

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

In answer to the question, "What is to be done?"—asked in view of the alarming state of the country, repeated disaster and the slaughter of "our brave soldiers," not by companies alone, but by regiments, brigades and even divisions—the New York Sun replies: "If Congress truly represented the people—nothing. The ruler of a great people, it concedes, has selected for his advisers and managers, in finance, marine and war, the ultra partisans of a minority clique of the nation, who are carrying it headlong to destruction. Such premises, though reflecting severely on the savans of the Republic, may not fall far short of ultimate truth."

Some of the members of Congress seem to hold in slight estimation the sacerdotal efforts of their co workers, the divinity-gentry—as evidenced by an item of the House proceedings, on Dec. 23rd. Mr. Murdock, a dramatist, asked the use of the Representatives' Hall for a reading. Mr. Wickliffe, of Kentucky objected on the grounds that the Sabbath day had been just previously desecrated in the Hall by the Rev. Mr. French, but on learning the character of the performance, and that Mr. Murdock was "a gentleman of fine literary taste and culture," withdrew his objections; and the request of Mr. Murdock was granted.

John S. Rarey, the great horse-tamer, having been recently called upon to inspect the horses and mules in the cavalry, artillery and teams in the army, reports them in rather better condition than, from "accounts drawn from the dark side of the picture," he had expected. Many of the cavalry horses, he says, were thin and scarcely fit for service. The artillery horses had suffered much, but were a grade better than the cavalry. He charges the existing evils among the army animals to the neglect of those having them in care. He says that every man who is permitted to ride a horse, should be compelled by duty, if he has not the humanity and moral principle, to see that the horse has every care in his power to give; that he is properly groomed, watered and fed. Recommends for cavalry service in a winter campaign, a saddle blanket to cover the back and loins of the horse, to be left on when the saddle is removed; and takes occasion here to refer to the Arabic treatment of their horses; who, he says live more with the horse than other people, and who are older in horsemanship than any other nation in the world, and who never remove the saddle from the horse's back, when on a long journey, and whose saddles have always blankets attached that cover the back and loins of the horse. They argue that this vital part, when heated by riding, should never be made to feel the effects of cold.

Trade and manufactures in Paris are said to be again in a most prosperous condition; while in the interior of France the distress is increasing. The confectioners in Paris annually produce sweetmeats to the value of six million francs—upwards of one million dollars—independent of the boxes and painted envelopes in which they are packed. One hundred and twenty thousand operatives are constantly employed in the manufacture of *articles de Paris*—the most prosperous branch of which is the manufacture of bronzes. The fashionable shops which supply men's and women's wearing apparel are also flourishing. The machine makers in the suburbs have increased the number of their workmen in consequence of extensive orders.

President Lincoln, being recently asked by one of the Border State Congressmen to modify his emancipation proclamation, remarked that he was an anti-slavery man and considered slavery to be the right arm of the rebellion, and that it must be lopped off.

A paper is about to be started in Beaufort, S. C., on a large scale. It is to be of the size of the New York Tribune, and will be devoted to the interests of the anti-slavery cause. The printers, type, and 3,000 reams of paper had already arrived, and a large Hoe cylinder press was to come by the next steamer. It is rumored that the whole affair is at the expense of the Government, and that the papers, if they do not circulate at a nominal price, will be given away.

John B. Floyd's residence and out-buildings, in Kentucky, were lately burned by a scouting party of Federal soldiers.

A Congressman said to the President, a few nights since, "what a terrible night this must be for the unfortunate soldiers who are

badly provided with shelter." The President answered: "Would that I had one of their places. There is not a man in the army with whom I would not willingly change places to-night." This doubtless occurred about the time Mr. Lincoln's sensibilities were most aroused by the imbroglio in his cabinet.

General Wool has been dismissed from Maryland. The papers say, "Right."

The Washington Republican of Dec. 17th says: "Between this city and Philadelphia we have a hundred thousand men and officers doing nothing, and rendering the country no service, while Burnside, with a force far inferior to the rebels, is confronting them in their intrenchments, and his men falling by the thousand before the murderous fire of the enemy."

The New York Sun thus eulogizes the members of Mr. Lincoln's cabinet—excepting Seward, who alone, it says, has made the right mark: "Stanton, of the War Department, is weak, fussy, and a crazy-headed fanatic; Chase, of the Treasury, is a visionary financial experimenter; Welles, of the Navy, is the sleepy Rip Van Winkle of ages gone by; while Smith, of the Interior, is not of account enough to mention. If reports be true he would not be tolerated in a mock auction shop!"

NEW GOODS.—N. S. Ranchoff & Co. will receive a train of staple goods from California on Friday next. Advertisement next week.

THEATRICAL CRITIQUE.

Like Mormonism and the Mormons, criticism and the critic are not so repulsive as some ignominiously imagine. They have a low conception who take criticism as synonymous with fault-finding; and he who illustrates the critic as a fault-finder has not only sadly mistaken his vocation, but distorted a character he essayed to personate. The spirit of true criticism leads to admiration of the excellent, rather than to wallowing in the mire of others' defects; and to the man of talent the legitimate critic is the best and truest friend. His hand is always ready to be stretched out to genius struggling up the hill; for well he knows how oft the struggler bears a cross and wears a crown of thorns. Nor has he the envy of little minds towards those who have happily gained the hill-top of well-won eminence. Yet it must not be supposed that the critic should sing eternal songs of glorification and meaningless praise. His judgment then would have no weight, and his commendations would be worthless. Indeed, to a man of talent, a touch at his occasional defects shows how sincere is the praise of his excellent parts. In reality, it is sometimes the most flattering tribute that a critic can pay; for nothing can be more offensive to good taste than ever returning phrases of praise. It is like jingling rhyme, and shows about the same estimate of the one lauded, as that of old Polonius touching the sanity of Hamlet. It is "very like a whale," or "very like a weasel," just as the case requires. So much by way of introduction to our "Theatrical Critique."

The present theatrical season has been most satisfactory to the lovers of the legitimate drama. It opened with the "Honeymoon," in which Mr. John T. Caine and M. S. Bowring's stained the principal parts. The performance on the whole was good; nevertheless it was marked with some defects. We have seen Mr. Caine very successful in parts in which eminent professional actors have figured. For instance his Paul Lafont is an admirable artistic execution, giving promise of an excellent lagoon. His Duke Aranza was not his happiest hit. There was a slight departure from the authorized rendering of the character. Yet there are but few men better adapted to play the duke than Mr. Caine. This was strikingly apparent in the last scene, where he appears every inch the character he represents. Had he been the same man—the real duke, with the same dignity on his first appearance in the peasant's garb, he would have been more successful. Like Claude Melnotte, he must be a princely peasant, even if he be no duke, and one who could enter into the circles of aristocracy, play the part of royalty, and woo and win a high-born dame. Even when discovering himself as an impostor he must appear the superior of the lady; for not only has he to bend her to his stronger will and higher character, but he is, after all, a real duke and no impostor. After the first scene in the cottage, Mr. C. recovered that dignity so natural to him, and so consistent with the entire character; and, in the latter scenes, he was not merely unexceptionable, but also admirable. Mrs. Bowring too, in the latter acts, was more effective than in the former, rendering her transformation into a well trained wife very chaste and with excellent judgment. Mr. Margetts made a fair mock duke, and Mr. H. B. Clawson a very characteristic personation of a half starved son of Esculapius.

The second principal play put upon the boards was "Old Phil's Birthday." This piece is not only an excellent dramatic composition, but it was rendered with much artistic effect. It was a treat to the lover of good authorship, as well as to the admirer of fine acting. The moral of the play is

faultless, and its nature healthful to public performance. Mr. H. B. Clawson played the part of "Old Phil" as truly as the author's conception. In the "Porter's Knot" last season, we believe, he made his first appearance in this class of plays. In this his second effort, great improvement was marked; and, if he continues in this line, it is not too much to anticipate his ranking with the best actors of Robson's order. Our opinion is that in this class of parts, which gives scope for the highest efforts of comedy, Mr. Clawson has found his legitimate sphere. We should like to see him undertake Luke Fielding, in the beautiful play of "The Willow Copse;" and, although it is a more difficult part than any he has yet attempted, after his performance of "Old Phil," we think he can master it with considerable success. Mr. Parker played his part well and bids fair to become a favorite actor.

The third principal dramatic performance of the season was "The Charcoal Burner." Last year this play made a great sensation among the patrons of the stage. It has not lost in interest this season, and is generally considered to have received a better representation than on its first appearance. In the character of the "Charcoal Burner," Mr. John T. Caine cannot easily be surpassed. This play is unquestionably defective in its composition, especially in its inconsistencies and unnatural mixture of the lowest farce in a piece almost a tragedy. Evidently the author designed the farcical part expressly and solely to make fun. Is it really a brother grand-jurymen, or the author himself that Valentine Verdict wheels home drunk in the barrow? Yet in spite of its defects in point of authorship, the "Charcoal Burner" will remain a favorite play, especially when sustained by Messrs. Caine, McKenzie, Margetts and Maiben.

Last week, the admirers of the classical drama found a rich treat in the performance of the noble play "Virginia." It is the masterpiece of Sheridan Knowles, the most celebrated classic dramatist of modern times. The performance of a play of this high order, by a Virginian who could sustain the part even upon a London stage, where it was first brought out, is certainly a significant event. The author was from the ranks of the people, and was doubtless full of admiration of his Roman plebeian hero. The hardy republican integrity of Virginia's character was the first feature seen in Mr. Snow's personation of the Roman Father. Next came a quiet domestic scene of parental affection and promise of hopeful love. As Virginia imprinted upon his cheek an artless kiss, and sat upon her father's knee, one could almost have fancied the Roman and his daughter in reality. Following was a return to the strong points of Virginia's character, well brought out, where he challenges Icilius to take his hand which "has an oath deadly to tyranny, and is the foe to falsehood." In the betrothal of Virginia to her lover, Mr. Snow was very touching; but, when he came to the passionate and stirring parts of Virginia, he found a higher scope. His lament over the murdered Dentatus was fine, his indignation on the discovery of foul play strongly marked; and in the part following, where Lucius discloses the situation of his daughter, his transitions of feeling were nicely drawn. The passage—"Did he not strike him dead?" &c., was well and powerfully delivered. But his finest transitions from passion to assumed calmness were, of course, in the fourth act, when he returns home to defend his disputed child. On his appearance in the Forum, his manner was such as might well awe the tyrant libertine Appius. His passionate, indignant protest against the oath of the slave was excellently made. After the troops had cleared the Forum, and left him alone with Virginia, the tragic purpose of the Roman Father gradually grew into painful distinctness, and the manner in which he pleaded with the tyrant for a little patience was enough to move a heart of stone. How he clasped, and half unclasped, and clasped his child again, then staggered with her to possess the weapon he had espied. One more plea for patience,—one short but agonizing embrace,—and the sacrifice to save his daughter's honor was consummated; and Virginia, with her child's blood, devoting Appius to the "infernal gods," broke through the tyrant's victors in mad despair. This was throughout effectively rendered by the actor. When next we see him, returned to his childless home, with reason dethroned, the scene is made most painful from its very faithfulness to the author's conception. Though mad, his heart-cries for his daughter are sensible, as he wanders the room wondering his child does not come. The madman's outburst, when Lucius entering declares that "justice will be defeated," was terrific. The prison scene with Appius was a masterpiece, and when he is discovered, statue-like, kneeling over his dead enemy, with fixed oblivious gaze, which plainly told a consummated vengeance, the audience was shown as tragic a picture as could well be conceived. It surpassed anything of the kind we ever witnessed; and we think Mr. Snow more than realized the author's ideal here. Had Mr. Knowles seen Mr. Snow's tableau, not unlikely he would have ended his play at this culminating point. The next most characteristic part—that of Dentatus, was on Saturday evening creditably filled by Mr. John R. Clawson. Mr. McKenzie, one of our best actors, was less happy in Icilius than in any part he has played. In a general critique of the season, it is impossible to touch upon more than the principal plays and leading actors. Yet, it may be said that, both in comedy and farce, the old favorites are favorites still.

New Advertisements.

ELOCUTIONARY EXERCISES.

THE FIRST ELOCUTIONARY EXERCISES of Mr. T. BARTLETT TRIPP will commence at the Seventh St. Hall, Thursday evening, Jan. 21, at half-past 6 o'clock. The classes in Reading, Composition and Speaking will be so arranged that all who will may come. Tuition, \$3 00 per quarter, in advance. 30-1

LOST.

FROM Session Settlement, a light roan OX, about eight years old, branded No. 1 on left shoulder. Information to be left at W. S. GODDE'S, Main St. 30-2

ESTRAY CALF.

I HAVE in my possession, a red and white Heifer CALF, swallow crop off right ear. Owner will pay charges, and take it away. J. C. LITTLE. 30-1

25 HEAD OF BEEF CATTLE,

WANTED immediately, at the CITY MARKET, for which will be paid part Cash and Store Pay. by L. I. SMITH. 30-1

NOTICE.

CAME into my lot on the 14th inst., a black horse MULE, with white saddle marks, very plain; he stands about fifteen hands high, and is about ten years old. The owner can have him by proving property and paying costs. J. K. WHITNEY, 18th Ward. 30-1

STRAYED MULE.

STRAYED from Joseph Corbett's, 19th Ward, Salt Lake City, on the 24th of December, a dark brown horse MULE, lame in the right hip, and has a swelling on the right knee. Any person that can give information that will lead to his discovery, will be rewarded for their trouble. 30-1

FOR SALE.

WE have Wool Card Clothing for Sale for a Double Carding Machine, which we offer for sale. Enquire of Wm. Bringham, Springfield, or of the undersigned in G. S. L. City. JACOB HOUTZ. 30-2

MELODEON FOR SALE.

A FINE-TONED MELODEON for Sale, cheap for Cash or Trade. Apply to HENRY L. RAYMOND, At Dr. Sprague's. 30-1f

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