## THE DAILS EVENING TELEGRAPH-TRIPLE SHEET-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1867.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

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The Record of an Historic Town-Lawrence in Early Days-The Free-State Headquarters - Hated by the Slave Pewer-Border-Rufflan Raid in 1856-The Quantrel Massacre-Wonderful Vitality of the Town-Its Growth and Prospects.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, Dec. 16, 1807. Probably no other town in the United States had had so eventful a history as this renowned mity of Lawrence. It was its fortune to be settled during those momentous times when the great forces of freedom and slavery were in actual warfare, and when the "irrepressible conflict" had begun to leave the fields of peaceful discussion for the arena of physical contest. Lawrence was the fruit of the nation's sudden recoil from the atrocious repeal of the Missouri Compromise restriction upon the extension of slavery. To cloak the real objects of that repeal, the Kansas-Nebraska bill professed to leave the question of slavery in Kansas to be settled by the freely-expressed voice of its early inhabitants. Freedom accepted the challenge thus ostensibly tendered it by slavery, and immediately her forces took their peaceful line of march for the new battle ground. The first company of Free State settlers arrived in Kansas in the fall of 1854. Trusty agents had already selected Lawrence as the site for a town. A more beautiful location could hardly have been chosen. It is situated npon ithe south bank of the Kansas river, npon an elevated, gently rolling "second bottom," some forty feet above the level of the stream, sheltered by crowning bluffs a half mile distant on the west, and with ample room for the building of a great city without expensive excavations or grading. A town was immediately laid out, and the settlers took "claims" (the technical name for Government ands settled upon but not yet brought into market) in eligible locations surrounding it. These Massachusetts men, in imitation of their Puritan ancestors, brought the church and the school with them; and from that day to this; Lawrence has never lacked for good churches and excellent schools. Other settlers, and from different parts of the Union, soon arrived, and the new town immediately became the headquarters of the Free-State party in the Territory. As such it earned for itself at once the bitter and unrelenting hatred of the slave power throughout the nation-a hatred which was destined, at last, to satiate itself with an appalling vengeance. Here were the homes of Robinson, Lane, Conway, Dritzer, Allen, Pomeroy, and other leaders of the Free-State party. The conventions of the party were generally held here, and the line of its policy determined. In the wholesale armed invasion of Kansas by Missourians, to nsurp control of her ballot-boxes, and to fasten apon her slave institutions, a large portion of the force was detailed to march upon Lawrence, and from thence to operate in surrounding parts. Pro-slavery hostility to the town culminated in its first open assault in the summer of 1856, when, under the lead of the notorious David Atchison, then a United States Senator from Missouri, an armed mob of ruffians, acting as a United States Marshal's posse, burned the Free State Hotel and the dwelling house of Governor Robinson, sacked the newspaper offices, and committed other outrages. The shock was only temporary. The hotel was rebuilt the next season on an enlarged scale; the newspapers were re-established, with increased circulation at home and abroad; and the town increased rapidly in business and in population.

The Free-State struggle terminated finally in the full triumph of the Free-State party by the admission of Karsas as a State into the Union, under two of her old leaders, Lane and Pomeroy, as Senators, Conway as Representative,

Yet, terrible as the disaster was, and hopeless as it seemed, the indomitable spirit of the people rose with the occasion, an i triumpbed over it all. They at once commenced to rebuild their city. The business men obtained credit, but refused discounts on their obligations, and resumed trade. New houses and stores rose as by magic on every side, and, with a sudden rebound, the city recovered itself, and conmenced a new career of growth and prosperity. It is now a little more than four years since the raid, and the town is already more than twice as large as it was then. A splendid bridge spans the Kansas, and a large addition to the city has sprung up on the north side. A railroad from Kansas City and one from Leavenworth unite here, and continue on for nearly three hundred miles west. A line of road south, in the direction of Galveston, is in process of construction, and will be in operation to Ottawa by the first of January. The machine shops and general offices of the Union Pacific Raliway, Eastern Division, have

been located here. The city has one public school-house which cost \$25,000, and is just finishing a primary school building at a cost of \$7500. The schools are free. The State University is located here. A fine building has been erected on a commanding site, overlooking the city and surrounding country. General Frazer, of the Pennsylvania Agricultural College, has just been chosen President of the University. It has at present nearly one hundred scholars. and an endowment of 45,000 acres of land. The salaries of the Professors are paid by the State. Tuition is free. There are two Presbyterian churches here, a Congregational Church, a Methodist, a Baptist, an Episcopal, a Unitarian, a Catbolic, and two churches for the colored people. Some of the church buildings are very fine, Bishop Vail, of the Episcopal Church, so well and favorably known in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, has just made this city the headquarters of his diocese, and the diocese has purchased for him a very beautiful and desirable residence. The Episcopal Church is vacant at present, and the field is a very inviting one for the right kind of a man. Taken altogether, Lawrence is one of the most seautiful, thriving, enterprising, and promising towns in the West. It is well worthy of its splendid historic fame. Its people have been true to freedom during years of depression and disaster, but they now seem in a fair way to reap the rewards of their perseverance and to reap the rewards of their persevent to prin-energy, and of their heroic devotion to prin-T, D. T,

## DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL NOTES.

THE ITALIAN OPERA went out on Saturday afternoon in a blaze of-scarcely glory. Flotow's delightful Martha was presented, and as far as the roles of "Lady Henrietta" (Madame La Grange) and "Nancy" (Miss Phillips) were concerned, it was rendered very acceptably, Signor Orlandini, however, in the role of "Plunket." was lather out of place, his voice being scarcely equal to a part almost universally assigned to a basso. The greatest defect in the opera was with respect to dress, Madame La Grange being attired in a white skirt as a huntress, while the ladies accompanying her still wore the short and variegated robes in which they were attired as servants at Richmond Fair. The same defect somewhat marred the sublime opera of *Ernani* on its presentation on Friday evening.

THE ORATORIO OF "THE MESSIAH" is in rehearsal, and will be produced at Horticultural Hall, on the evening of Christmas, by the Handel and Haydn Society, in an unequalled manner. Miss Louise Solliday and Miss Caroline McCaffrey, of this city, will render the soprano and contralto parts, but we regret to see that the Society still persists in importing persons from abroad, Messrs. G. W. Haselwood, of Providence, and M. W. Whitney, of Boston, having been assigned to the tenor and bass roles. Carl Seniz's splendid Orchestra being engaged, we have an assurance that the instrumentation will be fully equal to all the require-



fille Robinson was in the Gubernatorial chair at the State capital.

At the breaking out of the war of the lion, the old pro-slavery feud between Karsas and Missouri, which had partially stambered Lawrence had port ... than ever before-. w become a city of some three or fony .... ...ousand inhabitants, with fine churches and schools, three newspapers, large stores doing a fine trade throughout the southern por. tion of the State, handsome residences, and was, altogether, one of the most flourishing towns in the West. The war along the Missouri border soon became exceedingly bitter, and finally degenerated, on the part of the Hebeis, into a guerilla conflict of the most sanguinary and outrageous character. Raids over the

border into Kansas for the destruction of the smaller towns, and the robbery and frequent murder of the people, were of almost constant recurrence. Lawrence ought to have seen the gathering storm and prepared for it; State line, and a fatal insensibility to danger possessed her people. The goods in her stores and the money in her safes inspired the cupldity of the Rebel guerillas, and the old life-long hostility to the town, as the historic and representative city of Kansas, sought to wreak itself in fire and blood. The blow fell on the 23d of August, 1863. At daylight of that morning, Quantiel, at the 300 bush whackers, after a forced night march from the border, struck the fated town, and in three hours' time reduced it to ashes. The citizens were taken completely nnawares. The first intimation they had of the presence of the enemy was the crack of his pistois and the shricks of the unfortunate v' fims who were being murdered in cond blood, The masses were unarmed; operation was impossible; and instead, of a fight there was soon nothing but an unchecked and unresisted massacre. The history of the war furnishes no parallel or approach to the horror of this occasion. Husbands were murdered in the presence of their wives and children. Four young married men, among the leading citizens of the town-I knew them all personally-one an

editor, one a lawyer, one a grocer, and one a druggist-were taken from a single house and shot down in the very presence of their wives, Two of them were killed instantly; one lingered in agony until the next day, and the fourth, though shot twice, recovered, and is now at the head of the largest grocery house in the city. Volumes could be filled with the tragic incidents of that fearful morning. I find that each household has its own peculiar history. The result of the whole thing was that over one hundred of the best citizens and leading business men of the city had been cruelly murdered; every business house, save Iwo or three, had been burned to the ground; and about one-half of the dwellings had been consumed. Over seventy of the citizens were buried side by side in a common grave. About eighty wives were made widows. The total loss of life was about one hundred and thirty. The presence of a brother and other relatives and friends in the city called me hastily from a meighboring town as soon as I heard of the raid. I arrived the next day, and the sight was the saddest that I ever beheld. The town was a heap of smoking ruins; the houses that remained were filled with the wounded, or with the homeless who had lost everything; the dead

were not all buried, and a universal pall of

gloom and distress hung over the community.

THE HANLON BROT weathers open the holiday

season at the Academy of Music this evening with asseries of entertainments which promise to excel anything and everything of the kind ever presented in this city. Everything on the programme partakes of the astonishing, and some items approach the marvellous. Among the latter is Harry Gurr, half man and half frog-so the handbills say-who, while performing divers aquatic movements, will eat, drink, and smoke under water! The remainder of the entertainment is made up of startling acrotatic, gymnastic, and aerial feats, whereat we shall be forced to open our eyes and mouths in wonder.

AT THE CHESNUT STREET THEATRE the week opens with the spectacular fairy drama of Cendrillon, the latest Parisian version of the old story of Cinderella and the Little Glass Slipper. Our readers will remember that this play was produced at the same theatre last winter, and that it had a very successful run. We understand that the management intend to introduce several new and striking effects into it, and as the whole interest centres in the ballet, and a large number of prominent danseuses have been engaged, its success is assured from the outset.

AT THE WALNUT STREET THEATRE, that quaint "picture of men and manners of the present day," entitled The Lottery of Life, has at last "played; ut," as Thackeray would have said. and the genial Brougham has carried his puppets to some other locality. In place thereof, we will again have an opportunity of beholding Miss Lucille Western '- East Lynne; or, the Elopement. It is \_\_\_\_\_ the to say that everybody bas seen East Lynne a dozen times at least, as Miss ""

Miss " estern has personated the double char-ecter of "Lady Isabel" and "Madame Vine" several thousands of times, more or less. Yet the play will still draw well, and we do not hesitate to say that it is a decided improvement on The Lottery of Life.

AT THE ARCH STREET THEATRE Ours will be theattraction of the week, pending the final rehearsals of Colonel Fitzgerald's Light at Last. which is to be produced on next Monday evening. We are heartily glad of the fact, for Ours is one of the most Beautiful and classical dramas that has been presented in our midst of late years. Not the least attractive feature is the splendid scenery and accompaniments with which the drams is placed on the stage, and we can only predict a repetition of the great success which it received on its presentation last season.

AT THE AMERICAN will be given the usual verlety of entertainments, and new attractions are promised by the management.

AT THE SEVENTH STREET OPERA HOUSE an effort will be made to meet the demands of the holiday season for a grand round of merry things. A new spectacle is announced, and as things. A new spectra is a second to the young people, a rich and varied assortment of toys will be distributed among the andience. Johnny Mack, a celebrity in the minstrai line, will make his first appearance this week.

THE MORBIS BROTHERS' MINSTRELS WILL likewise add to our customary stock of Ethiopian comedy. This troupe, embracing several of the most successful minstrels in the country, open this evening at Concert Hall. A new entertain-ment, entitled a Trip Around the World, is the leading attraction.

AT THE ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS, our old friend Signor Blitz is still deluding his delighted patrons with the idea that this is positively is last season. Whether or not he can be induced to revoke his decision in this respect, his entertainments are heartily enjoyed by all who frequent them, and there cannot be found in the whole city a more attractive place for taking the little ones during the holiday week.

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