treaty of 1795, and non-fulfillment of certain pledges given in connection with the settlement of the *Virginius* affair, especially the neglect of the Spanish government to subject to a proper trial Burriel and other Spanish officers who are responsible for the murder of the *Virginius* captives. The demand upon Spain to fulfill her treaty obligations with our government and to respect the rights of our citizens deserves approval and general support. The language of Mr. Fish's dispatch is determined and in certain passages unusually strong, but not too strong. There ought to be no doubt that the unquestionable rights of this country can not safely be trifled with and there is a special necessity that such a government as that of Spain should be made to realize that evasive delays, empty promises and diplomatic tricks must come to an end and that actual and ample satisfaction must be given for wrongs suffered by those to whom our government owes protection. The position taken in that part of the note in which Secretary Fish makes the continuance of insurrection and war on the island a general cause for complaint has its weak points and is open to certain exceptions. These representations ought, however, to strengthen the specific demands and impress upon Spain the necessity of increasing her efforts for the pacification of the island.

At the same time that Mr. Fish addressed his dispatch to Mr. Cushing, copies of that communication were sent to the United States ministers at the capitals of the great European powers with instructions to ask the moral support of those governments by their expression to Spain of their approval of the American views. If nothing has been done beyond that, the request merely for good offices to avoid a serious difficulty cannot be objected to on any valid grounds. The utmost we can hope from these diplomatic transactions is that Spain shall satisfy our just claims and take precautions against future complications. The Cuban question is not itself one for which a solution can be easily found. It is of such a nature that it constantly intrudes itself on our attention. In the present condition of the country, troubled as we are by many and most difficult problems of domestic policy, it would be a genuine misfortune if that question should become of absorbing importance. Even a successful and glorious war would be a national calamity that ought to be averted as far as possible by the combined efforts of all earnest patriots.

FRENCH'S FIRE SUPERINTENDENTSHIP.

Elsewhere we permit an "Engineer" to ask some questions as to the break-down of the fire engine *George Chambers* at the late fire, in consequence, as is generally believed, of the supersedure by Superintendent French of a competent engineer by one who did not thoroughly understand or attend to his business. Still another question, less technical than those of "Engineer" and of greater public interest, is suggested by this and the other removals Mr. French has made in the department during the few days he has been at its head. Section 3 of title XIII. of the city charter prescribes a legal process by which alone such removals can be made. "He" (the fire superintendent) "*may suspend, and for "cause and after a hearing dismiss, any "fireman or employee of the department.*" We are informed that already at least fifteen employees of the department have been dismissed by Mr. French and their places given to politicians and political favorites. Have these removals been made "for cause," other than partisan, and has each of the ousted men had "a hearing," as the law directs? If not, Mayor Becker should instantly suspend his superintendent and call on him to answer to the charge of having violated the law. We are informed of one case in which Mr. French has removed from the position of fireman a thoroughly competent, experienced and faithful man, whom he himself appointed some years ago, and who has served with credit in the department ever since. In this man's place he has appointed a first ward politician who never before worked a day in the fire department in his life. This change could not have been made for any good cause, nor in the interests of the department. Mr. French's predecessor, was recklessly assailed again and again for introducing politics into the department, but not one of the few changes he made but was effected in strict conformity with the law above cited. In utter defiance of that law, framed for the express purpose of keeping party politics out of the fire department, Superintendent French appears to have made haste to convert the department into a political machine. If it be true, as is currently reported, that Mayor Becker is the dictator of this policy, and that his political debts are thus being discharged at the public expense, the matter is not thereby improved to any great extent.

COMPTROLLER EVANS, AGAIN.

The *Commercial* asks us to quote from the city charter the clause defining the duty and responsibility of the mayor in reference to the proper discharge of duty by the other officers of the city government. We give it with pleasure, as follows:

"§24. The mayor shall be the *chief executive officer* of the city, and SHALL see that the duties of the various city officers are faithfully performed. He shall have power to investigate their acts; have access to all books and documents in their offices, and may examine them and their subordinates on oath. * * * * He shall also have power to *suspend or remove such officers*, whether they be elected or appointed, for misconduct in office or *neglect of duty*."

There can be no doubt that under these provisions it was the duty of ex-Mayors Brush and Dayton to see that City Treasurer Bark was faithfully performing his duties. At the same time it is not to be supposed that the mayor, in the absence of any intimation of personally and continuously superintend and scrutinize the details of business in each and all of these. Such a construction of the mayor's duties never has been made, and never will be made, for the reason that no man would be able to meet its exactions upon him. The charter does indeed impose on the mayor the general obligation of looking after the officers under him, but the specific duty of watching the treasurer is devolved on the comptroller. While, therefore, we agree with the *Commercial* that the ex-mayors, under whose successive administrations Bork perpetrated his embezzlement, had it in their power to discover and expose his operations, we very much doubt whether they can be held morally or legally bound for not having done so. We stand ready to be corrected on this point, however, and will be glad to have our contemporary suggest any practical way of testing the question and holding the ex-officials it has attacked, to the utmost extent of their liability under the law.

But, pending the settlement of this legal and purely speculative question, we respectfully invite the *Commercial's* attention once more to the very practical and important subject of the city comptrollership as it now stands. That office, as we have repeatedly shown, is again occupied by the same person under whose management of the city finances Treasurer Bork was able to devise his system of embezzlement and carry it on to the extent—as the investigating committee of the common council has reported—of abstracting $150,000 from the treasury. So far as now appears, Mr. Evans must either have utterly neglected to maintain the regular and ample checks which the law requires him to keep upon the accounts of the treasurer, or he must have had criminal knowledge of Bork's defalcations. In either case, we submit, he is not the proper person to hold the office at the present time, despite his re-election to it by the republican party. The public interests have already severely suffered by what in the most charitable view must be considered his gross negligence, and they ought not to be further imperilled at his hands.

But this is not all. The present republican comptroller has been—and for all we know, now is—under pecuniary obligations to the ex-treasurer whose embezzlement he for two years permitted. Within a year past he set himself up in business on the strength of capital or credit loaned to him by Mr. Bork. Under these circumstances it is, as we have heretofore called it, a public scandal that the most important financial office in the city government should continue to be occupied by Comptroller Evans. Unless he can furnish some explanation that has not yet been forthcoming, he has plainly been guilty, as former comptroller, either of gross neglect of duty and disobedience of law, or of criminal knowledge of Bork's crime. His personal and pecuniary relations to Bork are also such as should disqualify him, were there no other reason, from having charge of the city finances, which Bork has thrown into confusion and default, at this time.

We trust we have now informed our neighbor, the *Commercial*, as to "the truth" and its own duty in these premises. Mr. Evans should step down and out of the office of comptroller, and the *Commercial* and his other political friends should see that he does so without delay.

PERSONAL.

—Nilsson's husband, M. Rozeaud, is dangerously ill.

—Miss Anna Dickinson is obliged to go to Cuba for the benefit of her health.

—Richard Grant White, who was recovering from his recent severe illness, has had a serious relapse it is said.

—Senator Jones, of Nevada, is at last on his way to Washington, at least he had reached New York Sunday.

—Sothern, the actor, has had his valet sentenced to nine months' imprisonment at hard labor for stealing a registered letter.

—A *Herald* cable dispatch states that Anton Rubinstein, the great pianist, is threatened with total blindness.

—Mrs. and Miss Mitchell, wife and daughter of the late Dominion minister of marine, are assisting in a Methodist revival at Montreal. Both ladies are fervent, fluent speakers.

—The French judges of the centennial prize plays decided that none had been presented of sufficient merit to be offered by France to the United States on so memorable an occasion.

—Mother Stewart made her first appearance Friday night at the hall of the national temperance league, London. Resolutions of welcome were moved by Mrs. Lucas, John Bright's sister.

—M. Renan is going to publish some philosophical dialogues. The first is entitled, Our Certainties, the second, Our Probabilities, and the third, Our Dreams. M. Renan puts God in the second category, and the future in the third.

—It is announced that the investigation of the accounts of the late treasurer of Dartmouth College, Daniel Blaisdell, shows that at the time of his death he was a defaulter to the College in the sum of $36,000, and it is doubtful whether his estate can make up so large a deficit.

—Mrs. Thomas, or Thomassen, widow of the dynamite assassin, and her children left Hamburg on Wednesday for New York. She has been universally consoled. The Americans in Dresden subscribed and presented her $1,500. She resolutely refused to permit the adoption of her children by German notabilities.—*N. Y. Herald.*

—Mr. Wm. L. Burt, late postmaster of Boston, employed about thirty women as post-office clerks. He says of them: "The women have proved far superior to men in looking up mis-sent and misdirected letters, and in making returns to the dead-letter office. They have also proved entirely reliable. There has not been a single instance in nine years where the accounts of any woman have shown a deficiency of $1 in the Boston postoffice."

—"Warrington" writes the Springfield *Republican* a gossipy letter wherein he says of Bishop Haven: He knows everybody, Tilton and Beecher equally well. He is as strict a marriage man as Greeley was, but implicitly believes that, if the white man and black woman desire to intermarry, the state should not interfere. I got information or surmise as to the Brooklyn scandal from him long before Mrs. Woodhull made her invincible statement; and now it is no wonder that he tells Mr. Blackwell that, if Mr. Beecher makes his appearance as a "suffragist" on the platform, he (Haven) steps off. The bishop cannot stand everything, and he knows that even now the joints of the church universal are beginning to crack under the load Plymouth church insists it shall take on board.

POLITICAL.

—As soon as the centennial appropriation bill is disposed of, the house postoffice committee hope to bring up the bill to restore the old rate of postage on transient mail matter.

—The Indianapolis correspondent of the *Courier-Journal*, received a letter from the office of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* pledging him the support of that paper.

—The Lockport *Journal* announces that a petition to Governor Tilden is being signed there for the appointment of Alvah K. Potter to succeed the late Judge Lamont. Niagara county claims the place on "a fair and equitable geographical distribution."

—The distribution of bouquets to members of congress at government expense had become a practice carried to such an extent that an order has become necessary limiting senators to three bouquets daily and members of the house, seven!

—Morton's friends say that he is the choice for president of ninety-nine out of every hundred republicans in Indiana, and that he can carry Indiana against Hendricks. The friends of Hayes make use of similar expressions with regard to their favorite, the state of Ohio and Senator Thurman.

—Talking of the Blaines and the Mortons with their eulogies of the dead vice-president, the Springfield *Republican* remarks: "They ridiculed and thwarted him living; now that he is dead, they throw flowers of rhetoric upon his grave with one hand and go on tossing firebrands into our politics with the other."

—They have the news up in Maine that there is a battle royal in progress between Senator Hamlin and Congressman Plaisted over a postmastership in Aroostook county. Hamlin has the postmaster-general on his side, but Plaisted has captured the president and is pushing things. Uncle Hannibal's temper and language are described as quite dreadful.—*Springfield Republican.*

—It has transpired that the Virginia republican state central committee, which met in Richmond on Monday last, indorsed ex-Speaker Blaine for the presidency. As the committee is composed almost exclusively of federal officials—the controlling power in the republican party in Virginia—this action may be regarded as indicating that the vote of that state in the national convention will be cast for Mr. Blaine.—*Baltimore Sun.*

—A Boston lobbyist has failed in a suit for services. He testified that he was hired to watch a bill, report its progress, keep a lookout as to the condition of the two branches of the legislature, and in a general way look after the bill, but denied that he had solicited votes. The judge ruled that the claimant could collect if he had not solicited votes and that point he left to the jury who came to a conclusion which was probably sound. They thought that a man hired for such purposes would not hesitate to "look after" the members as well as the bill.

—Hon. James B. Beck was serenaded by his neighbors after his election to the senate, and after thanking them, said: "I have a right to be proud. Coming among you before I was a man, without friends or influence, you took me by the hand, and for more than thirty years have sustained me. During this race I have not uttered an unkind word, entertained an unkind thought, entered into no combination, resorted to no improper means, and done nothing unworthy of you. I will be a faithful public servant in the high position of senator. I hope not to disappoint the confidence so generously reposed in me."

THE STEAMER "GEORGE CHAMBERS."

To the Editor of the Courier:

I notice in the *Commercial* of Saturday the foreman of King's Iron Works says that the looseness of the flues of the steamer *Chambers* seems to be caused by service, and that there are no signs of fire. I have talked on the subject with several engineers in and out of the department and all agree that this explanation is not satisfactory.

In the first place, if it is true what this foreman says, why did the present engineer of the *Chambers* take the engine off his predecessor's hands in a crippled condition?

Secondly—If she was in the crippled condition described, how was she able to work at the late fire a t least an hour before giving out?

Thirdly—If the flues are simply loose from service, as the foreman alleges, why are they now removing those flues and putting in new ones? What other cause but fire could make it necessary to remove some thirty-odd flues and put new ones in their place?

I am informed by those who have examined that there are signs that the flues were actually burned. It is also reported that at the fire, when the engine gave out, the engineer said that somebody had "put up a job" on him. How did he allow anybody to do so, if such was the case, and what need for saying so if the engine was simply out of repair from service?

ENGINEER.

BUFFALO, Jan. 22, 1876.

A CANADIAN ELOPEMENT.

Mrs. Nina Mackenzie, Wife of a Wealthy Montreal Ship-Owner, Arrested in New York in Company with F. H. Brydges, a Young Civil Engineer.

N. Y. World, Jan. 23.

Nina Mackenzie, *nee* Allan, wife of Henry Mackenzie, a wealthy ship-owner, of Montreal, Can., and niece of Sir Hugh Allan, proprietor of the Allan line of steamers and the Montreal Ocean line, director of the St. Lawrence and Chicago Forwarding Company, director of the Citizens' Insurance Company, president of the Merchants' Bank, president of the Montreal, Ottawa and Western Railroad Company, &c., &c., a gentleman as well known in Canada as Earl Dufferin, and whose portrait adorns the bulk of Canadian paper money of the Bank of Montreal, passed Friday night in a cell at police headquarters, New York, separated by only two brick walls from F. H. Brydges, a young civil engineer, with whom she eloped from Montreal on Thursday.

The circumstance of the elopement was brought to the notice of Superintendent Walling early on Friday morning, when he received a telegram signed "F. W. L. Penton, chief of police, Montreal," calling for the arrest of Mrs. Mackenzie and Mr. Brydges on a charge of elopement. Mr. Walling detailed Detectives Reilly and Williamson to look after the fugitives, anticipating what proved to be the facts of the case. Stringent orders were at the same time issued for the observance of the greatest secrecy.

When the Montreal train arrived at the Grand Central depot Friday morning, the detectives singled out a remarkably graceful, intelligent lady, possessed of uncommon good looks, and accompanied by two children and a tall handsome Englishman. The party hired a hack, drove to the Fifth Avenue hotel and engaged rooms, the gentleman inscribing himself and companions as F. Henderson and wife and two children, of Philadelphia. The were assigned to a suit of rooms numbered 251. The detectives saw all this occur and reported to Superintendent Walling, who ordered the arrest of Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, and they were at 3 P. M. arraigned before Mr. Walling, who, after reiterating his instructions to keep the matter a profound secret and ordering the lady to be locked up with her two children and the gentleman to occupy another cell, telegraphed to Montreal that the instructions given by Chief Penton had been followed out. Before the prisoners were locked up the following entry was made in the blotter of the detective office:

Nina Mackenzie, age twenty-four, color white, born in Canada; occupation, housework; married; can read and write; charge, elopement.

F. F. Brydges, age twenty-three, color white, born in England; occupation, engineer; single; can read and write; charge, elopement.

Mrs. Mackenzie was assigned a double-bedded room in the detectives' lock-up on the main corridor floor, and as soon as she was under lock and key she busied herself in making her children, Isabella, aged five years, and Bessie, aged three years, comfortable after their long journey. Mr. Brydges, who stands six feet two inches in his stocking feet, and is proportionately built, was locked up in a cell on the same floor.

Early yesterday morning Mr. W. H. Benyon, Mrs. Mackenzie's brother-in-law, and Mr. J. S. Allan, her brother, arrived at the Grand Central depot from Montreal, and went to the Windsor Hotel. About 9 A. M. they called on Superintendent Walling, and were allowed to see Mrs. Mackenzie and Mr. Brydges, and learned that Mr. Brydges had sent for legal advice late at night in order to secure his and Mrs. Mackenzie's release on a writ of *habeas corpus*. Mrs. Mackenzie's relatives approved of the course taken, but Mr. Walling decided that the prisoners should be taken to the Tombs, and shortly after 10 A. M. Mrs. Mackenzie, Mr. Brydges and the children were ushered into the presence of Justice Bixby, who denounced the arrest of the eloping couple as an arbitrary and unwarrantable act and discharged the prisoners. When the parties left the court Mr. Brydges saluted Mrs. Mackenzie and walked away with the detectives. Mrs. Mackenzie appeared to be undecided as to what course she should pursue, and her relatives, to test her, asked her whether they should take care of the children and send them to Montreal. Mrs. Mackenzie answered in the affirmative, and was about to walk off after Mr. Brydges, when her brother and brother-in-law interposed and induced her to get into a carriage. Last night she stayed at the Windsor Hotel and will go to Montreal to-morrow. Mr. Brydges, on leaving the court, went to police headquarters, selected his baggage and went back to Canada by the 4 P. M. train from the Grand Central depot.

From a private source the following information in regard to the eloping couple was obtained: Mrs. Mackenzie, as Miss Allan, married Mr. Mackenzie five years ago and is the mother of four children, the two youngest having been left by her at Montreal. As Miss Allan she was the belle of Montreal, and her accomplishments and beauty attracted many suitors, but her choice in Mr. Mackenzie appeared to be dictated by affection and their marriage had not a cloud till the elopement. Mr. Brydges is the son of Mr. C. J. Brydges, ex-managing director of the Grand Trunk railroad of Canada, and now general superintendent of government railroads, commissioner of the Intercolonial Railroad, and justice of the peace. Mr. Brydges, who was considered a good match in Montreal, was acquainted with Mrs. Mackenzie's family, and visited Mrs. Mackenzie frequently, and an entanglement resulted between them. At Mrs. Mackenzie's suggestion Brydges went to St. Albans, Vt., and Mrs. Mackenzie made her preparations, and before getting on the train telegraphed to Brydges to join her. Brydges boarded the train at St. Albans, and from that time to their arrest at the Fifth Avenue Hotel they passed as Mr. and Mrs. Henderson.

BAD BOOK-KEEPING.

Senator Davis' Charges as to Discrepancies in the Treasury Department Accounts—A Plain Statement of Things that Need Explanation.

"J. B. S." Washington Letter to the N. Y. World.

Senator Davis' exposure, in two speeches, of the discrepancies and alterations in amounts and figures in the treasury reports, particularly since 1869 are startling. He shows that previous to 1870 all the finance reports as to the total annual receipts and expenditures of the government substantially agree. In the report for 1870 the statements for expenditures for six previous years were changed to the amounts of millions. These discrepancies extend into the accounts of the navy, war, pension and Indian expenditures, as separately stated, and Senator Davis finds similar alterations in the annual statements of internal revenue. It is, however, in the public debt statement that Mr. Davis finds the most serious discrepancies. Examination of the Register's reports for 1870 and 1871 discloses that great changes have been made in the statement of the public debt, particularly for the years between 1862 and 1870, inclusive. For instance, in the report of 1870 the statement of the public debt is, commencing with the year 1862, as follows:

1862	$524,176,412 13
1863	1,119,772,138 63
1864	1,815,784,370 57
1865	2,680,647,869 74
1866	2,773,236,173 69
1867	2,678,126,103 87
1868	2,611,687,851 19
1869	2,588,452,213 94
1870	2,480,672,427 81
Total	$19,272 555,561 57

In the report for 1871 for the same years the public debt is stated as follows:

1862	$514,211,371 92
1863	1,098,793,181 37
1864	1,740,690,489 49
1865	2,682,593,026 53
1866	2,783,425,879 21
1867	2,692,199,215 12
1868	2,636,320,964 67
1869	2,489,002,480 58
1870	2,386,358,599 74
Total	$19,230,595,208 63
Difference or increase	248,960,352 94

From the above nine years it appears that in the report of 1871, the public debt for the years named is increased over the same years in the report of 1870, in the aggregate, $248,960,352 94, and that in the single year of 1870 the report of 1871 increases the public debt over the report of 1870 for that year over $94,000,000; and for the year 1869 over $99,000,000; and for the year 1864 the increase is more than $75,000,000, and for the year 1863 more than $21,000,000.

The explanations by ex-Secretary—now Senator—Boutwell of these and other specimens of the system of book-keeping in the treasury department have been very lame, and yesterday afternoon half the period of debate was consumed by Boutwell, Sherman, Edmunds, and other republican senators, in an attempt to prevent the appointment of a special committee of investigation.

The republicans of the senate desire to smother the whole subject if possible, or at least to intrust the proposed investigation to the standing finance committee, of which there are only two democratic members. If this is insisted upon, then the democratic house of representatives ought most certainly to start an independent investigation of the treasury accounts, which seem, in fact, as I now proceed to show, to be in a worse condition than Senator Davis describes.

On page 18 of the finance report for 1874 there is a table entitled "Table 1, statement of the differences between the several accounts, showing the outstanding principal of the public debt with an explanation thereof, *so far as the examination of the accounts has progressed.*"

This table shows a discrepancy of $116,105,081 45, an enormous sum attempted to be explained by the following items, which in Boutwell's report for 1871 were partly, and now in Bristow's report for 1874, are wholly rescued from previous obscurity:

French farmers' general loan	$153,688 89
French loan of 18,000,000 livres	3,267,000 00
Spanish loan of 1781	174 017 13
French loan of 10,000,000 livres	1,815,000 00
French loan of 6 000,000 livres	1,089,000 00
Balance of supplies due France	24,332 86
Dutch loan of 1784	800,000 00
Debt due foreign officers	186,988 78
Dutch loan of 1787	400,000 00
Dutch loan of 1788	400,000 00
Interest due on the foreign debt	1,771,496 90
Domestic debt of the revolution (estimated)	63,918,475 44

"The above," says Secretary Bristow, "are the details, '*so far as the progress of the examination has developed them*,' of the items in the finance report of 1871." Page 20: "Revolutionary debt (estimated), $76,000,000." Then the table goes on to give accounts of Mississippi purchase stock, Louisiana purchase stock, Washington and Georgetown debt assumed by the United States, Texas purchase stock, Mexican indemnity stock, bounty land scrip, loans from 1796 to 1861, all purporting to be details of the extraordinary difference of $116,000,000. There still remains to be explained $942,433 83. It is amazing that these items, especially the item of the domestic debt of the revolution (estimated), which seems about equivalent to so much charged up to "profit and loss," never got into a United States finance report until the republican party began to mismanage the revenues and Mr. Boutwell became secretary of the treasury. In the reports submitted by the several secretaries of the treasury before the war I have looked in vain for them, or for any discrepancies in the statements of the outstanding public debt. For years up to 1860 the public debt was stated as follows in successive treasury reports:

January 1, 1875	$65,191,693 13
July 1, 1854	47,242,206 46
November 20, 1855	44,975,456 66
November 17, 1855	39,969,731 05
November 15, 1856	30,963,909 64
November 17, 1857	29,165,154 51
July 1, 1858	44,910,171 66
June 30, 1859	58,754,699 33
July 1, 1860	64,769,703 08

Here the public debt was never stated at more than $65,000,000. Yet in the midst of its difficulties, a republican administration reverts to revolutionary days for a debt of nearly $1,250,000 in order to balance its treasury accounts.

Clearly these accounts need immediate and thorough overhauling. If the republicans, before going out of power, can have them balanced by legislation, as they palpably propose to do, they will relieve themselves an immense amount of [illegible]

J. B. S.

THE ORDER OF GRAY NUNS.

The Sisterhood Made Famous by the School Question.

Lockport Times.

Although over 120 years old, the branch of the order of Sisters of Charity known as Gray Nuns occupies the smallest field of all the institutions in the Roman Catholic church. Its inception was due to a pious lady, Mary Margaret de la Yemmeralis, daughter of a Breton gentleman. She was born at Montreal, Canada, October 15, 1701, and married Francis d'Youville, a descendant of one of the party which discovered the Mississippi river under La Salle.

At the time she determined to found a new religious organization, there was a great want in Montreal of a general hospital, or an institution that would closely resemble the almshouses of the present day—a kind of refuge for the poor, sick, old and orphans. There were the Sisters of the Hotel Dieu, called the Black Nuns, who had charge of the sick; also the Congregational Sisters, who labored in the academies and parochial schools for girls. Aided by some acquaintances whom she had imbued with her fervor, Madame d'Youville began her new work in this field on October 17, 1738. Meeting with encouraging success from the first step, she gradually gathered around her a class of devout young ladies eager to relieve the distress for which no organized effort had heretofore been made.

In September, 1755, the society was organized by the church authorities as a distinct sisterhood, and a habit was accorded the members. The color of the cloak used and from which the distinguishing name is supposed to be derived, is not gray, but a snuff brown. None of their duties embraced the teaching of the young.

Going out upon one of her errands of mercy with a companion, Madame d'Youville came suddenly upon the body of a male infant, with a poinard stuck in its throat, frozen in the ice formed on a stream of water. She then took upon herself vows to make the care of abandoned children a duty of the sisterhood, and shortly after established a foundling asylum. On the 18th of May, 1765, the hospital was destroyed by fire, and the foundress, with 118 of her poor charges, were left utterly destitute. She died in 1772.

The sisterhood was established in the United States in 1823. The mother house is in Montreal, under charge of Sister Dupdis, and contains 531 professed nuns, 40 novices and 16 postulants. Besides making visits to the sick, the sisters have charge of the general hospital for old men, infirm women, orphans, boys and girls, and foundlings, the whole numbering at last reports 495 persons. There are twenty-seven houses subject to the mother house, of which twelve are in the diocese of Montreal, five in the diocese of St. Boniface, four in the Vicarate Apostolic of Arthabaska, all in Canada.

In the archdiocese of Boston there are two institutions where the Gray Nuns visit: The City Orphan asylum of Salem, founded by the generosity of T. Looby, Esq., in 1866, and incorporated February 10, 1870; and the Protectory of Mary Inaculate at Lawrence, which was founded in 1868 by Father Taaffe for orphan children. There is also a refuge for destitute aged people. The nuns visit the sick and the poor of the city, and have charge of the Sunday-schools and sodalities.

In the diocese of Buffalo the sisters have charge of the boarding school and academy of the Holy Angels at Buffalo, in which there are thirteen sisters and 103 pupils, the parochial school of the Holy Angels, Buffalo, where there are 118 boys and 100 girls, and the parochial school at Medina, where there are 210 pupils.

In the diocese of Cleveland there are twelve sisters attached to St. Vincent's orphan asylum and hospital at Toledo. Eight patients and eighty orphans are reported under their care.

In the diocese of Ogdensburg there is the convent of Yorkville, located at Pittsburgh, where there are thirteen sisters under mother Phelan.

And in the vicarate apostolic of Northern Minnesota there is a chapel and school at Devil's Lake agency, Fort Totten, Dakota, under the general superintendence of Rev. L. Bowie, the nuns directing the school.

These are all the institutions reported in Canada and the United States, where the Gray Nuns are located. Including the Sisters in mother house at Montreal and those scattered throughout the various dioceses, the membership of the sisterhood does not amount to 500.

CHARLES O'CONOR.

His Remarkable Recovery—He Considers Himself Wholly Out of Danger.

N. Y. Evening Post, Jan. 22.

Inquiry in regard to the illness of Charles O'Conor was to-day made at his house, at Fort Washington, by a reporter of the *Evening Post*. A great change for the better was announced. Mr. O'Conor himself sending word that he considered all danger past and that he was improving rapidly. From his son-in-law, Mr. McCracken, the following particulars were learned:

Mr. O'Conor has been slowly but perceptibly gaining for at least a fortnight. For about ten days he has been sitting up most of each day, and occasionally he has left his chamber, though he has not yet descended to the first floor. He rises at about 8 o'clock A. M., and remains up, wearing a dressing-gown and slippers, until about 10 o'clock at night, save that he usually takes a nap in the course of the day. He takes a breakfast of tea and toast, and at 2 o'clock P. M. eats a dinner of mutton chops, boiled rice and ginger ale. These are his only meals, but his appetite is about as good as when he was in his normal state of health. When well it was not uncommon for him to eat but twice a day.

Mr. O'Conor has the newspapers read to him daily, and is able to do some writing, though he usually dictates his letters. He is also able to give a little attention to business, and occasionally receives visitors. His physician now visits him but once a week.

The history of Mr. O'Conor's sickness makes this great improvement appear as remarkable as it is gratifying. He has suffered from general debility since about the first of last August, but did not become seriously ill until Thanksgiving Day, the 25th of November. He was out riding the day before. On the 25th he did not leave his bed, and for a week after he lay at the point of death. His condition was so critical during this time that Mr. McCracken did not dare to leave the house for even a few minutes, lest Mr. O'Conor should die in his absence. For several weeks after this the physicians had no hope of his recovery. He has been visited daily by Dr. Keyes till within the last fortnight. Dr. Van Buren and Dr. Alonzo Clark have also been consulted.

Mr. O'Conor's trouble was an almost total lack of ability to digest food, and consequent great prostration. His mind was clear at all times, and he did not suffer from pain. For about four weeks he was unable to retain any food that he swallowed, though he ate only such things as the pulp of pears and a little toast spread with sugar. At one time the pulp of two pears was his sole food for two or three days. He constantly refused to take stimulants, and appeared to be sustained by natural vitality alone.

A CHRISTIAN TARIFF.

N. Y. World, Jan. 23.

President Grant, in his rage against the heathen, might find something to swear at in our preposterous tariff, for here, too, among other incongruities, we find a decided discrimination against Christianity and in favor of paganism. The Catholic and the Ritualist must pay a duty of 8 cents a pound on the wax candles which they burn upon their altars, but the heathen Chinee is permitted to import his joss-sticks or joss-lights, which have no use except in the ceremonies of the Chinese idolatry, free of duty. Silk lace, for altar-cloths, must pay 60 per cent., but myrrh and frankincense can come in free. An invoice of Bibles must pay 25 per cent., but colleges may import the works of Tyndall, Huxley, Haekel and Renan free of duty. Champagne, for frolics, may be imported at about 40 per cent., but fine sherry and madeira, for communion purposes, must pay not less than 60 per cent. Stained glass for church windows is taxed 36 per cent., but disks for optical instruments only 9 per cent. Scientific instruments are free, but silver services for the altar are taxed 36 per cent. The fiddler gets his cat-gut free, but the minister's black gown must pay 60 per cent., and his bishop's fine lawns 40 per cent. In short, a constitutional amendment is needed to regulate our tariff in its religious aspects.

A FRIGHTFUL OCCURRENCE.

Pittsburg Leader, Jan. 21.

A frightful accident occurred yesterday morning about eight o'clock, at the LaBelle steel-works, Ridge street, Allegheny. A large bar of steel, heated to a white heat, was passing through the rolls, when a catcher by the name of John Graff attempted to seize it with pinchers. Unluckily he missed it, and the iron, striking him between the groins, passed through and into the hip, the weight and the heat together causing it to turn downward until it fell to the ground. The unfortunate man was immediately removed to his home near by and Dr. Johnson was summoned. Two other physicians were subsequently called, and every effort made to relieve the sufferer. Last evening he was in a critical state, and there is but little hope of recovery. He is a young man, and has been married about one year.

STATE ITEMS.

—Marcellus wants a bank.

—Syracuse boys are organizing themselves into a military company to be known as the Centennial Cadets.

—A petition is being signed in Greene, Chenango county, protesting against abandonment of the Chenango canal.

—A letter passed through the West Winfield postoffice recently directed as follows: West Wintiel, Hurcumber Co., N. Y.

—The trial of Mrs. Emma Wimple, will come off at the February term of court at Little Valley, Cattaraugus county.

—Curiosities of thieving in Syracuse. One party stole an ice-cream freezer with contents, and another is charged with stealing four house-moving shoes.

—Next Tuesday (to-morrow) the Episcopal church diocesan convention begins in Ithaca, and continues until the Tuesday following. Bishop Huntington will preside.

—Manlius, Onondaga county, has a scandal case. Mrs. Helen H. Reals sues Admiral Lamb, a deacon of the Baptist church, to recover damages for an alleged assault and rape.

—A claimant has appeared at Cooperstown for 206 acres of land, said to lie near the centre of Cooperstown. He says that Judge Cooper conveyed it to his grandfather, and the latter never sold it.

—Several attempts have recently been made to burn the town of Portville, Cattaraugus county. At a public meeting $1,000 was subscribed as a reward for the conviction of the incendiary; steps were also taken toward perfecting an effective fire department.

—On Saturday last, Homer West, of Orwell, Oswego county, while coming out of the woods with a load of logs, was caught between a timber and one of the logs by the capsizing of the latter, and held in that position three hours before help came and he was released.

—There is trouble in the 48th regiment of Oswego. Eight of the company commanders have signed a request calling on Col. Smith to resign. It is stated unless he accedes to the demand, charges of incompetency and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman will be preferred against him.

—The Hudson *Star* says that in consequence of the suspension of ferry communication between Athens and that city, a dearth of provisions occurred in Athens, and that as a result the ferry boat was laden down with flour, pork, beef, beans, cabbage, upon resuming trips on Wednesday.

—The Rochester *Democrat* circulates a rumor to the effect that instead of building the proposed Syracuse, Geneva & Corning railroad, the parties interested are to get possession of the Horseheads and Ithaca & Cayuga Lake roads, which will serve their purpose as well as the one proposed to be built.

—Last Sunday evening one of the Ithaca churches was crowded at an early hour in expectation of a service of special interest; and just as the first stanza of a hymn was being read the bell began to ring. Whereupon one of the deacons, in an excited manner, jumped up and shouted:—"Stop that bell; we've got more people here now than can get in."

—Several weeks ago we noticed the fact that an employee in the Rochester post-office, a son-in-law of Frederick Douglass, was arrested for purloining letters. He was tried before Judge Wallace in Albany Thursday, and convicted. He was sentenced to imprisonment for one year and to pay a fine of $500. Mr. Douglass was with him in court, and made strenuous exertions to have the court impose a fine only.

—In Syracuse, Friday, the lifeless body of Mrs. John Frobel, who resided with her family on Butternut street, was taken out of the Oswego canal. She left her home on Thursday evening, and nothing was known of her whereabouts till her body was discovered. As to the how or why she came to her untimely end, there are no reasons known. She was quietly in conversation with her husband Thursday evening, when she arose, put on her things and went out, unbeknown to him. The body was taken to the family residence.

—In the United States district court at Albany, Friday, a judgment for $3,119 was rendered in favor of the United States and against Hon. Francis N. Mann of Troy. Some years since a naval purser was found to be short about $2,000 in his accounts with the government. He was arrested and Judge Mann became his surety. The surety was led to suppose that the matter had been settled at Washington and did not give further attention to the subject. The judgment taken yesterday by default is an unpleasant reminder of the fact that there is a misunderstanding somewhere.

—The Hammondsport *Herald*, which, by the way, is edited by two ladies, publishes the following advertisement in its local columns: "Lost—On Wednesday evening, between the residences of Mrs. Retan and James Alexander, in the town of Pultney, a widower. He has long been known in this section as William Depew, and his sudden disappearance creates quite an excitement. A widower is a queer thing to lose, but we will bet a hat that when the said widower is found there'll be more than one of him.

—The Watertown *Times* says: Hart Massey, a report of whose golden wedding we publish to-day, offered the R. W. & O. R. R. company, over a quarter of a century ago, a piece of land south of the depot, on condition that the company, after the road was opened, would give his family and relatives a ride to Rome and back on a special car. The company assented, and the contract was made. The road was opened to Rome with great *eclat* September 20, 1851, and a few days afterwards the tribe of Masseys, about sixty in number, took possession of the promised car and saw Rome.

—At Waterford, Rensselaer county, the other day, a vicious looking tramp was prowling around, annoying our citizens by calling at their residences and impudently demanding food and money, and in one instance grossly insulting the lady of the house for refusing him money. At last getting hold of a small well dressed lad, he led him into a side street and then proceeded to search his pockets for valuables. Fortunately some gentlemen passing through the street caught him in the act and attempted to arrest him, but the nimble tramp eluded them and made good his escape.

—A New York *World* correspondent, who has been examining the matter, says: "It is a well-known fact at Auburn and Sing Sing that convicts destroy more material for the contractors than the value of their labor. In the matter of the purchase of supplies and the employment of an unnecessary number of guards, keepers and other officers, the state is shamefully and continuously swindled. In marked contrast to the management of the Clinton prison is that of the Albany penitentiary. In the latter at present are 1,000 convicts. These are managed by twenty-eight officers, all told, whose salaries last year amounted to $21,000. At Clinton prison there are 600 convicts and seventy-eight officers. The salaries paid to the latter in 1874 came to $53,000."

—As an instance of the destitution prevailing among the poor in that city, the Albany *Journal* relates the following incident: "A poor and hungry-looking man walked into Featherly's meat market yesterday morning, and while the butchers were busy he picked up a piece of meat, hid it under his coat, looked around him in fright and passed out. Mr. Featherly observed the man, but said nothing, only called a policeman and asked him to follow and see where the fellow went. The officer did follow as far as his beat permitted, and then passed the duty to another knight of the baton. The second officer followed the hurrying poor man to a miserable tenement and saw him enter. In a few minutes after the policeman passed into the building, and opening the back door of the upper floor, saw the man, his wife, and three little ones pulling at the meat and eating it raw like starved animals, they having no fire to cook it. The officer took the man back to Mr. Featherly's when he said he had asked for a bit of meat at three or four butchers, but being refused, he determined to steal to save his family from starvation. Mr. Featherly let him return home with a well filled basket, and last night the poor family enjoyed a good supper and a warm fire."

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

Arrangements of the Democratic National Committee.

Washington (Jan. 20) Dispatch to N. Y. World.

The signs of the presidential campaign begin to multiply in Washington. The national democratic committee meet next month to decide on the time and place for holding the democratic convention. Mr. Lamar, as chairman of the democratic caucus of the house, will, in a day or so, appoint the democratic resident campaign committee, to be composed of seven members of the house, three senators and three resident democrats of the District of Columbia. This committee will have its headquarters in Washington during all of the campaign, and will prepare and distribute documents and collect details from all parts of the country. The republicans to-day issued a call for a joint caucus of republican senators and members to be held in the senate chamber on Saturday evening to recognize their resident committee here, of which Secretary Chandler and Postmaster Edmunds are the chiefs. The distribution of speeches for the campaign may be said to have commenced already, though, owing to the abolition of the franking privilege, it is not believed that the documents will be sent out so profusely as in former campaigns. The leaders in both parties here regard an effective working organization in the states as more important than a general direction from Washington, and campaign work here promises to be done more in co-operation with local committees than heretofore. In view of this, Washington promises outside of congress to be an important political center for the next ten months.

GLEANINGS.

—Landis will probably be acquitted on the ground of insanity.

—Indian territory wants to be Oklahoma territory, Pembina wants to be a territory and New Mexico a state.

—Mrs. Firth of Philadelphia was yesterday burned to death while attempting to light a fire with the aid of coal oil.

—The new mayor and aldermen of Knoxville, Tenn., were inducted into offices yesterday, and have made an entire change in the police force.

—The following is the supreme court general term calender for Monday, Jan. 24, 1876: Nos. 110, 117, 123, 128, 131, 133, 137, 142, 143, 144, 145, 149, 157, 158, 162 and 164.

—The estate of Timothy Kirby, Donn Piatt's father-in-law, is estimated to be worth $400,000, instead of $1,500,000 as previously reported.

—Negotiations are practically ended for a match game of chess between Fred Elder, of Detroit, and Mr. Alberoni for a purse of $50 a side.

—The *Sun* denies that Tilton called on Dr. Storrs on New Year's day, while the *Star* reaffirms the fact, or fiction, as the case may be. What of it?

—Spotted Tail has requested permission to build one hundred lodges for a "big Injun" encampment on the grounds of the Centennial Exhibition.

—The members of the old 9th Ohio regiment of volunteer infantry, a German regiment, have resolved to rear a monument to their original commander, Gen. Robert L. McCook.

—A Poughkeepsie dispatch says: The propeller *Eagle* passed north to-day for Rondout. The ice is heavy but giving, and she will probably get through the snow storm that is prevailing along the Hudson.

—A New Haven tailor called in to testify in the city court, Wednesday morning, stated that "fancy tailors generally put on about ten or fifteen dollars for style." He drew it mild.

—Mrs. Partington attended an auction sale of household goods, but forgot her pocket book. She remarked to Ike on her return home that when she saw things she needed put up for sale "the unbidding tear would start."

—The good people of Terre Haute, Ind., more practical than Anna Dickinson, exterminated the "social evil" the other night by surreptitiously attaching a hose to a fire-plug and directing the stream upon the pest-house. The odious occupants ignominiously fled.

—Some months since, Moses S. Wheeler, of Winchester, Mass., was convicted of arson and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of years. Within the last few weeks his innocence was made to appear beyond all question. He was pardoned and he now petitions the legislature for relief.

—Arrangements are being made for the holding of the international medical congress in Philadelphia from the 4th to the 9th of September next. It will be composed of delegates from the American medical association, state medical societies, several of the latter having already appointed delegates to attend.

—"What will you have?" asked a waiter of one of the Indiana editors, at the dinner in Philadelphia, as he handed him a bill of fare. And the Hoosier with the high forehead leaned back in his chair, wiped his forehead thoughtfully with a napkin, and ejaculated sternly: "Gimme all!"

—While some boys were skating recently, a gentleman noticed one on the bank who looked longingly, but who had no means of enjoying the sport. "Well, bub, haven't you any skates?" "No, sir." "Why not?" "'Cause mother says I ain't prepared to die and father says he needs the money to buy him some undershirts!" was the lonesome reply.

—A lady called upon her milliner the other day to get the character of her servant. The respectable appearance of the latter was beyond questioning. "But is she honest?" asked the lady. "I am not so certain about that," replied the milliner. "I have sent her to you with my bill a dozen times, and she has never yet given me the money."

—A portion of the minerals and precious metals known as the Donaldson collection, which are to represent at the centennial the underground wealth of the region of the United States west of the Rocky Mountains, will be arranged in the mineralogical department, by Mr. Donaldson and Professor Blake, as to represent, as true to nature as possible, the mines from which the ores and minerals were obtained. Sections of auriferous and of argentiferous rock and earth will be shown, and all the geological surroundings illustrated.

—The shrewdest yet: A applied to B for a loan of $100. B replied: My dear A, nothing would please me better than to oblige you, and I'll do it. I haven't $100 by me, but you make a note and I'll endorse it, and you can get the money from the bank." Grateful A proceeded at once to write a note. "Stay," said B, "make it $200. I want $100 myself." A did so, B endorsed the paper, the bank discounted it, and the money was divided. When the note was due B was in California, and A had to meet the payment. What he is unable to cipher out is, whether he borrowed $100 of B, or A borrowed $100 of him.—*Lowell Courier.*

—A venerable talker of twaddle, a social man who has outlived his usefulness, but who still hovers around at receptions and parties and indulges in small-talk at which no one laughs but himself, sailed up to a couple engaged in conversation in a cozy corner, the other evening, and in his most winning tone said: "Judging from the color of her cheeks, I should say you had been paying some very complimentary things to Miss ——, my boy." "I never deal in compliments," said the "boy," rather gruffly. "Don't you believe it," broke in the fair Miss ——, "he has just paid me a greater compliment than you ever paid a lady in all your life. He has been talking to me as though I knew something."—*Boston Transcript.*

—The catalogue of the centennial exhibits from Germany has been received. The number of exhibitors will be 1,033 and there will be 17 collective exhibits—that is, combinations of different trades. Of chemical products there will be 40 exhibits, one of the principal articles being the cologne so famous throughout the world. Of china, glass and porcelain ware there will be 25 exhibitors, including the royal Prussian china manufactory. Of physical and optical instruments there will be 25 exhibitors; of musical instruments 35 exhibitors, and of oil prints, pictures, etc., 50 exhibitors. Wines will be shown by 87 producers. Toys and fancy goods will have 35 exhibitors. Gephard & Co., of Eberfeld, a celebrated satin manufacturing firm, will occupy a space of four hundred feet.

A POSSIBLE PRIMA DONNA.

Cincinnati Gazette, Jan. 22.

It would be quite an honor if we should find a prima donna among us. When Tietjens was in Cincinnati she became acquainted with Miss Heckle, now studying at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and in company with Strakosch listened to her singing. She was evidently much pleased, as will be seen from the following letter to Miss Baur, the directress of the institute:

CINCINNATI, Jan. 15, 1876.

MADAME—I am sorry my stay is so short, otherwise I would have given myself the pleasure of calling on you in order to have had a little conversation about your institute.

I am so much pleased with the manner and style of Miss Heckle's singing, that I cannot refrain from complimenting you on your successful method of tuition. I am, Madame, Yours very truly,

THERESE TIETJENS.

Strakosch offered to finish her musical education, and to pay all her expenses and to bring her out in opera this fall. We understand that Miss Heckle intends remaining with Miss Baur till next winter, and then to accompany Mlle. Tietjens to Europe, and study under her in London.

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