

two years. Eighth, the Constitution of the twenty-third Floreal of the twelfth year of the Republic, which established the first Empire under Napoleon I., and lasted ten years. Ninth, the Constitution of April, 1814, which lasted three months. Tenth, the Constitution of June 4th, 1814, known as "La Charta," which lasted nine months. Eleventh, the Constitution of March 22d, 1815, granted by Napoleon I., after his return from Elba, which lasted during his reign of "one hundred days," or three months. Twelfth, the Constitution of July 7th, 1805, granted by Louis XVII., and continued under Charles X., which lasted for fifteen years. Thirteenth, the Constitution of August 6th, 1830, under which Louis Philippe reigned for eighteen years. Fourteenth, the Constitution of Nov. 12th, 1848, or that of the second Republic, which lasted for two years. Fifteenth, the Constitution of January 14th, 1852, or that of the second Empire, which lasted nineteen years. Sundry governments also arose in France during this period which never reached that state of maturity symbolized by a written Constitution, and the changes introduced in the last Imperial Constitution are not mentioned. The experiment now in process of trial by the Assembly in session at Versailles, forms the sixteenth government.

— *The Chicago Fire.* — On the 7th inst., a conflagration, such as has no parallel in modern history, unless in those kindled by war. Even the great fire of London though relatively more destructive, did not equal it in absolute extent. The London of that day was little more than two-thirds the size of the Chicago of to-day, having then less than 25,000 inhabitants, and if as reported two-thirds of Chicago is in ruins, the desolated territory is far greater than the five-sixths of London, said to have being laid waste in 1666. The entire business part of the city, including some ten square miles is gone. About 150,000 people were suddenly thrown without food or shelter, and thousands had hardly clothes sufficient to cover themselves. No accurate estimate of the loss of lives has been arrived at, but all agree in saying it is something extraordinary, probably over \$200,000,000. Insurance offices are going to pay well, at least those outside the city.

The cities of the Union and the Dominion are doing their duty nobly in the way of contributions of money, clothing and food.

— *The Wealth and Population of Chicago.* — The growth of Chicago has been one of the marvels of modern civilization. A barren wilderness only thirty odd years ago, it has increased in population and wealth so rapidly that the official statistics have been doubted, and its claims to consideration have challenged the criticism of its rivals. Its preeminence as the great grain, lumber and cattle market of this country, however, is unquestioned, while its wonderful prosperity and the gigantic scale which marked every enterprise which it has touched, have filled every visitor with surprise and admiration. Its elevators, its stock yards, the lumber depots, the tunnels beneath the lake, marked a spirit of progress which awoke the respect of the whole nation. It is but a few years since it raised the grade of hundreds of acres thickly settled and densely populated, and it turned the natural course of a great river, reversing the flow of its waters. The elegance of its public buildings, the richness of its private residences, denoted the taste of the people and the solidity of their wealth; while the sagacity of its leading men in making Chicago the central point for the great railroad enterprises of the West, clutching as it were from Eastern cities the control even of the commodities which come from China and Japan, by sheer force of will and indomitable pluck, has astonished the business world and stimulated every city in the country to be up and doing. The increase of its population and valuation may be seen at a glance from the following table, which gives the total of its valuation, real and personal, at different periods :

|           | Population | Valuation   |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 1850..... | 29,640     | \$          |
| 1860..... | 111,214    | 37,053,512  |
| 1870..... | 298,977    | 275,986,550 |

The increase of its population from 1850 to 1860 was 264.65 per cent, and from 1860 to 1870, 219.15, while it ranks in population as the fifth city of the United States.—*Boston Journal.*

— *Carbolic Acid and its Uses.* — The following, from the *Scientific American*, is worthy of perusal :

The details of the manufacture of carbolic acid may be consulted in works of chemistry, but its properties and uses may well occupy our attention for a few paragraphs. Concentrated solutions act powerfully on the skin, turning it white and afterwards red, and the spots afterward peel off. It is a dangerous poison; a few drops will kill a dog, and plants are at once destroyed by a weak aqueous solution.

Runge recommended carbolic acid for embalming bodies, and as a disinfectant, and tried to show its value for this purpose; but little attention was bestowed upon his assertions, and it is only recently that the substance has obtained proper recognition from medical and other authorities.

Extensive use is now made of carbolic acid to destroy the odor of stables, a carbolate of lime being prepared and sold for that purpose. As an insect exterminator, few agents can be compared with carbolic acid, and it is naturally applied by physicians for such cutaneous diseases as are caused by insect life. Several cases of death have been reported in consequence of an incautious use for this purpose. Three who bathed themselves with a sponge saturated with carbolic acid, to cure the itch, were immediately attacked with dizziness, and soon became unconscious. Two of them subsequently died, and the life of the other was saved with difficulty. When used as a wash for man and the lower animals, it must be taken very weak, and in small quantities at a time. Dogs have been sadly tortured by it, in the vain hope of killing fleas.

The odor of carbolic acid is sometimes disguised by mixing it with camphor, when it is required to keep moths out of furs and clothing. No doubt the preservative property of coal tar is largely due to the presence of this powerful agent.

All manner of soaps, ointments, and even troches are made with carbolic acid, which must be used with caution, as the poisonous character of the acid suggests at once that it ought not to be tampered with.

Art.

— *Influence of the Age upon Music and the Drama.* — Mr. Henry O'Neil, A. R. A., in his third lecture before the Royal Institution, began by expressing his fear that at the present time music and the drama are merely regarded as a means to afford amusement, adding that, if that alone were their mission, men gifted with genius would not have spent their lives for so poor a purpose. If other arts merely minister to acquired tastes, music satisfies a mental want coeval with our existence. They have been created by the perceptive faculties of man; but music was born with him, and is the link which connects him with another world. The power of sound pervades creation from the very elements to the meanest object in animal life; and there is music in very silence. Of all the arts music is the most spiritual in its nature, and also the most ancient, its influence having preceded that of the most useful. Its progress has been slow, since it is a language which requires extraneous aid to make it intelligible; for the human voice, though the most perfect organ for expression, is too limited to give full utterance to its varied effects. But science has now supplied all that was wanting, and there is even a danger of its abusing its privilege, by aiming at the production of quantity of sound rather than quality. The number of truly great musicians is small when compared with that of other artists; yet this is not due to the want of intellectual power in music; since there cannot be a poem or picture illustrative of nature more perfect in the expression of emotions than the "Pastoral Symphony" of Beethoven, or more expressive of the fitful moods of love than his Sonata in C sharp minor, so improperly called the Moonlight Sonata. Mendelssohn's Italian symphony is simply the expression of the impression produced on a sensitive mind by the beauty and the fallen greatness of the country and the the undying vivacity of its inhabitants. Other examples, of musical expression are abundantly found in the chousures and songs of Handel, Mozart and Glück. The degradation of the public taste in the present time is shown in the success of nigger minstrels and music-hall vocalists, and in the efforts to produce crude novelties and spasmodic effects in the so-called music of the future. Adverting to the Drama, Mr. O'Neil characterised it as giving the clearest insight into the moral and intellectual state of a people, and as depending upon its degree of unison with the temper of the moment, and therefore change and novelty are less pernicious to its progress than they are to other arts. Though Shakspeare finds in these days no appreciative audience, yet he will live for ever; but attempts at revivalism, like those of Charles Kean's, who clothed him in gorgeous array, by the help of scenery and costume, are very questionable on the score of taste; and what kind of pleasure can be derived from our retrospection of viewing correct interiors of prisons, real pumps and water, or a real handsome cab, or locomotive? It is fitter for the stage to die, if it can only live by such miserable expedients. There is no help for the absence of original genius, or even for the want of appreciation of high and earnest work. The temper of the age is not of a character to call forth the one, and so it ignores the other. Tragedy and comedy we have not; but we have