

WIRES STILL DOWN.

The wires are still down in the Sierras, and no Eastern or foreign dispatches were received last night.

THE BEST PAPER.

For the home, market, ship, desk, farm, and for the general newspaper reader, the SACRAMENTO WEEKLY UNION is unquestionably the best paper published on the Pacific coast. There are several reasons for this.

First—It is issued in semi-weekly parts, and hence goes to its readers often at any other weekly paper.

Second—It brings news fresher of date to its readers.

Third—Each part consists of eight pages, making for each week sixteen pages of matter.

Fourth—Every department of it is conducted by members of a skilled corps.

Fifth—Its management is constantly directing the departments of the paper toward the presentation of the choicest miscellany, the latest news, the progress and development of the State, the material industries of California, the elevation of the home, the dissemination of pure literature, the collection of the most reliable statistics, and toward such editing of the paper as will best inform, entertain and elevate the people.

Sixth—It makes a specialty of current political reviews, international questions, national policy, art, popular science, agriculture, modern literature, home and foreign correspondence, market and stock quotations, commercial reviews, home adornment, household economy, irrigation and mining problems.

There are other equally weighty reasons which, like those already recited, make the Union the superior paper of the coast, it being, in all its departments, the best conducted, freshest, most newsy, scholarly and reliable.

The WEEKLY UNION is forwarded, post paid, for one year for the sum of \$2. Within the past year the circulation of the Union has increased with unparalleled rapidity, and the rapidity of its increase is in no wise diminished now, but continues as an evidence of the just judgment of the reading public of the coast.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

MINING STOCKS were in limited demand in San Francisco yesterday morning, but prices as a rule were a trifle firmer than on Thursday.

The Shasta county Republicans will be represented in the State Convention by John V. Scott and C. C. Bush.

ADVICE from Lower California indicate that a collision of the opposing forces is at hand.

A. E. BREMER, a German, killed himself in San Jose yesterday.

D. C. SARGENT was murdered at Ivanpah, San Bernardino county, Monday, by A. J. Lawson and Jack Riley.

The outbreak among the Chimichuca Indians is growing exceedingly serious, according to news by way of Colton, San Bernardino county.

CHARLES DE YOUNG was shot and killed in the Chronicle office at San Francisco last evening by I. M. Kallach, son of the Mayor. Full particulars are given in another column.

MUCH news and other matter of an interesting character will be found in the inside pages of today's RECORD-UNION.

FORESHADOWINGS.

The Nation recently published some imaginary reports of rulings of United States Courts, for the purpose of showing the scope and significance of the late Supreme Court decisions. One of these supposititious cases is as follows: The Supreme Court of Illinois is represented as ruling that it is in the power of local school boards to make obligatory the reading of the Bible in the public schools. This case being removed into the United States Circuit Court in Chicago, the decision of the Supreme Court is reversed, on the ground that it is an invasion of the Fourteenth Amendment, in that it deprives Roman Catholics of an equal enjoyment of their civil rights in the matter of education. The Supreme Court of the United States, however, presently comes upon the scene and reverses a decision of a State Supreme Court made in harmony with the above ruling of the Illinois Circuit Court, on the ground that Protestant Christians have their rights under the Fourteenth Amendment. "It had been objected, on the argument, that this 'position was inconsistent with a ruling in Chicago, by the United States Circuit Court there sitting, to the effect that 'reading the Bible in the schools could not be constitutionally enforced, as the 'effect was to impair the civil 'rights of the Roman Catholics.' But this objection was triumphantly refuted by Judge Strong. 'It proves,' he said, 'that under the Fourteenth Amendment the right of no class can be invaded, and that the Fourteenth Amendment, as it was lately rendered by a distinguished Federal Judge in Virginia (Rives, J.), in fact as well as in theory 'proclaims liberty throughout the land. 'It might, indeed, be argued that this 'breaks up the schools, since they cannot 'at the same time read, and not read, the Bible. The objection, however, is irrelevant; and if the schools interfere with 'civil rights, so much the worse for the 'schools.' The point of this satire is very keen, and it shows how easily the late doctrines of the Supreme Court may be used to support any and every invasion of State sovereignty, and how the most contradictory and mutually destructive propositions may be based upon it.

GOING TO PIECES.

The San Francisco stock market is going to pieces rapidly. We predicted, when the Brauhart-Tuttle mining stock bill was defeated by the lobbying of the brokers, that they would discover how fatal a blunder they had made, in a few months, but the collapse of the stock business is proceeding more rapidly even than we had expected. With the failure of the last effort to give the public some protection against fraud, the decline of popular confidence in the Boards has culminated. They are doing no business, and there is no ground for expecting that the situation will improve. In their desperation they have proposed to raise the rates of commission, the presumed object being to cut off the outside and curbstone brokers, and thus secure to the "regulars" what little business remains. But as the outsiders always contribute very materially to the receipts of the members of the Boards, by creating a good deal of business which would not otherwise be transacted, this proposition would seem to be as suicidal as the opposition to the late bill. The fact is that the California public have had their eyes opened very thoroughly at last in this stock business, and so long as the mines are owned as at present, and managed as at present, and sold as at present, there will be no revival of the business. Those who realize this earliest will waste the least time by hoping against possibility for a new "boom."

THE KILLING OF CHARLES DE YOUNG.

Charles De Young, the senior proprietor of the San Francisco Chronicle, was last night shot and almost instantly killed by the son of Dr. Isaac Kallach. Full details of the tragedy will be found in our telegraphic columns. The murderer has refused to make any statement regarding the motive of his act, but the opinion prevails that the immediate provocation was the publication, attributed to the deceased, of a pamphlet containing a report of the testimony in a scandalous case occurring at the East several years ago, and in which Kallach senior was defendant. The manner of the killing was deliberate, and De Young was afforded no better opportunity for defense than he himself had given the father of his slayer on a previous occasion. It is of course quite impossible to regard this case as an ordinary murder would be regarded. It many respects it has the features of a blood feud of the most barbarous period. Charles De Young had urged his enmity against the elder Kallach with the most desperate ferocity and recklessness. He had deliberately attempted to assassinate him, and failing in that attempt, he had proceeded to take up every damaging episode in his past life, and had, as is now claimed, caused these circumstances to be paraded over the city and State, with an evident determination to destroy his adversary. Between the Kallachs and De Young, therefore, no common relations subsisted, and De Young had dared and invited every retaliation the most frenzied exasperation could suggest or inspire. He has met the fate which by no means infrequently closes the careers of men who, like him, undertake to elevate themselves to power by making whips and fetters of the foibles of their fellows, and who prostitute the press into a blackmailing agency, the influence of which is measured by the power of exposure it possesses.

Charles De Young was no common man. He possessed abilities of a very high order in many respects. In building up his paper he displayed enterprise, energy, administrative talent, boldness and persistence, such as might have sufficed to win for him a foremost place among honorable journalists had his character been better balanced. But he set out with low ambitions and base pretensions. He desired power, but he did not care by what means he obtained it. He undertook to traffic in the vices and weaknesses of mankind. His agents were spies, his levers were criminal records. To get men under his thumb he ransacked their private history, directing all his energies to the detection of some past error or crime which he could hold over his intended victims. He did not seek to win his way by beneficence, by championing reforms, by improving the condition of society. When he espoused a high cause it was as a business matter. When he exposed wrong-doing it was because it paid better than to conceal it. What the journal he controlled was under his powerful and sinister management the people of this coast have but too much reason to remember. No reputation was secure against his malice and his cold-blooded and systematic detraction. He at times made even morality almost abhorrent by the villainous uses to which he turned his pretended defense of it. The Chronicle has often been feared while he controlled its utterances, but it has never been respected or loved. It was possible to admire his business sagacity and enterprise, and the amazing effrontery with which he withstood the consequences of his own crimes and infamies, but no man ever believed inwardly that it was a beneficent instrument, or that it was other than the agency of his selfish purposes and mean revenge.

The man who undertakes journalism on Charles De Young's plane of conduct and morals necessarily separates himself out from the community, and as necessarily takes his life in his hand. This man, however, had invited his fate by the incredible hardness with which, after his attempt upon the life of Dr. Kallach, he justified and defended assassination in the columns of his journal. We pointed out at that time the nature of the weapon he was thus putting into the hands of his enemies and his victims, and the warning proves to have been prophetic. We cannot moralize over this death as over that of a good citizen who in a noble career had been struck down by the hand of the assassin. Charles De Young was an Ishmael, whose hand was against every man. He had sought to make himself a terror to the community, and when his own methods were retorted upon him he had recourse to the cowardly retaliation of the assassin. For such a man, living under such a code, the ordinary rules of civilized reasoning are out of place. He put himself outside the pale of the law voluntarily, and his own measure has now been meted to him again with interest. His death is a fresh illustration of the wisdom of the old saying that those who live by the sword shall perish by the sword. He was the type of lawlessness in journalism, and he has died a lawless death. Let us hope that his career and its dreadful close may be a warning to such as have been dazzled by his dash and bravado in the past, but who have probably failed to perceive the rottenness of the foundation upon which his theory

of journalism rested. For such journals as he made there will soon, we trust, be neither room nor tolerance.

THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

The present situation of the Republican Party is a very remarkable one, and it ought to be studied conscientiously. Two things are prominently displayed. One is the indisposition of the rank-and-file to accept General Grant as their candidate for the Presidency. The other is the unmistakable determination of certain political managers to force him upon the party. Of these two things, the first is very much more intelligible than the second. The reasons why the Republican Party should not seek General Grant for a candidate are, in fact, as plain and clear and simple as reasons can be, and they ought also to be as convincing. General Grant is a great soldier, and his military achievements have entitled him fully to the second place at least in the country's list of eminent patriots. But as an executive, as an administrator, he has proved a failure, and the people and the Republican Party have long since recorded their convictions on this head. The proof of this is easy. General Grant went into office in 1872 with overwhelming Republican majorities. His party had control of both houses of Congress. It could do as it pleased in every department of government. It possessed the confidence of the country. When General Grant handed over the Government to his successor, where were the great majorities with which he had commenced his administration? Where was the control of Congress? Where was the confidence of the country? All gone, all swept away by that tide of maladministration which poured over the country during his second administration—a flood of scandals and abuses fatal to the party. He had lost almost everything. The Republican masses had manifestly abandoned him, and were voting for Democrats. And the justification for the abandonment was unquestionably strong. Whoever will look back to that era and recall the persistence and universality of the charges of corruption and malfeasance that rang through the air all over the country—charges preferred, he it remembered, not by Democrats, but by Republicans—will realize the profoundness of the conviction which broke the Republican majorities and restored the opposition to power in Congress. It was not here and there a scandal that produced these results. It was the patent and notorious prevalence of corruption and abuses in almost every department of the Government. The Treasury under Richardson, the Indian Department under Delano, the Department of Justice under Williams, the Navy Department under Robeson, the War Department under Belknap, the Custom House at New Orleans under Casey, the Custom House at New York under Leet and Murphy, the scandals of Simmons, of Babcock in the St. Louis whisky trials, of Schenck in the English Mission; these and many other specimen cases made it impossible for the country to doubt the truth of the arraignment brought against President Grant's second administration, and dissolved the bonds which had previously united his fortunes with those of the Republican Party. It was evident that he was not fitted for an executive civil officer. It was evident that he was incapable of choosing his friends well. It was evident that he utterly misconceived the theory of American Government, and that he regarded the Presidency as his personal acquisition, to be dealt with as suited his personal convenience or caprice, and without a thought of responsibility to the people. His maxim about standing by his friends when they were under fire conclusively demonstrated this, and his cold indifference to public opinion, as manifested in his promotion of a member of his Government who had been compelled to resign because of the exposure of his corrupt practices. When, therefore, he left office, he had very nearly destroyed the Republican party, and the rank and file of that party do not forget this. It is impossible that they should desire the nomination of General Grant. Nothing has occurred to weaken or modify the opinions to which the events of his second administration compelled them. He is the same man, with the same foibles and the same disabilities. There is no more ground for expecting that he would make a good President now than there was when he closed his second term. He was not then regarded as a good President. The collapse of his party under the burden of his maladministration proved that. On what intelligible theory, then, can he be thrust to the front again?

It is abundantly evident that the Republican masses have not called for him, and do not want him. If the events which preceded the close of his last term can be accepted as indications, it is very doubtful whether a large percentage of these voters would not refuse to vote for him under any circumstances. Nor is the notorious unwisdom of the selection on personal grounds the only objection to it. In the minds of many men the third-term question is even more obnoxious. They look upon the attempt to make one man President three times as a deliberate movement in the direction of imperialism, and as a sinister deserting of fundamental principles. They may be mistaken as to this, but they are none the less rooted in their hostility to the third term, and we have no doubt that there are many who might forgive Grant's administrative defects, but can never reconcile themselves to the third term. These, then, are two of the most formidable and damaging lines of objection to General Grant's candidature that could possibly be imagined. Either of them is fatal, and both together might well be thought to put any candidate to whom they apply out of the question entirely. Why, then, do the "machine" politicians persist in their efforts to force the nomination of Grant upon the Republican party? It can hardly be because they believe him to be the strongest candidate, for, as we have shown, he possesses elements of weakness from which no other candidate suffers. It certainly is not because his nomination is demanded by the rank-and-file, for it is perfectly clear that no such demand exists. The rational presumption from the facts is that General Grant could not command anything like the full normal strength of the Republican party. His nomination, therefore, would endanger the

defeat of that party at the polls, instead of insuring its success. Why, then, do the "machine" men so determinedly ignore public opinion and the practical bearings of the situation, and urge forward their forlorn hope so obstinately? The way in which the Pennsylvania and New York Conventions were managed give us the clue to this perplexing question. In both these States the Republican party is under personal government. In both these States the absolute ruler of the party machinery is a sort of political despot. It is this class, the class of "bosses," that is to say, the class so desperately anxious to put General Grant in the White House again. It must be borne in mind that his military training and habits of thought naturally incline him to regard the "boss" system as "honest." It is the reverse of democratic, but soldiers are of necessity autocrats, since subordination and discipline are the very foundation of military success. The "boss" system, however, is incompatible with good or safe or honest government, with reform of the civil service, with the suppression of corruption, with the removal of any of the abuses which have pressed so heavily upon the country since the close of the rebellion. It is a system which affords the easiest possible way of changing the Government without altering its ostensible form. Under this "boss" system a real imperialism can be established, supported by a handful of machine politicians, each one controlling a great State through such means as Tammany uses. To pretend that liberty could be preserved under such a transformation would be preposterous. To pretend that there is no danger of such a transformation in the event of Grant's reelection would be to ignore every present indication. Already in two of the greatest States of the Union public opinion has been defiantly disregarded by "bosses," and it is evidently intended to carry the National Convention by the same methods. This is the abandonment of Republican usages, and the adoption of usages as opposed to free political action as Louis Napoleon's plebiscites.

The men who are thus putting General Grant forward are no doubt actuated by the most selfish motives. They hope to acquire practically unlimited political power through his success. They know that he will not desert his friends "under fire," and they rely upon this trait in his character to bear them harmless out of any possible assault upon their records. They have nothing to expect, moreover, from another candidate. Their fortunes are linked with Grant's, for they represent an abnormal condition of things, and one which cannot be perpetuated unless the form of government is virtually changed, and the usurpations which they have introduced are fortified and sanctioned by precedent and prescription. It is in fact the last chance of the machine satraps. They know that if they fail now the people will never give them another opportunity to establish personal government, and as they have control of the party machinery in most of the States, they are determined to make a desperate effort for victory. Should they succeed in nominating Grant at Chicago they rely upon the folly of the Democrats to render the abandonment of the Republican ticket impossible with the majority. In this the event may prove them right, though it is always possible that for once the Democrats may reverse their usual practice, and put forward an acceptable candidate. The Republican masses who voted against Grant and all that it implied, four years ago, are not likely to be very enthusiastic supporters of the same system now, in any event. It is too early to perceive whether they will find it practicable to put a third candidate in the field as a final resort, but there are already definite steps being taken with that end in view. Certain it is that the magnitude of the issue involved, the danger to democratic institutions from machine politicians, and the strong resistance to the third-term proposition, are combining to produce an opposition to General Grant's renomination which makes the ultimate success of his canvass, supposing he should carry the Convention, very problematical. The surest way to prevent what thoughtful and intelligent Republicans so earnestly deprecate, is of course to work against the machine politicians before the Convention meets, and that course is being followed in the Eastern States by a constantly increasing body of independent Republicans, who have determined not to leave the management of party affairs to the professionals.

THE HIGH RATES OF INSURANCE IN CALIFORNIA.

During the struggle over the insurance bills at the recent session of the Legislature it was advanced in justification for the prospective measures urged by some local insurance companies, that a swarm of petty Eastern and foreign companies had gone into business in this State, and that the business they did might not be safe. It did not then occur to any one to inquire why such a swarm of foreign insurance companies should be attracted to this State, but that question must be put, and it can only be answered in one way. The fact is that the rates of insurance in California are so high that they constitute a strong temptation to insurance companies all over the world. They are double, treble, in some instances quadruple, what they are on the other side of the mountains. This public is charged one and one and a half and two per cent, where in Eastern States the rates would be 30 cents, or 50 cents, or 75 cents, or one dollar. And there is no excuse or justification whatever for these inordinately high rates. The risks in California are in no respect more hazardous than elsewhere, but in some localities and some respects they are less hazardous. Rates have been kept up by a combination among the companies doing business here, which is unquestionably against public policy. All these companies have agreed to support one another in their extravagant charges, and whenever an attempt has been made by any company to underbid "Board rates," the whole pack have fallen savagely upon the innovator, and have done their best to ruin or drive it away. It is time the besom of reform should be applied to the insurance situation in California, for the public have been fleeced too long by the underwriters. Existing rates in this State are not warranted by any peculiarity in the situation. We make that assertion positively. There is no reason why

rates should be higher in Sacramento, for instance, than they are in Albany, New York. There is no reason why they should be higher in San Francisco than in Boston or Chicago. Property is in all respects as safe and as well protected here as anywhere in the East. Intemperance is as uncommon here as there. The danger of sweeping conflagrations is no whit greater on this than on the Atlantic coast. In a word, the insurance rates in California to-day are arbitrary, extravagant and exorbitant, and they ought not to be submitted to longer by the public. If the local companies want to drive out their foreign competitors they can do it without any protective discriminating legislation. All that is requisite is for them to reduce their own rates. If the California rates were once placed on a level with those of the rest of the country, the temptation to establish agencies here would be destroyed, and thenceforward the insurance business would rest on a legitimate basis. As it is, the people are being robbed by means of a sinister combination which has all the elements of a "corner," and they are deprived of the benefits of free competition by a conspiracy which should not be countenanced by the law.

THE INCREASE OF IMMIGRATION.

It is evident that the current of immigration from Europe is about to set in again with renewed force, and that there will this year be landed in the United States five or six times as many foreigners as usual. The time, however, has passed when any such accession to our population was welcome, and when no misgivings existed as to the effect upon our Government of this constant and copious infusion of foreign elements. We know now what effects it produces, and we know that the effects are bad. To-day our principal cities are governed and plundered by foreigners. In New York a foreign proletariat buries and paralyzes the entire property-owning class, and the latter are robbed continuously, with no prospect of escape. In San Francisco at the last general election the foreign vote cast was several hundred beyond that of the American vote, and this disproportion is certain to increase under the influence of immigration. The kind of immigration, too, which is most common, is drawn to the large cities, and thence to the country. The consequence is that the cities are growing far more rapidly than the country in population, and that the increase of the urban population is of the most deleterious kind. It consists for the most part of foreigners who are densely ignorant of almost everything civilized beings ought to know; who have not the faintest conception of the principles of American government; who are often imbued with wild socialistic theories, and therefore at once range themselves against the Government on general principles; and who are utterly devoid of any sentiment of patriotism, or any tenderness of kinship. These elements do not even comprehend ordered freedom. License of the most brutal and anarchic character is their sole idea of liberty. They are hostile to law and order, haters of success and prosperity, fomenters of sedition, naturally and by training. It is to their presence that we owe the various attempts made of late years to reproduce on American soil the crazy communistic vagaries of the old world; attempts which are only explicable on the hypothesis that their projectors were profoundly ignorant of the nature of the institutions they sought to overthrow. The foreign elements in our midst have by their ignorance and their tendency to venality made possible the worst maladministration the republic has witnessed. There could have been no Tweedism in New York without them. They give its chief support to demagogism. They have made Kearneyism formidable. They have furnished the substance of every modern assault upon property and order which has occurred in our large cities. The prospect of an unusual immigration this year is not therefore to be regarded with satisfaction. Experience shows that the point has been passed at which large additions of foreigners could be made to the population with safety. The immigrants would be welcome enough if they did not so soon become participants in the Government. Citizenship has become debauched by the conditions under which it is attainable. Comprehension of American governmental theories is coming to be the exception instead of the rule among newly-made voters. It is not too late to modify the naturalization laws, but it is questionable whether any party can be got to undertake the duty. Yet unless it is done, and that soon, the rapid increase of ignorant voters will render good and honest government impossible.

A QUESTION TO BE SETTLED.

Public opinion in Sacramento appears to be almost unanimous in favor of the adoption of the levee policy suggested by the RECORD-UNION. It is not necessary to discuss the question whether much or little of the apprehension felt during seasons of high water is due to ignorance of the present condition of our defenses. The main consideration is that the future of the city depends largely upon the removal of all ground for uneasiness. There can be no doubt as to the fact that fears of flood have hitherto checked the growth of the city. It is admitted by everybody that if no such fears had been possible it would have attracted a great many people who have been withheld from settling here. But this drawback is not an insurmountable one. On the contrary, it can be surmounted without entailing any fresh burdens upon the city, and that in so thorough a way that in a short time there will be no more thought of danger from high water here than there is in San Francisco. To do this our levees must be raised and broadened and protected by riprapping or other engineering devices, in such a manner that they cannot be endangered. We are assured by some citizens who have had much experience that the levees are now quite strong enough. With that opinion we are, however, obliged to disagree. They may be quite strong enough to resist one ordinary flood, but in order to make them serve their full purpose they must be strong enough to remove the fears of the ignorant and the timid. We understand that there is a considerable sum available for their improvement this year. If that is so the general plan of improvement to be pursued should be decided upon before any of the money is expended, and then the whole of it should be applied towards the carrying out of this general system. It must be evident by this time that nothing short of such a policy will

relieve us from the alarms which have heretofore recurred at intervals, and which exercise so bad an influence upon the reputation and prospects of the city. What is needed is to make Sacramento precisely as safe as though every foot of it was twenty-five feet higher than it is. That is the ground to take, and when that is accomplished we shall have no more disabilities in any regard than a city twenty-five feet higher has. There must, in short, be no room for doubt on the subject of our safety. That is the only wise policy to pursue, and it is the one which our people appear fully agreed upon now.

THE FALL IN IRON.

An important reduction has recently been made in the price of iron. This reduction has been necessitated by the condition of the trade. Last year the business "boom" was so largely overdone that the attempt of the iron men to get rich suddenly had the effect of paralyzing the market. They put prices up so extravagantly that the demand fell off, and the importation of foreign iron, despite the tariff, increased largely. An exchange of recent date says in this connection: "One of the heaviest iron manufacturers of the East, who is also largely interested in Western railways, predicts that within six months the prices of iron and steel will be down to where they were a year ago. Whether this is true or not, we believe that the present low state of the market is not a mere temporary matter, but that it will be found that, while the supply has vastly increased as a result of the high prices, the demand has been greatly lessened by the same cause."

The fact is that the iron men have over-discounted the business revival, and as a consequence have brought a renewed depression upon their trade. As late reports from England indicate the probability of reduction in the prices of iron there in consequence of a stagnant market, it is evident that foreign importations must increase this year unless American manufacturers are wise enough to put down the rates so far as to make importation unprofitable. Their attempt last year to force iron up to famine prices has had the effect, first, of preventing the commencement of many important enterprises, and second, of driving those who were compelled to have the metal, abroad. So much harm has already been done in these ways that the condition of the market is critical, and it is now doubted by good authorities whether a present reduction will so far restore its tone as to remove the necessity for closing many of the works. There is scarcely anything which so retards enterprise as dear iron, and therefore a wise government would be careful to remove every obstacle from the sale of that metal. Our iron manufacturers, however, have so complete a control over Congress that they are enabled to fetter all the industries of the country at will. What they cannot do is to make the people buy iron when they have put the price up to the top notch. Had they not been so greedy, or had they not been bolstered up as they are by the tariff, they would not have got themselves into their present difficulties, but would have helped instead of hindering the business revival, and by contenting themselves with moderate profits would have secured a steady and growing trade. Should the price of iron in England fall considerably, they will soon be obliged to reduce heavily themselves, and the probability is that they will in the end lose far more than their high prices last year brought them.

A NEW ILLUMINATOR.

A novel invention is described in a recent issue of the London Railway News. It is a luminous paint, to be used in the interior of railway carriages, and it is claimed that it will emit enough light to make everything distinctly visible, and that this light will continue for several hours. The review, giving an account of a partial test of the paint, says: "At first the light emitted is only slight, not that the paint is any different in its illuminating power, but the pupils of the eyes are fatigued by the light, for, as the journey proceeds the carriage appears to be completely 'lighted up,' so much so that the passengers are enabled easily to recognize the features of their fellow-travelers, while the time by a watch is clearly discernible. This light lasts, not for a short time, but continues for a period of a few hours, when the carriage can be again 'exposed to the day-light, and the same process is gone through.' The paint is said to absorb light during the day, and to emit it at night. The experiments made with it were witnessed by a number of scientific men, who expressed considerable satisfaction with the result. It is believed that this luminous paint can be so applied to railroad cars as to render any other illumination unnecessary, and thus to avoid one of the dangers of railroad travel, namely that of a conflagration in the event of an accident. On American railways, however, this danger arises generally from the stoves, not from the lamps, and it seems questionable whether the kind of faint light emitted by this paint, even supposing it capable of lasting through a journey of several hours, would be an effective substitute for lamps. The proposition to apply the new invention to buoys seems open to the same objection. It is extremely questionable whether a merely phosphorescent light, as this appears to be, could be distinguished at any distance by vessels. In bad weather at sea all guiding lights require to be very bright and distinct, and so pale and dim a light as this would be very apt to escape the attention of the look-out except when no importance attached to its discovery."

THE GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We suppose that there are few subjects regarding which the American public is better agreed than that of the abuses which have grown up of late years in the government of Great Britain. The facts, indeed, have been so forced upon public attention that they could neither be ignored nor misapprehended. Everybody thus knows something about the proletariat, the rise of the "boss" system, the corruption of party government, the regime of demagogism, and so forth. So far as the exhibition of all the downward steps is concerned there is a general harmony of opinion. It is all very bad, we say, but when it becomes a question of remedies, a strange silence falls upon our debaters of abuses. The reason of this is that most people who have examined the matter care-

fully have reached two conclusions: First, that the only possible means of reform is restriction of the suffrage; and second, that restriction of the suffrage is impossible. As to the first of these, we think there cannot be any doubt about its soundness. Evidently the only way to prevent the evils which originate in the abuse of political power consequent on ignorance and indifference, is to remove political power from those who are too ignorant or indifferent to make a right use of it. The second conclusion, that this remedy is impracticable, is, however, by no means so clear. It is in fact nothing more than an assumption, and it is an assumption without strong foundation. It rests on the supposition that all men set an equally high value on the suffrage, but experience certainly does not bear this out. On the contrary, the manner in which the suffrage is used by those who do the most mischief with it shows that they do not understand it well enough to care much for it in any way. Indeed, the more carefully this branch of the subject is examined the more doubtful will it appear whether the popular notion of the impossibility of restricting the suffrage has any just support, and whether in fact it might not be practicable to effect such a change without arousing any of those volcanic forces which it is customary to bring on the scene whenever such a recourse is hinted at. And it is the more necessary to examine this possible avenue of relief with care because if indeed it be not available there remains nothing but to despair of democratic government, and to prepare for the shooting of Niagara.

HYDRAULICS ON THE RAILROAD.

The methods of hydraulic mining have been employed with great success in clearing away the heavy slides of earth which occurred recently on the Central Pacific Railway above Alta. The mass of earth was so great, and the difficulty of handling it in the ordinary way so formidable, that unless water had been resorted to several weeks might have elapsed before the track was cleared. But the hydraulic miners were called upon for help, and they found the situation one which presented no perplexities to them. They brought up their pipes and monitors, constructed a flume from a ditch which was fortunately near at hand, and in fourteen hours piped away a body of debris which had been the despair of picks and shovels. The tremendous power of hydraulic mining methods has been here exhibited in a very practical way, and for the benefit of the community. Those who witnessed the swift dispatch of this avalanche of earth have attained a lively perception of the effects produced upon the bluffs which contain the gravel deposits. It is indeed somewhat singular that the hydraulic monitor has never, so far as we are aware, been used in making cuts on railways where the soil is sufficiently soft to be piped. It might be thought that in such cases there would be great economy in the application of water power, for a strong head of water directed by an experienced hand will cut out and carry away more dirt in one day than fifty men could shovel and pick in a week. The slide at Alta would have undoubtedly delayed the resumption of railroad travel very much longer but for the happy thought of enlisting the monitors and little giants in the work of clearing the track.

THE TRUE STORY OF "HANGTOWN."

EDS. RECORD-UNION: The account of the manner in which the city of Placerville received the name of "Hangtown," copied from an exchange, which appeared in your issue of Wednesday last, is not correct. Allow me to give the true version: In the summer of 1848 three ranchers residing in what is now Sacramento county—William Daylor, Jared Sheldon and Perry McCon—with a number of Indians in their employ, were mining in Weber creek at a point about 100 yards below the crossing of the road from Diamond Springs to Placerville. One morning the vaquero who had charge of the cavallada (same horses) in the morning, called the place that he had discovered some new "dry diggings," exhibiting at the same time some specimens of gold which he had picked up. One of the white men, called the Indians by the name of "Hangtown," and the Indians were referred to the new location, which, up to January, 1849, went by the name of the "Old Dry Diggings." One night during that month, three men were in a saloon, tent or hut, engaged in a game of poker. In due time one of the party got "hooked." The proprietor of the place was fast asleep. The one who had lost his money suggested to his companions that the saloon-keeper had got dust on hand, and proposed that he should be tried by the miners. The proprietor was awake, a pistol pointed at his head, and told to disclose the whereabouts of the hidden treasure. This he did; the robbers divided the spoil, threatened the saloon-keeper with certain death if he disclosed anything about the matter, and resumed their game.

The next day the saloon-keeper mustered courage to tell some of his friends about the robbery; the affair became noised about; the three men were arrested, tried by the miners, sentenced to be hanged, and the judgment executed with the promptness which characterized that kind of criminal procedure. The criminals were then ordered to leave. In a few days two of the men, under the influence of whisky, went about the camp indicating that the man who was executed in the trial were "spotted," that "they would not live to fog another man," etc.

A meeting was called, the two men were arrested and hung on the leaning rock in the bay ward over Elster's El Dorado Saloon, the same tree on which, afterwards, other malefactors expiated their crimes. For many years the camp was known by the name of Hangtown to distinguish it from other dry diggings. Daylor, Sheldon and McCon remained on the site until the fall of 1848, when they returned to their homes in Sacramento county. Captain Charles M. Weber, of Weber's Embarcadero, now of Stockton, established a camp and trading post on the same locality and gave the creek the name which it has borne to the present day. Daylor's Ranch, April 22, 1880.

TESTING A WIFE'S AFFECTION.—The London Sunday Times, under the caption of "The Green-Eyed Monster," states that a veteran son of Mars, in Scotland, lately married a young wife, not half his own age, and, after the honeymoon, became, of course, jealous. One evening, on returning from labor, he complained of cold, and rolled in agony. His young wife proposed to run for assistance, and the next minute she was fleeing across the moor to a lordly mansion, to alarm the servants and send for a doctor. One of them was in the saddle in a moment, but lo! an apparition clothed in white was seen approaching. The affectionate wife supposed it could be nothing else than her husband's "wrath," but it turned out to be the old soldier himself. The pretended cold was all a ruse to test his wife's affection. On seeing the promptitude with which she ran for assistance, his jealousy was subdued, and he started after her in his shirt and trousers.

A series of lectures recently delivered in Boston by the Rev. James Reed for the purpose of setting forth with clearness and force—which by the way they do—what need that somebody should do—the chief points in the religious faith and teachings of Swedenborg, will be published soon.