New-York Tribune.

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FOREIGN NEWS.

THE CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN.

ONE OF THE DEFENSES OF CARTAGENA BREACHED—AN ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION.

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 26—2 30 a. m.

Special dispatches from Cartagena announce that Fort San Julian one of the strongest defenses of the city, has been breached.

An accidental explosion in the Fenal Battery yesterday killed twenty officers and men of the besieging force.

EXPLORING THE SAHARA.

GERHARD ROHLFS'S EXPEDITION TO THE LIBYAN DESERT—SKETCH OF A GREAT TRAVELER BY ONE OF THE SAME CRAFT—THE EXPEDITION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE KHEDIVE—FERTILE REGIONS DISCOVERED TO BE ANNEXED TO EGYPT.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WEIMAR, Germany, Nov. 22.—Last Wednesday evening a farewell supper was given here to the distinguished African traveler, Gerhard Rohlfs, who for three years past has made his home in this quiet little German capital. By the courtesy of Herr von Bojanowski, the editor of the *Weimarische Zeitung*, I was enabled to be present and to hear the details of one of the most interesting plans of exploration which has been undertaken of late years. Perhaps its most remarkable nature is that it should have been so long neglected or overlooked.

The name of Rohlfs has been mentioned from time to time in connection with his previous African journeys in the American newspapers, but a sketch of his wonderfully adventurous life will no doubt be new to most readers. He was born near Bremen, in 1831 and the events of 1848 forced him, as a boy of [illegible], into the military ranks. He served during the Schleswig-Holstein war of 1849 and so distinguished himself [illegible] battle of Idstedt that he was appointed officer. For several years afterward he studied medicine at the universities of Göttingen and Heidelberg, then, instead of settling down to the exercise of his art at home, he shot off at a tangent, wandered through Austria and Italy, and finally, after many unrecorded adventures, turned up as a private soldier in the Foreign Legion employed in Algiers against the rebellious Kabyles. Here he rose to the rank of sergeant, received several decorations and—what was of immeasurably greater value—mastered the Arabic language.

In the year 1861 Rohlfs began his explorations. Disguised as a Moorish physician he entered the Kingdom of Morocco, practiced for a time and with great success in Fez and in the course of a year or two visited all parts of the country. During a journey to the Oasis of Tafilet, in the Sahara, he was attacked by the leaders of the caravan he had joined, plundered, severely wounded, and left for dead on the sands. Many hours afterwards some dervishes passing the same way, found him nearly dying from thirst and loss of blood, and proved themselves to be good Samaritans by staying with him until he was able to travel. Nothing daunted by this terrible experience, he next undertook to reach the Oasis of Tuat, which had never been visited by a European. In this he was perfectly successful; he explored the famous oasis from beginning to end secretly measured and mapped it, and then made his way to Tripoli by the more northern Oasis of Ghadames. This journey counts among the most daring and important explorations of the Great Sahara.

In 1865 after a short visit to Germany, Rohlfs returned to Tripoli with the intention of penetrating a mountainous region called the Hoggar; but, being prevented by wars among the Tuareg Arabs, he went to Murzuk, the capital of Fezzan, and there waited until March, 1866, for the opportunity of extending his journey to Bornou, in Central Africa. Having received money and goods, he set out with a small caravan and in four months, by way of Bilma (the course followed by Denham and Clapperton) arrived at Kuka, the capital of Bornou. Here he ascertained the fate of his unfortunate predecessor, Moritz von Beurmann, who was murdered on reaching the frontier of Waday, by order of the Sultan of that country. Rohlfs, nevertheless, sent a messenger to Wara, the capital of Waday, asking permission to travel thither, and while waiting for the answer made a journey to the country of Mandara and the great river Benué.

By this time he was almost without means; the climate affected him seriously, and, finally, in December, 1866, he decided to make his way to the Gulf of Guinea. During this journey he passed through the Kingdom of Jakow, which no traveler had previously entered, and followed an entirely new route thence to the Benué, which he descended to its junction with the Niger. Rohlfs informed me that he encountered comparatively few difficulties and dangers while traversing the unknown territory. From the Niger he crossed the country in a straight line to the coast at Lagos where he found an English steamer, and reached Liverpool on the 2d of July, 1867.

Before six months were over, Rohlfs was again in Africa. King William of Prussia appointed him military correspondent to accompany the English expedition to Abyssinia. He made the campaign, from the coast to Magdala, and after the death of Theodore accomplished some limited but interesting explorations of the Abyssinian highlands. A year later, partly assisted by the Prussian Government, he undertook a series of researches among the ruined Greek and Roman cities of the Cyrenaica, and wound up with a journey to the celebrated Oasis of Jupiter Ammon in the Libyan Desert.

For the last three years, Rohlfs has been occupying himself chiefly as a lecturer and writer for the press. His style is clear and animated and his descriptions, perhaps from the very soberness of their tone, convey a strong impression of truthfulness. The heroism of his nature is suggested in his personal appearance. He is a strikingly handsome man, about six feet in height, with crisp blond hair, blue eyes, and an almost Greek profile of nose, mouth and chin. In spite of his forty years, and the enormous hardships he has undergone he does not appear to be much over thirty. His bearing is soldierly almost to severity, but this gives him an air of authority, which is an element of great value in the accomplishments of an African explorer. Since 1870 he has married and built himself a stately house here; the Grand Duke has bestowed upon him the title of *Hofrath* (Court Counselor), and I presume this will be his future home, if Allah brings him back victorious from the present adventure.

The idea of an exploration of the Libyan Desert originated with Rohlfs, but the realization thereof is due to the Viceroy of Egypt. It is only a few months since the plan was broached, presented, and accepted. It is one of the safest, briefest, and most practicable which can be imagined, when we contrast means and probable results; and if I had not plucked the Traveler from my blood, I should be tempted to ask for a subaltern's place in the enterprise.

The supper was so simple and appropriate in its character that I should like to offer it as a model for all similar celebrations at home, where we usually have hollow splendor at an immense cost, and an opportunity for the getters-up of the feast to distinguish themselves, without much regard to the object of its representative. We had a plain, substantial bill of fare (including carp and venison) for about one dollar apiece, each ordering his own wine, and paying a few cents towards the moderate amount consumed by the distinguished guest. "Knowledge" was the first toast, and "The Explorer, Gerhard Rohlfs," the second; after which the Explorer arose and explained to us the scope, expectation and details of his undertaking. This was the end of formality; what remained was pleasantly social, and must not be reported!

Rohlfs first called our attention to the fact that the Egypt we know is the narrow Nile-valley, between which and the Red Sea, on the east, the territory is tolerably, although not yet thoroughly, known; but when we cross the few miles of cultivated land to the westward of the river we are on the borders of a region which is still, for the most part, a blank on our maps. We know that at distances varying from 100 to 175 miles westward there are four oases, two of which are large and well-populated; and yet—only one European has ever visited all of them! This was the Frenchman, Cailliaud, in the year 1819. The Little Oasis (*Oasis Parva* of the Romans) lies about 100 miles west of Minyeh, on the Nile; still further, in the latitude of Siout, the capital of Upper Egypt, and 175 miles distant, is the Oasis of Farafreh; then, 100 miles nearly due west of Thebes is the Great Oasis (*Oasis Magna*), with the Oasis of Dakhel lying between it and Farafreh. Two or three Englishmen have visited the Great Oasis—only a four days' journey from the Nile—on account of its ancient Egyptian temples; but Cailliaud, I believe, is the only man who has ever penetrated as far west as Farafreh.

These four oases are disposed in a curved line, the concave side toward the Nile; they are under Egyptian government, and must have frequent intercourse with the towns on the river. Beyond them, however, nothing whatever is known; nearly a million square miles remain to this day an absolute *terra incognita*. It seems tolerably certain that no organized, independent nation exists therein, between Waday and the Mediterranean, but reports of very large and fertile oases have from time to time reached Egypt, and the possibility of "annexation" seems to have been the chief incentive which led the Viceroy to favor the expedition. The natives of the Oasis of Farafreh say that six days' journey to the westward there is a large oasis called Zerzurah, inhabited by negroes; eight or ten days' journey farther to the west is located a region called "Fufarah"—said to be a vast depression in the Desert, two or three hundred miles in extent, and abounding with wells and groves of date-palms. To the southward, some geographers conjecture that there is a chain of mountains, rising to a hight of eight or ten thousand feet. I have even seen this chain set down upon maps, but I have been unable to discover upon what evidence, and Rohlfs informs me that he scarcely expects to find it.

Von Beurmann and Dr. Nachtigall are the only travelers who have penetrated into any part of this great region; they have skirted the south-western border of the Libyan Desert, where, extending toward Waday and Lake Tsad, it is gradually lost in the Sahara. Wara, the capital of Waday, has a much more northerly location than was formerly supposed; it lies nearly west of Dongola, the ancient capital of Nubia, and not more than 650 miles distant, in a straight line. North-west of Waday, and nearly half way between that country and Fezzan, is a land called Tibesti, which Dr. Nachtigall succeeded in penetrating, making Lake Tsad his starting-point.

If he shall safely return to civilization after his daring exploits, he will bring us the first authentic intelligence of that region. Still further, northward and eastward of Tibesti, is a land called "Wadjanga," said to be wild and mountainous, and inhabited by a fierce, warlike race. The reported Oasis of "Fufarah" cannot be very far to the northward of this "Wadjanga" land, and, should there be a lofty mountain range dividing the two, it may account for our ignorance of both countries. Where an easy and regularly-traveled caravan route fails, in Africa, two or three generations suffice to obliterate all accidental geographical knowledge among the people.

The prospects of the expedition seemed very bright when Rohlfs told us that he had just received a letter from Dr. Nachtigall, actually written in Wara, the capital of Waday, in January last! The conclusion of a peace between the kingdoms of Bornou and Waday had enabled the intrepid traveler to penetrate where his two heroic predecessors (Vogel and Von Beurmann) perished, and the prospects are now good that he will succeed in crossing Dar-Fur and coming to the civilized world again at Khartum.

As for Rohlfs, his plan is very simple and practical. Reaching Egypt by Dec. 1, he will employ two or three weeks in organizing his expedition. His starting point will be the town of Minyeh, the present terminus of the railroad which will soon connect Cairo with Upper Egypt. A trip of five days from Minyeh will bring him to the Oasis of Farafreh, beyond (if not before) which point every step will be a contribution to our knowledge. With the means at his disposal, he will be able to reach the great Oasis of Fufarah (if there is such a place) in another fortnight; and then, making that a central point, to push as far southward and westward as may be possible.

The expedition will be the most complete for its size that ever was planned. Four competent German scholars will accompany Rohlfs—a botanist, an ethnologist, a geologist, and a surveyor. One hundred picked camels will carry each two water-tanks of light galvanized iron, making an entire provision of 500,000 pounds of water, secured against loss by evaporation. From 80 to 100 additional camels will be taken for the persons and baggage of the expedition; the camel-drivers will be well armed and under military discipline. Leaving Minyeh toward the end of December, Rohlfs expects to be back again by the end of March, 1874. He has the great advantage that his explorations commence immediately, and that, whatever may be the final result, he is perfectly sure to clear up a great deal of unknown geography. The explored territory, of course, will be annexed to Egypt.

In four or five months, therefore, we may expect to hear a new story of African travel. If I am not greatly mistaken, it will be one of special interest. A better leader than Rohlfs could hardly be found, a more practical preparation has never been made, a more provokingly attractive region does not exist. I expect that the sculptor Story's musing "Sibylla Libyca" will lift her dark brows and stare in alarm, when she finds that she no longer owns a mystery.

B. T.

THE VILLE DU HAVRE DISASTER.

THE RESCUE OF PASTOR WEISS AND MR. COOK FROM THE LOCH EARN.

Pastor Weiss of Paris gives in the Paris *Temps* an account of his voyage in the Loch Earn, after being rescued from the Ville du Havre. He was left on board with Mr. Cook, being deemed too sick to be transferred to the Trimountain, which received the bulk of the rescued passengers and crew. The captain of the Loch Earn at first expected to reach Liverpool in a short time, but it was found that the ship could only be kept afloat by making considerable repairs, and then only in the event of a calm sea and favorable wind. This was discovered on Nov. 22, and all of the two following days were spent by the master carpenter in protecting the bow with planks and sheeting, and strengthening the bulkhead, which prevented the water from pouring into the hold. There was a fierce storm for three days, and on the 28th, when the boats were in readiness to abandon the ship, and the building of a raft was even discussed, the British Queen hove in sight, and received the crew of the Loch Earn with Mr. Weiss and his companion on board. A dog and three cats were also brought on board from the sinking vessel. The British Queen, Mr. Weiss says, seemed to realize the impatience of her new passengers, for she made 1,100 miles in eight days, and on the 6th of December he and Mr. Cook got on board a pilot-boat, which brought them to Plymouth, whence they went by way of London to Paris. Both were very much exhausted, but Mr. Weiss says the remembrance of the care which they received on board the Loch Earn and the British Queen, and the sight of home, which they never expected to see again, made them almost forget their misfortunes.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The new English Solicitor-General, Mr. Vernon Harcourt, has refused to answer inquiries from the United Kingdom Alliance as to his views, on the ground that he never has and probably never will give categorical pledges as to his votes. If he did he would be not a representative, but a delegate of the people.

A strange scene took place at Tokei, Japan, on the Emperor's birthday. In the evening a dinner was given at the Emperor's Summer Palace to the Foreign Ministers accredited to Japan. Terashima, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, presided. With the dessert Sir Harry S. Parkes, as British Minister, rose and proposed the health of the Emperor, which he accompanied by a speech. At the close he called upon the French Minister, remarking it was his turn next to speak. The Count briefly responded, excusing himself, and as he resumed his seat Judge Bingham, the American Minister, rose to offer "Prosperity, happiness, and progress to the Sovereign and people of Japan," when Sir Harry, violently interrupting, shut him off completely, motioning him to sit down, and crying out "No more," "No more." Judge Bingham resumed his seat gracefully, when a lively discussion ensued across the table, in which Sir Harry became very much excited, contending warmly that the sentiment was out of order, as it introduced politics, and superfluous in language, as "the Emperor was the people;" but the Judge coolly informed him that he might have heard of a church without a bishop or a people without a crown, but inquired if it were possible to have a bishop without a church or a sovereign without a people. When pressed for an answer, Sir Harry reluctantly admitted it could not be, and immediately Judge Bingham good-naturedly congratulated him on having "come to his way of thinking."

WASHINGTON.

BRITISH EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 25, 1873.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics furnishes the following comparative statement, showing some of the principal articles of British and Irish produce and manufactures exported from the United Kingdom to the United States during the 11 months ended Nov. 30, for the years 1872 and 1873:

Articles.	1872.	1873.
Cotton manufactures, piece goods yards	126,459,883	104,278,043
Iron, pig, tons	185,918	99,093
Iron, bar angle, bolt, and rod, tons	62,357	22,689
Iron, railroad of all sorts, tons	441,074	177,955
Iron, hoops sheet, boiler, and armor plates, tons	29,829	17,988
Lead, pig, rolled, sheet piping and tubing, tons	7,590	2,635
Linen manufactures piece goods, yards	111,472,000	97,400,679
Silk manufactures, broad stuffs of silk or satin, value	$145,249	$74,570
Ribbons of all kinds, value	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other articles of silk only, value	$52,010	$49,836
Other articles of silk and other materials, value	$193,022	$76,989
Wool, sheep and lambs,' pounds	2,199,111	819,081
Wool cloths or wool mixed with other materials yards	5,886,618	4,663,017
Worsted stuffs of all wool or wool mixed with other materials, yards	91,232,901	83,185,177
Carpets, yards	6,656,434	4,904,681

WASHINGTON NOTES.

The records of the Treasury Department show the purchase of 43,000 street-car tickets, and not the expenditure of $43,600 for street-car tickets, as was erroneously stated yesterday.

The Christmas festival has been universally celebrated in Washington to-day. The departments have been closed; those in official life have eschewed public affairs and devoted themselves to roast turkey and plum pudding; the small boy has made himself a nuisance with his tin horns and fire-crackers, and those who spend their time either in hearing or telling some new thing have been off duty.

CRIMINAL RECORDS.

A BLOODY AFFRAY IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

LANCASTER, N. H., Dec. 25.—A bloody affray took place at Groveton last evening, growing out of an attempt by Michael O'Leary and a Frenchman named Blockwell, both intoxicated, to enter a house of questionable repute owned by a Frenchman named Gouyo. The result of the fight was the death of Gouye and his son, a young man, who was killed by O'Leary with a club; the mortal wounding of Blockwell with an ax by the elder Gouye, and a bad wound on O'Leary's head from a club used by one of the female inmates of the house.

A LOCKSMITH MURDERED IN BOSTON.

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—A shocking murder was committed at No. 9 Province st. about 1 o'clock this morning. Joseph T. Hegner and Antoine G. Huettel, both young Germans, carried on the trade of locksmithing, and slept together in the shop, where Huettel was found shot, and terribly mutilated with a hatchet. Hegner, on being arrested, confessed the committal of the murder.

A DOUBLE CHRISTMAS TRAGEDY.

DAYTON, Ohio, Dec. 25.—At a shooting match to-day, at Riga, a village near here, two brothers, John and Henry Stowe, quarreled about loading the rifle, and John called Henry a liar, when Henry drew a revolver and shot John, killing him instantly. The spectators, being much excited, caught and hung Henry to a limb of a tree, and when taken down life was extinct. Too much whisky caused the mischief.

A NEW UP-TOWN HOTEL.

HALF A MILLION INVESTED—THE SITE AT FIFTIETH-ST.

A hotel to be known as the "Buckingham" is building at the south-east corner of Fifth ave. and Fiftieth st. It will cover an area of 13,042 square feet, with a frontage of 200 feet on Fiftieth-st. The following description of the plan is obtained from the architects, William Field & Son.

The central portion, 68 feet in width, is eight stories high, and projects one foot from the main line. The end projections are each 26 feet wide. The remainder of the building is seven stories high. The elevation of the first story, the floor of which is three feet above the walk, is treated in the Roman Doric style of architecture. The style of the elevation above the first story is Elizabethan of the Ionic order. The first story is constructed of Belleville sandstone, resting upon a Quincy granite base three feet high. Above the first story the front is of Baltimore brick, with stone trimmings. Between the main cornice and the ground story cornice are two horizontal lines of richly-carved belting, introduced to relieve the preponderance of vertical lines. The angles of the pavilions and central portions are made a prominent feature. The grand portico in the center of the front is 30 feet wide and 12 feet deep, supported by six ornamental columns, starting with pedestals upon a painted base of Quincy granite. The inside of the portico is entirely of stone, elaborately executed, while the ceiling is finished in carved soffits. Above the portico rises an ornamental center of stone work, which extends through four stories, grouping together eight windows—two in each story—with circular niches and carved tablets between, and divided by straight and arched pediments. The top of the building is finished with a broken line of ornamental cornice, and the central portion shows a grouping of scroll-work. The Fifth-ave. portico, which forms the ladies' entrance, is of smaller extent, but in every other respect is executed in perfect harmony with the grand central portico. A tiled court-yard extends on the side of the ladies' entrance, and polished granite pedestals, of unique design, with flower-vases and candelabrums will form its attractions.

On the ground floor are the two dining-rooms, public parlors, service-rooms, offices, baggage-rooms, etc. The main hall, 26 by 52 feet, is in the center of the building, and is entered through a closed vestibule from the grand portico. This hall contains the offices and the grand staircase. It is 22 feet square, with a well-hole eight feet square. It is entirely fire-proof, and elaborate in design. It is lighted by a dome which is highly decorated. The main hall of the first story is finished with decorated pilasters, segment arches with pendants, and segment doors and windows. From this hall starts the hall to the ladies' entrance, the hall to the dining-room, and the hall to the private stairs. The hall to the ladies' entrance is 90 feet in length, arranged in five divisions, marked by decorated arches to correspond with those of the large central hall. In the center of each division is a circular niche, opposite which are wide doors leading to private suites of rooms. The two dining-rooms are 90 by 23 feet and 48 by 20 feet, respectively, and are divided by an area of 16 by 63 feet, which extends to the top of the house and furnishes the surrounding rooms with light and air. The dining-rooms are connected across the open area by a bridge of glass and iron. At the end of the ladies' hall is the ladies' parlor, 30 by 18 feet. The gentlemen's parlors, 58 by 18 feet, are east of the portico, and near the dining-rooms. The stairs to the basement are on a line with the main entrance, and lead directly to the gentlemen's toilet-rooms, the reading-rooms, etc. In the first story, opening upon the balcony of the portico, is the grand drawing-room, 50 by 18 feet. The hotel contains, above the basement, 162 guests' rooms and parlors, and 28 other rooms for public uses. The building is heated by steam—indirect radiation for the halls and large rooms, and direct radiation for the remote parts and the dressing-rooms.

All the partitions rest on brick walls or on heavy iron beams, and are said to be constructed so as to insure stability, and to prevent their settling. Iron girders are framed around the staircase and over the main hall ceiling, and all the new improvements in construction are claimed to have been introduced, regardless of expense. The estimated cost is $500,000.

Major Edward Wright, who at one time was Paymaster in the regular army, and was one of the oldest and wealthiest citizens of Chicago, died suddenly on Wednesday night at his late residence in that city. He was father-in-law of the Hon. E. Peck.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

HARMONY OF A HOLIDAY.

THE CHILDREN'S OVERTURE—JOYFUL NOTES IN THE HOMES OF RICH AND POOR—DEEPER TONES IN THE CHURCHES—GLAD ECHOES IN THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

Through the chilly air pealed the chimes of Trinity, the first note of Christmas as midnight rang out from tall towers here and there throughout the city. Tardy revelers staggered through the streets with snatches of drunken song, and the slow cars were crowded by mobs whose celebration of Christmas Eve had been something too potent. The windows of many houses were still bright with festal light, and behind the curtain the tapering hight of the Christmas tree could be discerned, and the hubbub of children, whose wonder and delight had not yet grown stale with the unwonted hour, could be heard. From stately mansions came streams of music and dimly-discerned forms glided by the windows in the close clasp of the German or moving to the measures of the waltz. As the hours went by lights paled and went out and the households became still.

The bustle of the holiday itself began early. Hours before sunrise in many streets crowds might be darkly seen hurrying to the early masses of the Catholic churches. Even before thousands of families were astir with the running to and fro of tiny boys and girls, whose eyes had hardly closed during the night so overflowing were they with expectation. At the earliest hour when they dared to brave reproof they were up, and lightly clad were hunting for the treasures which their constant faith in Santa Claus had bidden them to look for. Their gifts once found, there was such shouting, such sounding of toy-horns and whistles, such squeaking of every sort of mechanical device, that sleep fled from the family. If the juvenile gift-takers had confined their enthusiasm to their own homes it would have been well for the peace of harassed sleepers throughout the city, who were rudely disturbed from cherished morning naps by every variety of unmusical sound which it has entered into the heart of the small boy to desire.

The day broke with a dull sky and air chill and heavy with moisture. The doubtful peril above and the certain danger under foot appalled many whose minds had been bent upon church-going. The services at the Roman Catholic churches were thronged with patient and devout multitudes whose admiration the incoming splendor of ceremonial and decoration brought out. At many of the other sanctuaries, however, there was no such pressure of attendance as in former years. Nevertheless, the magnificence of musical display and floral ornaments in the Protestant Episcopal churches were potent to attract many beside those whose reverence for the sacred character of the anniversary brought them to worship. This was shown by the number of those who hastily withdrew when the best of the music was over and the sermons began. Fifth-ave. was bright with the moving groups of church-goers returning homeward in the early afternoon.

From the deserted aspect of the streets it might have been supposed that a large part of the men improved their unusual leisure by prolonging their morning nap unconsciously. Toward noon the billiard-rooms had an uncommonly animated look, and hardly one of the restless ivory balls was left undisturbed till late at night. A prevalent idea of a holiday in the masculine mind seems to embrace almost unlimited billiard-playing, with a drive behind a fast horse in the course of the day. The condition of the roads did not encourage the latter amusement, but in the afternoon the favorite drives were well taken up. The theaters very generally gave both afternoon and evening entertainments which were patronized with the inevitable holiday rush, drawing some thousands more than the church services had brought out. The streets at no time during the day were crowded, and the absence of animation with the closing of the stores gave them a dull look. A few bands of "Fantasticals" paraded, among them the "Original Bucks," together with some target companies, but without exciting much attention. Of travel in street cars and by the ferries there was comparatively little, and the number of trips was lessened. In the harbor and rivers vessels were generally decorated with bunting and gala colors.

The pleasures of the day were chiefly domestic and such as do not come before the public eye. In them there was no lack of animation, no depression from gloomy weather and little discouragement from the pinching of the times. Even among the unemployed idleness has yet brought on no great increase of suffering, and there was comparatively little destitution in the city, yesterday, which did not find some pleasure in the festival. Good cheer was almost universal, and where there was leanness in the Christmas banquet, there was often such joy in family reunion, in the interchange of kindly feeling, and in the thorough acceptance of the wholesome and inspiring sentiment in which Yule-tide is enshrined, that the day was a red-letter day, to poverty as well as to wealth. A right joyous and memorable festival was it to hundreds of the poor retainers of the great public family. The scanty dole of charity was enlarged and made richer for this, the true anniversary of charity, when to this world was given the greatest of all gifts. The enjoyment of Christmas at the Charitable institutions was general and hearty, and in the bitter round of lives sustained by others' bounty, so few bright days come, that the pleasures of such a festival as was yesterday are of the choicest, both to those who impart and those who receive.

A noteworthy feature of the day was the number of receptions given by scholars of the public schools and by such as remain during the Christmas recess of the private academies. At these receptions there was much genuine enjoyment, and faithful teachers were gratified with tokens of esteem from their scholars. Sunday-schools and parish schools in some sections of the city met in Christmas festival. As for club dinners and receptions and private parties they were past counting.

The brief and clouded sunlight yielded to early dusk with light rain, making sky and air dismal to those who ventured out. But in thousands of happy home-circles there was store of brightness and mirth which took no note of heavy skies and melancholy atmosphere. And so with high feasting and luxurious merriment in the households of the rich, with simpler, keener pleasure—because to them pleasure is so strange a visitor—among the poor, the Christmas hours waxed gray and were numbered with the past; and this morning the world arouses again to striving and pushing toil, its festal garments laid aside, but its life sweetened and made better by the experience and the memories of yesterday.

ANTHEMS IN THE CHURCHES.

SERVICES IN THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

The preparations for the Christmas services in Trinity Church were of a more elaborate nature than in almost any other Protestant church in the city. The church was richly decorated with evergreens, large trees being placed between the windows and on either side of the altar. The pulpit steps, the altar rail, and the organ loft were ornamented with holly and other evergreens. There were three services, beginning respectively at 7 a. m., 9 a. m., and 10.30 a. m. The last named was the chief service of the day. The exercises were conducted by the rector, the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, assisted by the Rev. Dr. F. Ogilby and the Rev. Messrs. Hitchings and Houghton. The musical service was led by A. H. Messiter, the chief organist. The regular choir, consisting of 38 persons, sang, accompanied by an orchestra of 40 instruments, under the direction of Henry Carter, assistant organist. During the service Mozart's "First Mass" and an offertory by Beethoven were rendered with grand effect. The Rev. Dr. Dix preached on the origin and associations of Christmas.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

St. Paul's Chapel (P. E.) was tastefully decorated with small spruce trees and garlands of laurel. There was an early service at 7.30 a. m. At 10.30 there was a children's service, when the following Christmas carols were sung by the children of the church and Sunday-school: "Litany of Holy Childhood," "As Joseph Was a Walking," and "Christ Was Born on Christmas Day." The children's services closed with the Song, "Gather around the Christmas Tree." The services were followed by a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Haight from the text: "On earth peace and good will toward men." The regular choir furnished the music, led by J. H. Cornell, the organist. The anthem sung was: "I Bring You Good Tidings."

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

At St. John's Church (P. E.), on Varick-st., near Canal-st., the services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Weston, the rector, who preached from the text: "The word was made flesh and dwelt among us." A well selected musical programme was performed by the regular choir, led by Charles E. Horsley, the organist.

GRACE CHURCH.

Grace Church (P. E.), the Rev. H. C. Potter, D. D., rector, was finely ornamented with evergreen and floral decorations. The building was so densely filled with members of the church and visitors that, a short time after the services had begun, even standing room could not be found. The services opened with a processional chorus by Haydn, a "Gloria in Excelsis" by Gounod, and a "Jubilate Deo" by Mozart, were sung during the service. The Rev. Dr. Potter preached.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION.

The Church of the Ascension (P. E.), at Tenth-st. and Fifth ave., was crowded with a large congregation yesterday morning. The church was handsomely decorated. Evergreen wreaths were entwined around the pillars, and over the altar there was a star of gas jets, emblematic of the Star of Bethlehem. The altar was covered with white cloths, and contained the bread and wine used during the communion service. The Rev. J. Cotton Smith, the rector, read the services, and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Osgood preached, taking for his text the words, "I am the good shepherd." Among the musical selections were a "Jubilate Deo" by Rossini, a "Gloria Patri" by Haydn, and a "Te Deum" by Mercadante.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH.

The services at St. Ann's Church (P. E.), in Eighteenth-st., near Fifth-ave., yesterday, were very interesting. A proportion of the members of the church are deaf mutes. These persons were seated on one side the church, while the main body of the building was filled with the other portion of the congregation. The Rev. Dr. Gallaudet preached the sermon, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Chamberlain. As Dr. Gallaudet preached, the latter interpreted by means of the deaf mute alphabet. The church was neatly decorated with evergreens. The musical services consisted of the singing of carols by the Sunday-school children, and of anthems and hymns by the choir. After the sermon the Sacrament of the Holy Communion was administered.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SAVIOR.

The interior of the Church of the Holy Savior (P. E.), in Twenty-fifth-st., was handsomely decorated yesterday. The pulars were almost hidden beneath evergreens, and the walls were covered with emblems. The attendance at the morning service was very large. The Rev. Dr. Carter, rector, preached on the subject of the birth of Christ and the redemption of mankind by the Savior's appearance on earth. The musical services consisted of the singing of anthems, hymns, and a Te Deum.

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH.

The members of St. Thomas's Church (P. E.), at Fifth-ave. and Fifty-third st., combined the celebration of Christmas with a jubilee in honor of the completion of the 50 years of the parish's existence, yesterday. There was a service at 7.30 a. m. and another at 11 a. m. During the latter service the Rev. Dr. W. F. Morgan officiated and preached. The church was decorated with evergreens. Upon the wall behind the chancel there were two crosses formed of evergreens, and also the figures "1823" and "1873," made out of the same material. Among the musical selections were "Kyrie" and "Gloria Tibi," by Gounod, and a Christmas hymn by Adolph Adam.

ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH.

The Church of St. Ignatius (P. E.), on Fortieth st. near Sixth-ave., was decorated in honor of the day. Wreaths of hemlock and laurel were hung around the walls. On the wall above the chancel there was the following inscription in evergreens: "Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." The left and right walls had the following inscriptions: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light," and "Unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Vespers were held on Christmas Eve, and a midnight celebration at midnight. There was an early celebration at 7½ a. m., yesterday, and a morning prayer at 9 a. m. The Rev. F. C. Ewer, D. D., preached at 10½ a. m., and the services were concluded with prayers at 4½ p. m. The musical services consisted of the singing of hymns and anthems.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH.

At St. Bartholomew's Church (P. E.), at Forty-fourth-st. and Madison-ave., the 11 o'clock service was very fully attended. The decorations of the church were very simple, consisting principally of evergreens upon the pulpit and a green cross on the communion table, with other verdant ornaments in the chancel. The musical programme was long, varied, and of high merit, and was brilliant in its rendering by a choir which included several singers of note, under the direction of S. I. Gilbert, the organist. The Processional "Thy Seat, O God," by Walters, was composed for the occasion. The anthem "O Zion," and the "Festival Jubilate in D" were by Buck. Warren's "Gloria No. 1 in E," Carozzi's "Gloria No. 2 in F," and Andre's "Gloria in Excelsis" were on the list of numbers, together with Frey's "Te Deum in C," Gilbert's "Kyrie," Bauck's "Gloria Tibi," and the Psalm "Lift up thine eye," from Mendelssohn's "Elijah." The carol was, "O'er Bethlehem's hill the mystic star." At the Offertory the bass solo, "The people that walked in darkness," with the chorus, "For unto us a Child is born," from Handel's "Messiah," were given. After the communion service came the "Sanctus" from Rossini's "Messe Solenelle" without accompaniment. The eucharistic hymn was "Bright shown the stars o'er Bethlehem's plain," followed by Jackson's "Gloria in Excelsis." The recessional was by S. I. Gilbert. The sermon by the rector, the Rev. Dr. Cooke, was from the text, "And when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense and myrrh. (St. Matthew, Chap. II. v. 11.)

CHRIST CHURCH.

At Christ Church on Fifth-ave., there were choral services both at 7.30 a. m. and 10.30 a. m. yesterday. At 10.30 the congregation was large. The Holy Communion was celebrated and a sermon preached by the rector, the Rev. Dr. Hugh Miller Thompson. The musical services were rendered by the regular boy-choir of 30 voices, under the direction of James Pearce, organist. The Processional was from Mendelssohn, the opening anthem by J. Pearce, the "Te Deum" by Barnby, the "Jubilate" by Sullivan. After the Communion the anthem, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem," by Hopkins, was sung, followed with hymn No. 325 by the Rev. Mr. Dykes. At the Offertory No. 42, "O, come all ye faithful," was sung to an old Catholic tune. Sanctus, No. 93, by J. Pearce, came next on the programme. The Eucharistic hymn, No. 206, was sung to a Spanish tune and the Recessional was No. 43 from Mendelssohn. The decorations of the church were varied and beautiful. Upon the altar table lay a lovely white cross of flowers, with a crown above it. Higher up flamed a star of gas jets. On the sides of the sanctuary were green crosses bearing wreaths, while on each side of the arch of the recess was a pretty spire of greens. Each corner of the organ loft held a Christmas tree, and the rail was hung heavily with greens. Thick braids of evergreens curled between the great pillars, and were united beneath the center arch. On the front of the gallery flamed the motto, "Glory to God on High."

ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH.

At St. Alban's, in Forty-seventh st., near Lexington-ave., the first service began at midnight of Wednesday with the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist. At 10.30 a. m. choral matins were given and at 11 a. m. the second solemn celebration. At 5 p. m. there were plain services. The ceremonial of the solemn celebration was very elaborate and gorgeous. The procession, which made a prominent feature, was described in THE TRIBUNE yesterday. At this service a sermon on "Christmas a source of joy," was preached by the rector, Rev. C. W. Morrill, who took as his text the ninth verse of the ninth chapter of Zechariah: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold! thy King cometh unto Thee." The music of this mass was of an eclec-

See Fifth Page.

THE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN

THE KEY WEST STATION.

DEPARTURE OF THE PINTA FOR HAVANA—ARRIVAL OF THE KANSAS FROM SANTIAGO DE CUBA—A TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT MISSING.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The following has been received from a special correspondent:

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 25.—The torpedo boat Pinta, under Lieut.-Commander Gorrence, left Key West last night for Havana on a trip of observation. C. B. Blunt, Lieutenant-Colonel of Engineers in the United States Army; Capt. McKinstry, secretary to Admiral Scott, and Fleet Paymaster Denniston were on board. Col. Blunt will probably make a report upon the defenses of the harbor of Havana. The Kansas, Commander Reed, has arrived, four days from Santiago de Cuba. The Canandaigua arrived at Santiago on Friday, the 19th of December, two days before the Kansas left. The officers on the Kansas report that they were respectfully treated by the citizens and soldiers at Santiago de Cuba, notwithstanding the excitement attending the surrender of the Virginius. In this respect their report differs from that of the officers of the Pinta. The Cuban and Spanish loyalists in the regiments at Santiago de Cuba are decided in their opinions on questions arising out of the Virginius affair. The former were believed to be in favor of and the latter opposed to the concessions demanded by the United States of Spain. All is well on the Kansas and Canandaigua.

It is reported by both the Kansas and the Pinta that Ralph Keeler, a special correspondent of THE TRIBUNE, left Santiago de Cuba on the steamer for Batabanó about ten days ago. At Manzanillo he was missing, though his baggage was still on board. Not having been heard from on the 21st, it is feared that some serious accident has befallen him.

The steamer San Antonio, from Galveston to New-York, reports remarkably rough weather on the Gulf. A severe storm is rising to-night. Lieuts. Watson and Clarkson, who were detached from the Saugus, left for New-York on the San Antonio. Lieut. Winn, commanding the Pawnee, denies that there is any dangerous fever on that ship. The mortality is small considering the large number of recruits on board from New-Orleans. There is no yellow fever in this vicinity.

LATER.—The steamer Valley City, from Havana, reports the arrival of the Pinta there this morning. All is quiet at Havana. Several vessels, including the torpedo boat Mayflower, were adrift in the harbor of Key West during the storm, but no serious damage was done.

FEELING AT HAVANA.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SALUTE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG IS TO BE DISPENSED WITH—EXULTATION OF THE SPANIARDS—VIEWS OF THE AMERICAN RESIDENTS—FINANCES OF THE ISLAND.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

HAVANA, Dec. 20.—For two days past this city has been ringing with the exultations of the ultra Spaniards, who have been informed by the local press that the salute to the flag of the United States had been foregone, and that Spain would not be required to pay that tribute to the banner of the nation which she had so recently outraged. This information was first given in the columns of the *Diario de la Marina*, as follows:

We are given to understand that the Washington Government has communicated orders to the chief of the American squadron in the Antilles, stating that there will be no occasion to exact the salute to the flag, inasmuch as the aforesaid Government had been convinced of the justice of the capture. We have no comments to add to-day.

To-day this news was supplemented by the following editorial article entitled, "It is Certain:"

In corroboration of the news which we gave in the *Diario* at a late hour yesterday, we are enabled to give the assurance that the Government at Washington has recognized that the steamer Virginius had no right to carry the American flag. After this recognition there does not remain the slightest doubt that the Virginius was a good prize; that its crew were pirates; that the Spanish tribunals had jurisdiction to punish them as such, and that all the demands of the United States were unfounded. Now we expect reparation from the said Government to Spain, and we also await the distinct claims which the Spanish Government must make.

All this means that if the American Government has yielded in the matter of the salute, the Spanish Government will avail itself of every possible chance to present claims against the United States, and demand the same consideration as that which was awarded at the Geneva Tribunal. The consequence is that the Spanish people here are very jubilant and have assumed an air and manner much more galling to the American residents than even their violent expressions in the earlier days of the Virginius complications. The Americans are very indignant, and say that the consideration of the United States for the Spanish Republic has obscured its judgment as to the condition of affairs on this island; that this consideration, instead of being regarded in the true spirit, will be looked upon as weakness on the part of the United States, and that the Spaniards, feeling their strength, will become emboldened and be guilty of greater excesses than any yet committed. When informed of the details of the surrender, the American colony expressed general disgust, declaring that, inasmuch as the Virginius had been seized with all on board, she should be returned with all, in due form and with every ceremony, and that every part of the very mild protocol should be consummated. The surrender of the Virginius is still not generally known outside of official and American circles, and there is therefore nothing to say with regard to the effect of the actual surrender. With respect to the surrender of the survivors of the Virginius, very little information is known here. Official advices from Santiago report that they were delivered to Commander Braine of the Juniata on the 18th of December, and that he immediately sailed for New-York.

The finances of the island are still exciting the attention of the people and the officers of the Government. A committee of merchants and officials held a meeting, at which a plan of extinguishing the debt was submitted. The Treasury debt at the end of the present year will be $87,783,176. The measures which the joint committee propose is to separate the debts of the Treasury and Spanish Bank of Havana, which now seem identical, and to declare the Treasury exclusively responsible for the bank notes which were issued for its account, and the Spanish Bank free from all obligations on account of the said emissions; to solicit a law from the Spanish Government of the nation declaring the notes of the Spanish Bank legal tenders, and, from the date of the operations of that law, the Treasury to receive and pay all obligations on a gold basis, excepting duties, in which case three months' grace shall be given. The Committee proposes to apply $9,202,897 to extinguish the debt of the bank arising from the expedition to Mexico, and the Santo Domingo campaign, uniting that sum with the $7,991,300 emitted for the above operations, thus reducing the general debt to $69,-828,205. The country will be called upon to pay $20,000,000 of that debt by means of an extraordinary contribution, and the remainder will consist of about $49,000,000 of notes and funded debt maturing.

Several hundred negroes passed through the city to-day on their way to the interior to join the Spanish army, and on a transport in the harbor there have just disembarked about 1,000 men. Señor Manuel Calvo, the representative of the Zuluera or slaveholding interest in Madrid, has returned to Havana, and is in close consultation with the prominent members of the Casino. Señor Soler, the Minister of Ultramar, who was announced to return to Madrid on the 20th of this month, has not yet started, but is confined to his room by illness.