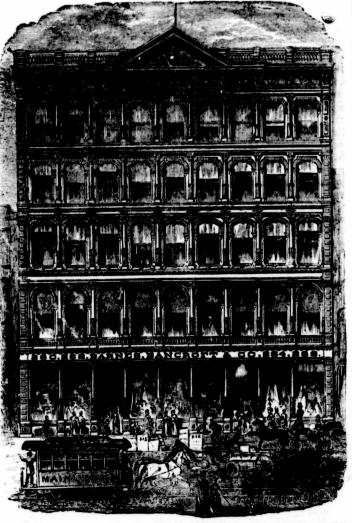


## DECEMBER, 1875.

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## NOT TO BE BOUGHT.

There are cynics who svow that "every man has his price," and wares of all kinds necessarily have theirs. We have had to learn, however, that occasions occur in which, even in an open store, articles of sale are not to be bought. This piece of information we gathered at the new and handsome the new and handsome store of Messrs. Barnes, Bancroft & Co., of Buffalo. At our first visit to the city we noticed the successive tiers of Corinthian columns rapidly rising at the bidding of the iron-master; and at our third visit, the formal opening of the store took place. It appears to be customary in American cities for store-keepers, at the commencement of an enterprize, or at a re-opening, to invite their fellow citizens to behold the glories wherewith they are surrounded; hence the firm in question bade all Buffalo girls, and especially matrons, welcome, on the auspicious occasion of their re-opening. But they were only to gaze at the numerous attractions, not to purchase; the latter luxury, if desired, was to be postponed to the following day. On such an occasion, if we may assume that the silks attract the ladies, the latter, in their turn, of course attract the opposite sex ; hence one elbows one's way amongst a miscellaneous crowd, the majority of which would appear to be most unpromising purchasers at such a store. If, however, only a tenth of the number



BARNES, BANOROFT & OO.'S DRY GOODS AND CARPET STORE, BUFFALO, N.Y.

invested in pocket handkerchiefs during the following week, the profit to the firm would probably be some-thing handsome. As we approached the five storey building, with its three-andforty windows illuminated from within, and a cloud of steam carreering over the roof, it was obvious that an unusual stir was going on; we speedily availed our-selves of the lift-bedecked with the Stars and Stripes for the occasion-and were wafted by steam to the upper floor of the building. It is not our province to dillate on the merits of the ribbons, &c., albeit a pretty tower of spirally arranged silk thread did not escape notice. We were perhaps more impressed with the presence of a telegraphic apparatus, whereby, we observed, the aid of the police could be summoned from that lofty eminence, a hackney carriage, or an ordinary messenger. The mention of messenger reminds us of the prodigious use which is made of small boys in that capacity, on ordinary days below stairs; instead of allowing the time of the young men to be wasted by marching from one part of the establishment to the other, boys (who if they were but supplied with wings, might be taken for cupids, and could not fail to attract in that character) constitute the connecting links between the sellers of the goods and the remote "Cash" or other persons concerned in the transac-The accompanying tions.