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A GREAT FIRE IN NEW YORK

Whole Blocks of Five and Six Story Buildings Ablaze.

NEW YORK, May 27.—Flames broke out at 1:30 A. M., in the south end of the Belt Line stables on Tenth avenue, between 53d and 54th streets. The building was entirely destroyed, with sixteen hundred horses and nearly all the cars in the building. The flames were first seen by one of the night hands, who gave the alarm. The flames spread rapidly and soon completely enveloped the building in their folds. It was a five story-building and covered a square, the block reaching back to Eleventh avenue. The upper stories were occupied by repair shops and combustible material, which blazed as soon as touched by the fire. The offices were situated in the east corner. They were in flames so quickly that there was no chance to save the books of the company. In the stables were over sixteen hundred horses and several hundred cars. Only ten horses and two cars were saved. The rest were all burned up.

At 2 A. M. the walls of the building fell in with a terrible crash, sending millions of sparks and blazing pieces of wood high in the air. The fire alarm of the three sides had been made as soon as the fire chief arrived at the scene, and engines from all parts of the city with a water tower and the hook and ladder companies were rapidly coming. The heat from the flaming building was so great that several firemen and two policemen were prostrated.

At 1:45 A. M. the flames, aided by the strong wind which was prevailing, had leaped across the wide avenue and communicated to the whole block on the east side between 53d and 54th streets. The block was composed of six-story tenement houses and a coal yard. The terror-stricken tenants poured out of the building like a swarm of bees, praying, fighting and cursing by turns. The scene of terror was indescribable. The building burned rapidly, though the fronts facing the avenue were of brown stone. By 2:30 A. M. they were completely gutted. The flames spread over the entire block of Ninth avenue.

At 2:30 the next block below had caught on fire, and was burning fiercely. The streets in the vicinity, for blocks away, were filled with frightened, crying and woe-stricken tenants, fleeing from the ravages of the flames. The fire attracted thousands of awe-stricken spectators. The tenement houses were thickly peopled. Every floor had from four to five families. All were poor people, who will lose all their property. The fire was got under control at 4 o'clock this morning. The stables, with their contents, and the frame houses on the opposite side of Tenth avenue, and down 54th street, were destroyed. The loss will not be much less than \$1,000,000.

Elizabeth Walsh, 76 years old, one of the occupants of the house No. 540 West 54th street, which was burned, was sick in her bed. The police rescued her and brought her to the sidewalk, where she expired from fright and shock.

AFTER THE FIRE.

NEW YORK, May 27.—The loss is now estimated at \$1,325,000. The fire raged from half-past 1 till day-break. The sun rose upon a scene of desolation, but with the tired firemen masters of the situation. The bodies of 1,200 horses that had been smothered or burned alive were roasting in the ruins of the stables. One wing of Jacob New's silk factory in 54th street and five brick tenements in that block have disappeared. Scarcely a trace was left of any of them save the corner tenement on Tenth avenue, the front of which yet stands. A row of frame rookeries on Tenth avenue, fronting the stables, had been wiped out, and of the shanty settlement all the way down 53d street, from Tenth avenue to within 300 feet of Eleventh avenue, nothing was left save blackened rocks and tons of dead goats, dogs, pigs and horses that had been burned to death in the vain scramble for life.

More than 100 families, to a great extent very poor people, had been rendered homeless, and one woman had perished from fright in the excitement. Any number of people, including firemen and police, had been prostrated by the consuming heat. Men, women and children wandered aimlessly over the ruins of their wrecked homes, bereft of their all and bewildered at the sudden and crushing blow. Their losses, though mostly insignificant in amount, were accumulations of a lifetime. The insurance is less than \$500,000. The

street car company carried \$310,000 insurance divided among 150 companies.

Noble Words.

Jefferson Davis has given voice to many noble sentiments, clothed in words that impressed them strongly upon readers and auditors alike, but he seems recently to have touched a chord that has a far-reaching response. In the course of a recent speech before the Press Association of Mississippi, Mr. Davis used these words:

"But now these scenes and incidents have passed, and they only live in mind and history. United you are now, and if the union is ever to be broken, let the other side break it. The army of the South will shine forever around the campfires, and will shine to our children's children. The truths we fought for shall not encourage you to ever fight again; but keep your word in good or evil."

Nobody dares doubt the loyalty of Mr. Davis to the Southern people during their separate national existence, and there is still less room to question his devotion to them and to their rights during the period when those rights were counted as nothing by the government of the United States. No other man can more safely and consistently utter such a sentiment as that just quoted. From no other lips could these words have more effect upon those who were once wont to belittle and abuse him. Of the impression made by his recent speech, some extracts from Northern papers will give a good idea.

The Philadelphia Times, in commenting on the speech, says:

"With slavery the South got rid of its foolish and antiquated notions about the degradation of work, and with work and the development of the natural resources, which had been hid as in a napkin heretofore, the South has found out the source of real strength. It would take a man of much duller perception than Jefferson Davis not to recognize all this, and it is to his credit that he has made up his mind to declare in words what he must have long felt in his heart."

The Springfield Republican rejoices in Mr. Davis's sentiments, and thinks that "he grows more lively and modern every day."

The New York Evening Post makes this deduction from the remarks of Mr. Davis:

"For a long time, whatever else failed, the venerable bloody shirt shakers, like Senator Hoar, could fall back upon Jeff Davis and Bob Toombs and say that they were just as bad rebels as ever they were. But Toombs is dead, and now Davis has become reconciled. There is nothing to cling to, and Horace Greeley's memorable prediction may be said to be fulfilled: 'Your attempt to base a great, enduring party upon the hate and wrath necessarily engendered by a bloody civil war is as though you should plant a colony on an iceberg which had somehow drifted into a tropical ocean.'"

The Philadelphia Press has these good words to say:

"There is nothing in the speech of Jefferson Davis at Meridian, Miss., that can provoke the suspicions of the most jealous lover of the Union. The ex-Confederate chieftain spoke for the Union and expressed the sentiment that 'if the Union is ever to be broken, let the other side break it.'"

The Philadelphia News says that this speech marks an epoch in American history, and sounds the death-knell of sectionalism. It contains:

"The strength of mind, the mental courage required to enable Jeff Davis to say to his people, 'the truth we fought for shall not encourage you ever to fight again,' demands cordial recognition. For the first time in nearly thirty years the North can well afford to put aside resentment and to join the South in praise of Jeff Davis."

It is a healthy sign when utterances of the leader of the so-called Rebellion is taken as sincere and is applauded as an evidence of genuine patriotism. Jefferson Davis may live long enough to have the good will of every good citizen of the Union.

The Good of a Cyclone.

A Cyclone out west picked up a barrel of whiskey and dropped it in a prohibition State. The people have since declared that a cyclone is a very respectable institution, and want to know how the country could get on without them.

DASHED TO THEIR DEATH.

The Horse Shoe Bend Catastrophe.

PITTSBURG, Pa., May 28.—The latest reports from the scene of the accident at Horse Shoe Bend on the Pennsylvania railroad last night state that eight were killed and six injured. Four were killed outright and others have since died. The ill-fated train arrived at Union Depot in this city at 4:30 o'clock this morning with some ninety passengers aboard. For four long hours a group of anxious mortals paced up and down the passage ways, lingering impatiently and in awful suspense as to the fate of their friends who had taken passage on the fast line and were expected to arrive in the city at 11:55 last night. Many were the inquiries of the department officials regarding the nature of the accident of which all had heard, but either they could not or would not give the particulars.

EVERY MINUTE SEEMS AN HOUR

to the crowd, and when the shrill whistle at last signalled the arrival of the wrecked train all eyes were turned toward it. Almost the first person to step from the train was Miss McMahon, a school teacher in Florida, who was on her way home in Beaver Falls, this State. Miss McMahon, furnished an account of the awful accident which overtook the fast train.

HER STORY IN HER OWN WORDS.

"I was sitting about the middle of the second coach from the engine. The train was running at a high rate when the accident occurred. The shock was terrific. I was thrown violently against the seat in front of me. The train stopped suddenly. In a minute all was confusion and I was at a loss to know what had happened. I soon heard shrieks from the passengers in the coach in the rear of the one I was in, and I at once knew that something awful had happened. I raised the window and looked out. The sight frightened me. The entire sides of two coaches immediately in the rear of the one I was in were crushed in. I could see the passengers climbing out over the coal cars lying on the adjoining track. The passengers who were not injured assisted in removing the killed and wounded. It was a sight that I will never forget. Several women in the car swooned away when they saw what happened."

A Similarity.

Chemists tell us that ninety per cent of a man is water. So is most of the railroad stock in this country.

The Wrong Man Shot in Open Court.

St. Louis, May 26.—A special from Rockville, Mo., says: The shooting to death of John Vandenberg in the court room yesterday, during his preliminary examination, on the charge of outraging Jennie Anderson, is now believed to be a horrible mistake, and notwithstanding she was the victim of some man's lust and identified Vandenberg as the man, yet her identification was that uncertainty that usually fixes the crime on the first man arrested.

HEARTRENDING SCENES.

J. H. Peach, of the Belleville Mefin, this State, was a passenger on the third coach from the smoking car and related a graphic account of the heartrending scenes which followed the death dealing crash. "I was sitting," he said "about four seats to the rear of Dale Graham when the trains collided. The entire side of our coach was crushed in and young Graham was literally buried beneath the ruins, but one moan escaped his lips and he must have died instantly, for he was about the first victim we sat about to recover. When extricated from the wreck his form was lifeless. The side of the car was crushed down on top of him, and this, with a large quantity of coal from the freight car, had crushed out the young man's life before any assistance could be rendered. I never want to witness such distressing scenes again. It makes my flesh quiver when I think of it."

CONSTABLES OFF THEIR GUARD.

Testimony shows that the constables were watching these men, but were thrown off their guard by their composed manner while the Judge was reviewing the testimony. Scarcely had he pronounced "hold the defendant in \$10,000 bond," than Lint Anderson had sent two shots through Vandenberg's body and Ed. Evans fired two more. Friends of the murdered man have been found, and declare that they will prosecute to the end.

WOMEN'S CHIEFS.

The piercing shrieks of the women mingled with the agonizing cries of the men completely overpowered me now, although when the sad calamity occurred I managed to keep possession of my senses, and aided in rescuing the victims to the best of my ability. We must have been running at the rate of thirty miles an hour at the time it occurred, and the freight, I should judge, was going about twelve miles an hour. The freight was heavily loaded, and the terrible crash caused a panic among the passengers. I am surprised that three times as many were not dashed into eternity."

KILLED AND INJURED.

The official list of the killed and injured furnished by the railroad company gives six killed and eight injured.

The names of the killed are as follows: Dale B. Graham, son of ex-Speaker Graham of Allegheny; Wm. Snyder, of Shamokin, Pa.; Jno. Doris, of East Liberty; the news boy, Jno. H. Stauffer, of Louisville, Ohio; Chas. Biedeman, of Brinsfield, Noble County, Ind.; Chas. E. Morrell, of No. 75 East Fifty-Third street, New York. Two of the eight injured are reported dead, but the report is not confirmed. Neither train was running at high speed, or the disaster would have been greater. The accident was caused by the breaking of

an axle on the freight train, causing a freight car to drop toward the adjoining track the moment the passenger train was passing.

The President Off for a Week of Sport in the Adirondacks.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The President, accompanied by Mrs. Cleveland and Col. and Mrs. Lamont, left here at 4 o'clock this afternoon for Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks, in a special car on the Pennsylvania Railroad. A small crowd of people, including several military men, assembled on the portico of the White House to see the party take their carriage, but they made no demonstration. The trip to the lake will be made direct, with as few delays as possible. All the members of the party seem to be in the best of health and spirits, and the shotguns and fishing tackle included in their baggage show that they mean to have a pleasant time.

Fig Iron Blasts for the South.

BALTIMORE, May 25.—The Hon. Wm. D. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, who has returned from a trip of several months to the South, will begin in this week's edition of the *Manufacturers Record* a series of elaborate articles upon the agricultural and industrial progress and possibilities of that section. The first article, which appears in to-morrow's issue, is devoted to the past, present and future of Florida, incidental to his treatment of the subject quoted, Kelley makes a strong protection tariff argument.

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COULD HE HAVE DONE THE DEED.

Vandenberg was cooking for a camping party four miles from the scene of the outrage at three o'clock that afternoon, and at five o'clock he was again in camp. The coroner's jury censured the Judge for not disarming and watching the Anderson boys and Ed. Evans, from whom something desperate was expected, and they brought in a verdict of murder against Lint Anderson and Ed. Evans.

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A CROWNING OVATION.

Montreal's Farewell Tribute to O'Brien on his Leaving Canada.

MONTREAL, May 27.—What was done here this evening in honor of Wm. O'Brien was meant as a crowning demonstration. This was the first place he spoke after "invading" Canada.

But the reception tendered him then was tendered by Irish societies almost exclusively, while the reception to-night was not alone by Irish societies, but by all other city organizations, French-Canadian associations predominating. No sooner had O'Brien reached here last night than a meeting of representative French-Canadians were held in Richelieu Hall, at which the general sentiment seemed to be in favor of inviting O'Brien to stay there and offering him all hospitalities.

To this end Mr. Durocher, the proprietor, and other French Canadians waited on O'Brien and made known their wishes, but he was obliged to decline. The torchlight parade was a magnificent spectacle. While O'Brien was speaking from the balcony of the St. Lawrence Hall, after his carriage had been hauled through the principal streets, one man trod upon another man's foot. The man groaned with pain, and people thought he was dissenting from O'Brien's remarks and intent on creating a row.

The audience "went for him" as one man, and before he had time to recover himself and explain, he was badly bruised and cut. His name is Short. He is editor of the *Canadian Workman*, and is a warm sympathizer with O'Brien.

In the grand parade, after the deputations from outside towns, came the carriage in which O'Brien was seated with Dennis Kilbride, H. J. Cloran, president of the National League, D. Barry, president of the St. Patrick's Society, and J. B. Lane.

At least 8,000 men carried torches, and as they filed past St. Lawrence Hall, on the balcony of which O'Brien stood with the American newspaper men and officers of the local League, there was set up a deafening cheer. In the principal streets along the route the houses were illuminated and electric lights and fire crackers flashed. O'Brien and his friends stood on the upper gallery of the Larins Hotel from which the speeches were made. In neighboring streets there were at least 30,000 persons. Not far away, at Ottawa and Young streets, was Brother Arnold, of St. Ann's Christian Brothers' School, with his five hundred students, standing and applauding until they were hoarse. They sang the Irish national anthem, "God save Ireland."

O'Brien, surveying the scene, turned to the Associated Press reporter and said he had never seen anything finer outside of Ireland, or even in Ireland.

H. J. Cloran, president of the local branch of the National League, presided.

Saving Time in Court.

Columbia Record.

A good deal is said about the needless consumption of time by the different courts of justice, and the consequent expense to the several counties. Sometimes the newspapers compliment a Judge for having, in a given time, done a great quantity of work. There is a general impression that the law's delay is frequently exemplified in the hearing of a cause, as strongly as in the various proceedings preparatory to the joining of issue. It is charged upon lawyers that they are seldom ready when they ought to be, and that, in their cases, they fight too long over small matters. The real truth is that the postponement of a cause is almost always attributable to accident or to neglect of the litigant. It is equally true that as seemingly small things most frequently determine an issue involving great things to either side, so it is that those little things often constitute the only fighting-ground in a case. The proper judge of these matters is the lawyer who has charge of the rights of his client—subject of course, to a proper control by the presiding Judge. Few lawyers care to prolong a hearing in order to kill time. Lawyers ought to know, and they do know, that to become tiresome either in argument or in examination is to damage their case even before a patient Judge—to say nothing of juries. Most lawyers prepare their causes well beforehand. They are presumed to know their business, and they generally do. When, therefore, either Judge or juryman undertakes to say

how much or how little importance is to be attached to any point, before it has been fully presented, he runs the risk of doing injustice. A hasty Judge is the next worst thing to an ignorant one. More than one case has been taken to the appellate court because, in common phrase, the trial Judge "went off half cocked." More than one Judge in South Carolina has wasted valuable time in burying other people up.

There is, of course, in the popular mind an idea that the chief function of a Judge is that of a mere presiding officer. It is told somewhere that a certain Judge, growing impatient of the delay in the trial of a cause, said to the lawyer: "You must understand, sir, that this court sits for the dispatch of business." "Ah!" replied the lawyer. "I beg your Honor's pardon. I thought the court sat for the administration of justice." This distinction might be studied to some advantage by those who deem it complimentary to say of a Judge that he beats the record in the number of cases tried per day.

Nobody tolerates waste of time where time is so valuable as it is in the courts of South Carolina. Nobody can criticize a Judge because he urges punctuality upon everybody who has business in court. But there is a middle ground between sloth and impatience which every Judge would do well to find. The one may cost the people money—the other may cost the individual some valuable right.

Perhaps the Judge who attracts most attention in urging against the wasting of the time of the court is the Judge who, being a good talker, does, most naturally, delight to hear himself talk. The jurists make up an auditory whose attention is most earnest, albeit it is compulsory. Jurors and witnesses who happen to be tardy in attending court come in frequently for a measure of moralizing which, while serving in a great degree to relieve the tedium of the proceedings, is nevertheless an expensive employment of the functions of the lecturer or the Sunday-school superintendent. Witnesses whose vocabulary is inadequate to the terse statement of the facts they really wish to tell, not unfrequently come in for a share of rebuke from Judge or lawyer, on the score of saving time. Each functionary might remember that his interruption nearly always consumes more time than would the homely statement of the man on the stand.

One good means of expediting business in court is to make use, as far as possible, of every moment of time. If one case can't (or won't) be tried, it is better to go immediately into another rather than bemoan the indifference of people to the demands of the court. In furthering the proceedings, the skill of the presiding officer is frequently as valuable to all parties as the learning of the Judge. How to apply that skill, without danger of unseemly haste, is a difficult task. The co-operation of attorneys with the presiding Judge, to the end of a prompt disposal of cases, will go further than anything else to make it an easy one.

The Virginia Elections.

NORFOLK, May 27.—In Norfolk County the Republican straight ticket is elected by a large majority over the Citizens' or Fusion ticket. Asbury, colored, is elected Commonwealth's attorney, which is said to be the first time in the history of the State where a colored man has been elected to this position. Portsmouth City elected the Labor ticket.

STAUNTON, Va., May 27.—In Augusta County the general Democratic ticket was elected by from 500 to 1,200 majority. The Republicans carry some minor offices, including two of the six supervisors.

HARRISONBURG, Va., May 27.—Semi-official returns from all precincts in this county show the following result of the election for county officers yesterday: Harrison (Rep.) defeats Yancy (Ind. Dem.) by 700 majority, for Commonwealth's attorney; Messey (Ind. Dem.) defeats Lewis (Rep.) by 150 majority, for County Court clerk; Martz (Ind. Dem.) defeats Black (Rep.) by 150 majority, for Circuit Court clerk. The Republicans elect a full board of supervisors and nearly all the district officers.

WINCHESTER, Va., May 27.—Frederick County elects the entire Democratic ticket, except one commissioner. The Democrats did not have a ticket in the city election. Council was elected from three tickets, the Temperance ticket, Citizens' ticket and a ticket of Republicans, supposed to be non-partisan.

THE THREE C'S RAILROAD.

A Rumor that it is Owned by the South Carolina Railway.

Special to the News and Courier.

AUGUSTA, May 25.—THE NEWS AND COURIER published last week the news of the probable consolidation of the Georgia and Carolina Midland with the Charleston, Cincinnati and Chicago Company. President Mitchell, of the former company, said today that the plan of consolidation has been agreed upon and would be presented to the joint meeting to be held in Columbia on the 1st of June.

The plan guarantees the completion of the Midland from Black's to Augusta, where conjunction will be made with the South Carolina Railway, giving Charleston another Western connection. Plenty of money is said to be behind the combination, and it is reported here that the wealthy owners of the South Carolina Railway are the money power. They are tired of unfriendly connections here, it is rumored, and are moving for a strong and straight connection with Ohio River ports.

Gen. M. C. Butler is in the city today, and as a member of the board of directors of the great Three C's Company, he strongly favors the consolidation. The proposed line will run through the richest mineral sections of North and South Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky, and its completion is regarded as certain.

A Question of Taste.

Abbeville Medium.

A short time ago the *Columbia Record* and the *Greenville News* engaged in a discussion as to whether the title of "Mr." should be used in newspaper articles. We cannot recall on what side the respective papers were arrayed. We have positive views on the subject. The name of a person of any distinction is enough without the prefix. Only the small fry should have "Mr." put in front of their names. This rule applies when the Christian name is used and it is in good style to use "Mr." only when the surname is given. We would say Grover Cleveland and only use the prefix when Grover is left out and we speak of Mr. Cleveland. It would be absurd to speak of Mr. Wade Hampton or Mr. M. C. Butler. It is better to say Wade Hampton and M. C. Butler. We leave off the prefix when we name William Shakespeare, Oliver Goldsmith, Paul Hayne and other men of note.

So it is in the case of women of celebrity. We say Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mary Anderson, Jenny Lind, Christine Neilson, &c.

The best newspapers in the country have left off these titles even in marriage notices and obituaries except where the bride or the deceased happens to be married, or a widow, and then "Mrs." is used.

Half Told Horrors of the Fire of the Paris Opera Comique.

Special Cable Dispatch to the Star.

PARIS, May 26.—Nothing save ruins remains of the pretty Opera Comique, destroyed by fire last night with shocking loss of life. Thus far more than sixty dead and charred bodies have been taken from the debris. About twilight the walls fell in with a great crash and a party of rescuers barely escaped with their lives.

Late this afternoon the bodies of eighteen ladies, all in full dress, were found lying together at the bottom of the staircase leading from the second story. These ladies all had escorts to the theater, but no remains of men were found anywhere near where the women were burned to death.

The library attached to the theater was entirely destroyed, with all its contents, including many valuable scores. Six thousand costumes were burned in the wardrobe.

The remains of three men and two women were found in the stage box, where the victims had taken refuge from the flames. It is ascertained that many bodies lie buried in the debris in the upper galleries, whence escape was exceedingly difficult. The government proposes to close several of the Paris theaters because of their deficiency in exits.

Forty bodies were taken from the ruins in a terribly mutilated condition. The remains are principally those of ballet girls, chorists and machinists. Five of the bodies are those of elderly ladies, and one of them is that of a child. The firemen lowered some of the bodies from the fourth story of the theater by means of ropes.

The streets in the vicinity of the burned theater were crowded all day.

Doctors attended many persons who were bruised. Mr. Sewell, solicitor of the British Embassy, said that the audience showed great calmness when the alarm was given. When the gas was extinguished he groped his way to the balcony and saw people in the street laying straw mattresses to receive persons jumping from the windows. He was ultimately rescued by firemen.

The bodies of ballet dancers who lost their lives by the burning of the Opera Comique last night are lying in heaps in the ruins of the theater. The number of persons killed greatly exceeds the previous estimates. An excited crowd surrounded the ruins, which are guarded by a military cordon. Many distressing scenes are witnessed.

Thus far 150 persons have made inquiries at the hospitals and police stations for missing relatives believed to have perished in the Opera Comique. The excavated portions beneath the opera house are filled with water to the depth of five feet, and the firemen engaged in searching for bodies have discovered floating about more than sixty corpses. Owing to the dangerous condition of the walls still standing, however, no effort has been made to recover the bodies, and nothing will be done in that way until the safety of the workers is made more secure by the removal of the tottering masonry. Workmen are now hard at work pulling down the walls, and attempts will likely be made to get the floating bodies during the night. It is now believed that fully 150 persons lost their lives.

The Opera Comique was one of the theaters subsidized by the French government, which contributed \$50,000 a year toward its support. It stood on the Place des Italiens, in the angle formed by the Boulevard des Italiens and the Avenue de l'Opera. It faced the Rue Favart, the Rue de Marivaux and the Place Boieldieu, and was one of the landmarks of the period of Louis Philippe. It occupied the old site of the Favart Hall, which was also destroyed by fire, and was first opened to the public in 1838.

The interior construction was in every way defective, and it has been often remarked that should a fire ever break out a terrible catastrophe would result. The structure was, however, a very fine one, and accommodated 1,500 people. As in the case of several other Parisian theaters, ladies were not admitted to the orchestra seats or stalls. Back of every box was a small saloon where refreshments were served between the acts. The ventilation was unusually good, the air being supplied from the ceiling, while in summer it was cooled by ice, the fouled air finding egress from the openings in the ceiling.

The Opera Comique was under the management of M. Carvalho, and was devoted to the representation of the lighter styles of national music. It will be remembered as the house where Miss Van Zandt was subjected, a year or two ago, to a display of ill-temper on the part of the audience.

A Remedy Suggested.

Lawsuits Herald.

It is to be hoped that a time will come when those who administer the criminal law in South Carolina will be made to realize that whenever they compound a felony by turning criminals loose who are able to pay the costs and the prosecutor a fee, that they must suffer a penalty. Our laws are sufficient to punish crime but the failure is in the execution. It is not going too far to say that for every three persons who are arrested, and evidence is at hand sufficient to convict, two of that number are never made to feel the penalty which the law prescribes. The Trial Justices, especially, seem to forget that they have no power to withdraw prosecutions, but will frequently liberate the person charged, if the prosecutor is satisfied with the price he has received.

It is hoped that a time will come when no guilty man will escape, and it is also earnestly to be desired that some provision will be made by which the labor of these petit offenders can be utilized on the public highways, instead of being a burden upon the honest tax-payers. Let the Trial Justice system be abolished and have one court in each county to investigate these trivial charges, and let the sentence of this court extend to one year's labor on the public works of the county. By this means crime will be decreased and at the same time our roads can be kept in good condition.