

ITS WORK IS BEFORE IT.

CONGRESS IS NOW IN SHAPE FOR THE SESSION.

The "Members" have learned to lounge in their seats, but they demand a dignified man for speaker. The President's message and its delivery.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Three days ago I came up here to the press gallery of the house of representatives, where I am now sitting, and found not one vacant seat. Correspondents were standing all about, peering eagerly at the busy scene on the floor below.



NEW MEMBERS ON THE FIRST DAY. memory's sensitive plate the picture presented by the opening day of congress. Now I am the only man in the gallery, and I am yawning.

The house on Monday was like the boys in the country picture in their mind's eye. Congress is respected in the country. Its manners are there thought to be good enough to take to church.

Can it be possible that we are now looking at the same man? Has the lapse of three days effected such a transformation in his manners? His feet are resting calmly on top of his desk.

Still these same careless congressmen demand that their speaker shall be a person of dignity. At least one of the late candidates for speaker would have made more headway in his canvass had



NEW MEMBERS FORTY-EIGHT HOURS LATER. he been a man of better manners. He did not lack popularity, and men liked to call him by his first name, but they did not want him for speaker.

Probably some of the ceremonials of the English house of commons could be employed here with good effect.

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some years secretary of the senate, tells me the following story to illustrate the backwardness of senators at prayer time: During the presidency pro tempore of Ben Wade, a new and bushy member told the bluff old statesman from Ohio that he had a bill which he wanted to pass, and as there was nothing in it any one could object to, he intended asking unanimous consent.



THE PRESS GALLERY, OPENING DAY. Mr. Pruden as usual carried the message to the capitol in the White House buggy, as usual he was met at the door of the senate by the ancient and patriarchal Bassett, who on yesterday, by the way, completed fifty-eight years of continuous service on the floor of the American house of lords, and as usual there was the announcement, delivered in a voice shrill with age: "A message from the president of the United States."

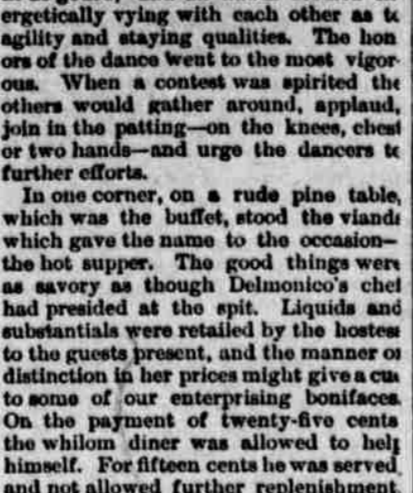
Thanks to the president's caution, we had no such scene this year with the message. There were but three copies of it in existence, and these not printed. The message! What memories that word must bring to some of the veteran correspondents whom I saw in this gallery a day or two ago!

THE PRESS GALLERY, SECOND DAY. were chartered, and even when relays of post-horses were engaged to carry the news to New York.

AMERICANIZED BLACKS. How the Old African Songs Were Naturalized and Modified. NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The least known and most rarely witnessed pastime of the plantation darkey is perhaps the "bran dance."

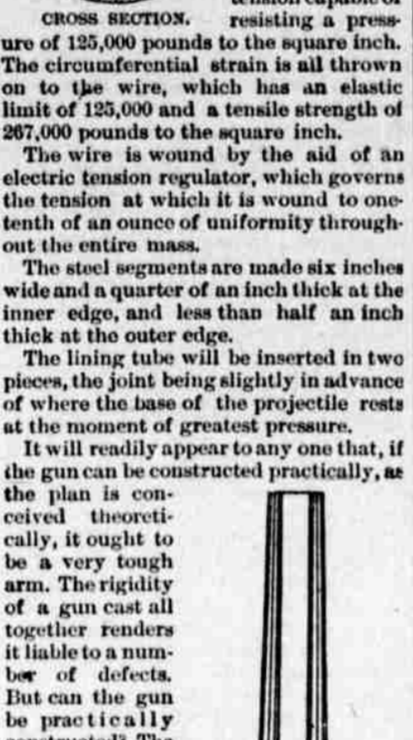
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OF PUTTING OUT FIRES. QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. The Making of Fireproof Buildings and the Matter of Adequate Fire Escapes Are Also Interesting—The Recent Fires in Lynn, Boston and Minneapolis.



Do new conditions need new adaptations? The character of material used, the height of buildings, the exposure of frame districts, which, when affame, act as kindlers to more substantial structures—these and many similar matters entering into the problem of fighting fire in great cities, come up to excite a new interest.

A NEW GUN. It Will Doubtless Set the Experts by the Ears. A new gun, called the Brown wire gun, invented by Mr. John Hamilton Brown, is proposed, which will undoubtedly set the experts at loggerheads.



READY FOR THE FEARS. The late Capt. Ericsson bears such relation to the modern method of fighting fires as Harvey, the discoverer of the blood, bears to the modern practice of medicine.

A TUBE FIRE ESCAPE. there is no exception to the general rule. During the first half of the Eighteenth century the insurance companies began by buying fire engines for the purpose of protecting property on which they held insurances.

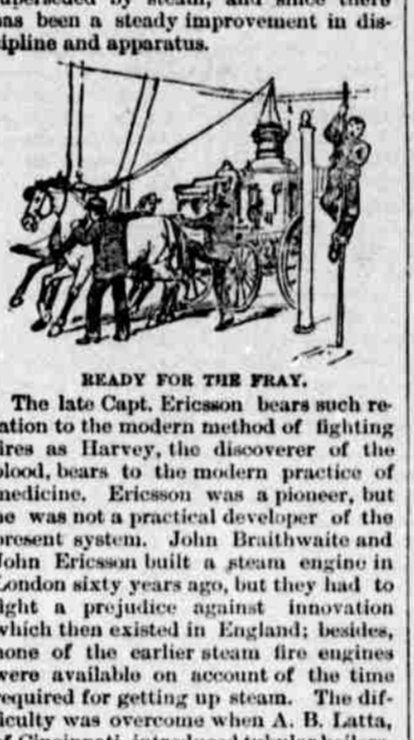
Built to Sell. A railroad is a railroad, isn't it? The public thinks so. But under the surface, railroads are sometimes built to sell.

THE MUSIC HALL. A Splendid Structure Which Will Cost More Than \$1,000,000. New York is to have a grand concert hall. The plans for this gigantic building were filed recently in the building bureau.



THE MUSIC HALL. This building is not to be a concert hall with stage appliances of a theatre. It will not have a drop curtain. The stage will be a permanent structural feature, just as much as the walls or ceiling.

SIGHTSEERS IN THE ROTUNDA. muddly in wet weather, very dusty in dry weather, and not at all attractive in any weather. Now Washington is the Mecca of bridal couples, the delight of the tourist, and a place sought by men of means and leisure.

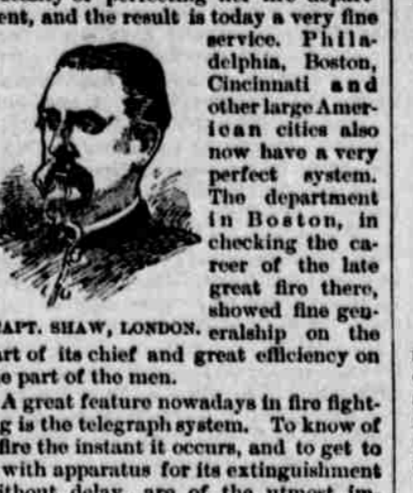


SIGHTSEERS IN THE SENATE GALLERY. designed in the "Surrender at Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1781," to show how the autumnal sun of Virginia had affected the contestants—French, English and Americans—from commanding general to drummer boy.



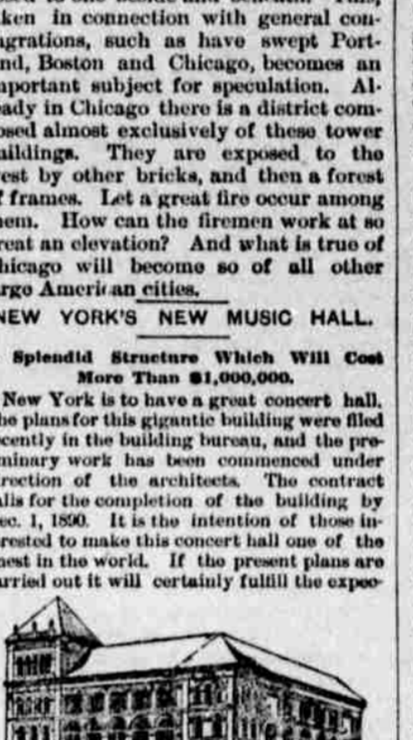
Considered the Fitness of Things. "How could you tell the medium chested you?" "Because the spirit spoke in English. He should have used a dead language. He's been dead ten years."—Boston Epitaphian.

CAPITAL SIGHTSEERS. THEY ARE NUMEROUS NOW THAT CONGRESS IS IN SESSION. It is Easier to Visit Washington Now Than it Once Was—The 1-stands of the Capitol and Its Paintings—John Trumbull—The United States Senate.

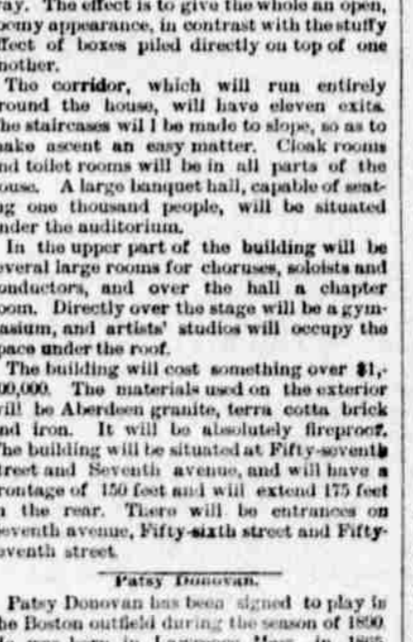


Two Foreign Singers. Tamagno, the Italian Tenor, and Francesco Hubu, the German Soprano. From the number of actresses, actors and singers whose names one sees on the calling lists of outgoing vessels and among the distinguished arrivals one might almost decide that a good share of the "professionals" spent the best part of their time on the sea.

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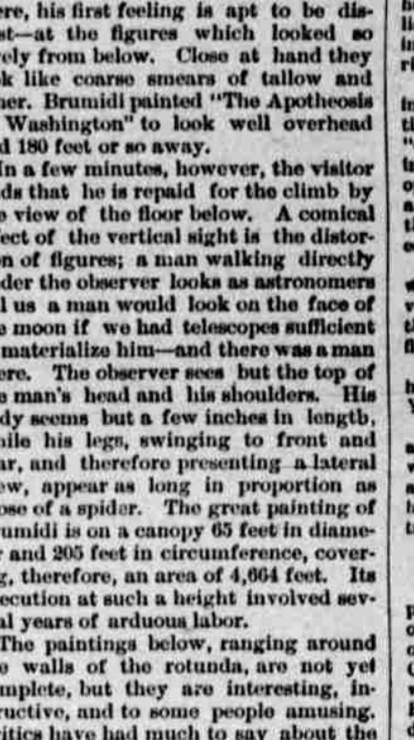
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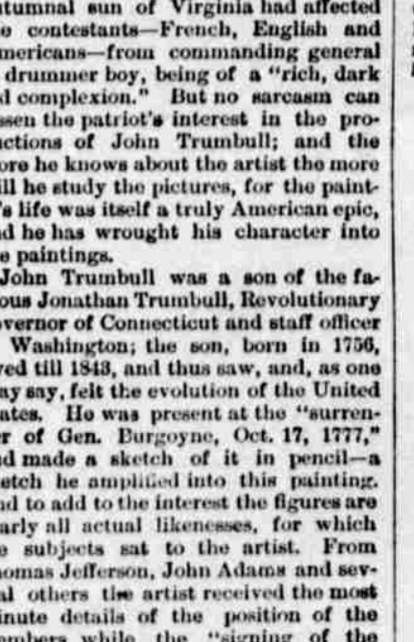


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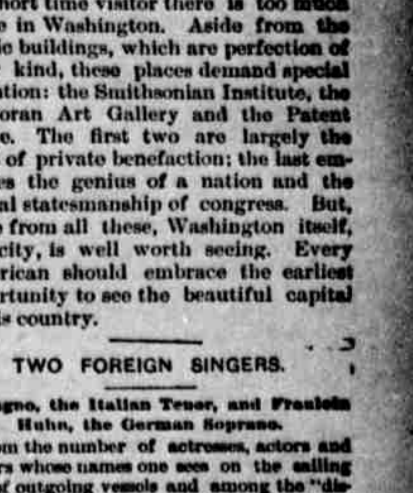


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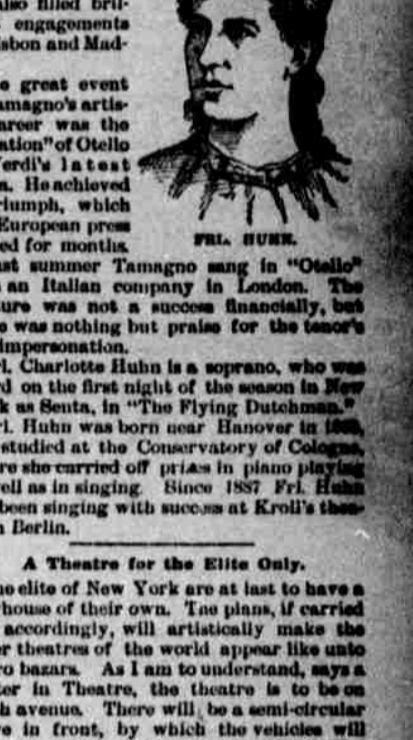
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