

## JAMES REDPATH'S DISAPPEARANCE.

### RUMORS OF FINANCIAL EMBARRASSMENT OR SUICIDE.

The friends of Mr. James Redpath, the well-known manager of lyceum lectures and other popular entertainments, have been seriously alarmed at his mysterious disappearance, more than two weeks ago, and his continued absence from the City without explanation. They are the more so on account of their knowledge of the precarious condition of his physical and mental health for some weeks past, and the fact that he had important business on hand, imperatively requiring his attention here, just at the time that he disappeared. Every effort to obtain a clue to his movements and all inquiries of those at a distance most likely to be visited by him have been met with disappointment, and there is little doubt that he has entirely broken down in some place where he is unknown, but those most intimate with him do not believe that he has committed suicide. Mr. Redpath was a man of a singularly nervous and sensitive nature, and domestic trouble, which some years ago drove him from his home, continued to pursue and harass him. He was irregular in his habits of work and of life, often working day and night when he had one of his great enterprises on his hands, eating and sleeping irregularly, and frequently scarcely resting at all. His mental unhappiness contributed much to this disregard of the conditions of health, and made him reckless of consequences. For some months he had been, more than usual, troubled with dyspepsia and sleeplessness, and had exhibited in his conversation indications of mental aberration which caused solicitude on the part of his friends. Just at this time came the great weight of labor and anxiety connected with his amusement enterprise for the present season, in which he undertook to manage a circuit of a dozen cities, to be supplied with entertainments by as many theatrical and concert companies in succession, for a period extending over several weeks.

His arrangements were mostly made, and the business brought to the critical point of a final consummation of all the engagements, when he suddenly disappeared. Two weeks ago last Wednesday he was met by his confidential clerk, Mr. Charles A. Newton, on Broadway, in a drenching rain, unprotected, and appearing unusually abstracted and troubled. He was taken into the Vienna Bakery, at the corner of Tenth-street, for the refreshment of a cup of coffee, and then sent home in a carriage to the house of Mr. Chorpenning, in Lexington-avenue, where he had been living most of the time for some months. Here he was induced to change his wet clothing and go to bed, but before the next morning he had disappeared, without the knowledge of any one in the house, and since then no one can be found who has seen or heard the least sign of his existence. His friends think he was driven by derangement of mind to seek rest or escape from thoughts and tasks which he could no longer endure, in some retreat of which he himself, perhaps, had no clear idea, and that he has either succumbed to brain fever or insanity, with little chance of recovery. Of the result they can only surmise. The idea that he consciously or in his right mind would attempt to evade any work or obligation which he had assumed is scouted as utterly foreign to his nature. He was the soul of honor in every transaction, and indomitable in resolution and energy when in his normal condition.

Mr. Redpath was well known outside of the field of management, in which he had been actively engaged for some years past. He was born Aug. 24, 1833, at Berwick-on-Tweed, of a Scotch father and English mother. The family came to this country in 1848, and settled in Michigan. The boy James, having no inclination for a farmer's life, entered a printing office, and served at the case for some years successively in Kalamazoo, Detroit, and Chicago. Finding his way to New-York, he advanced from the composing-room to the reporter's desk. Subsequently he traveled through the South on foot, writing letters to the *Anti-slavery Standard*, and brought up in St. Louis, where he was attached to the *Democrat*. During the Kansas troubles, in 1855-6, he went to the scene of contention as a correspondent, and entered into it warmly on the side of freedom. During a somewhat extended stay there he established and edited for some months at Doniphan the *Crusader of Freedom*. It was in Kansas that he became associated with John Brown, of whose subsequent schemes he became an ardent supporter. After the attack upon Harper's Ferry he published a series of articles defending Brown, and a biography of the old man, which was prepared in three weeks, and sold to the number of 40,000 copies. At the same period he published "Echoes of Harper's Ferry," a collection of speeches and public utterances about the raid; "Southern Notes for National Circulation," a pamphlet containing sayings and doings of the Southern people in connection with the same affair, and a collection of his letters under the title of "The Roving Editor." In 1859 he had organized a scheme of emigration and colonization of blacks in Hayti, and made several visits to that island in connection with the work. He was afterward appointed as a Special Commissioner to negotiate for the recognition of the independence of the Republic of Hayti. Near the close of the war Mr. Redpath was a correspondent with the Army, and was the first to report the capture of Charleston. There he was made the representative of the Freedman's Bureau and the Superintendent of the Schools of the city. He reorganized the day schools, established evening schools, instituted a public library and reading-room, founded a colored orphan asylum, and instituted the custom of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers which has been taken up both North and South.

In 1865 Mr. Redpath returned to the North and established himself in Boston, where he soon after published the famous Lyceum Bureau which still bears his name. He sold it out in 1875, and since then has resided chiefly in Washington and this City. He has attracted much attention by his vigorous political letters, and was the clerk of more than one investigating committee on Southern affairs, whose reports he drew up. He has continued from time to time to act as manager for lecturers, conspicuously for Col. Ingersoll, and to organize traveling companies for provincial entertainments. He was a man of great energy and activity, intense feeling and unswerving loyalty to his convictions. Of course, his recovery and return are eagerly hoped for by his friends, but hardly expected by those who have the best means of judging of the chances.