

The San Francisco office of the Daily Record-Union and Weekly Union is at 208 Montgomery street.

WHAT IT CONTAINS.

The WEEKLY UNION for the current week consists of two parts, issued Wednesday and Saturday. Each part contains eight pages. Total, 16. The following is a general account of the variety of matter it contains, the figures representing columns and fractions of columns:

Editorials... Pacific Telegrams... San Francisco Items... Mining News... Coast Items... Oregon Letter... Arizona Letter... Quiet Hour... Press Expression... Household... New York Letter... Locals... Eastern Telegrams... Miscellaneous... Births, Deaths and Marriages... Court Reports... Agricultural... Letter Box... Advertisements... Farjona's Great Serial... Paris Letter...

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 107 1/2 for 4s of 1897; 104 for 4s of 1881; 109 for 4s; sterling, 84 5/8 to 89; silver bars, 114; 4 per cent, 1/2 discount buying, par selling.

SILVER in London yesterday, 2 1/4; and, 90 1-16; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 105 1/2; 108; 1/2; 111.

In San Francisco all buying, 94s are quoted at par; Mexican dollars, 91 buying, 91 1/2 selling.

At Liverpool yesterday what was quoted at 9s 10d for good to choice California.

THERE was a slight rally in most of the Comstock shares at San Francisco yesterday. Sierra Nevada closed at \$9.50 and closed at \$10.25. Most of the sales, however, were below \$10. Union Consolidated opened at \$17.50 and closed at \$18, with the bulk of the sales at the latter figure.

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POLITICAL PANACEAS.

There has seldom been a period when the demand for political reform was more generally recognized than at present, or when more hopelessly different remedies were proposed in greater profusion. In the May number of the International Review Mr. George W. Julian and Mr. Albert Stickney were first, on "The Abuse of the Ballot and its Remedy," and the second on "Government Machinery." Each thinks the plan he proposes can alone save the country, each thinks his plan the one important consideration, yet neither agrees with the other regarding the causes of the existing evils, or the methods of abating them. Mr. Julian declares, in a very energetic manner, that "the sovereign remedy for all the evils connected with 'popular government is popular government.'"

He holds that the beginning, to be right, must be made at Civil Service Reform. That is the key to our whole political situation. Until that is regulated no good of any permanent kind can be done. And England has shown us how the work can be accomplished. Half a century ago her civil service was as bad as ours. Everything went by influence and favoritism. Capacity was never thought of. Ministers governed the country through patronage. Public opinion was a cipher. All this has been changed by stripping Parliament of patronage, and making merit the touchstone of admission to the civil service. The same policy can be adopted in this country. It is the only one which can check the progress of corruption in our politics. As present we force our Congressmen to sustain themselves by the tricks of the "machine." It is not the Congressmen who are responsible for this; it is the people. The latter alone are accountable for the survival of a system which throws all the power of nominating candidates into the hands of three or four men, and deprives the voters of all intelligent choice.

The fatuous and degrading faith that all our institutions are the best conceivable, fostered sedulously by demagogues, and repeated in a thousand forms, has doubtless done much to prevent wholesome analysis of the situation. But it is to reform of the Civil Service that we must look for deliverance. Patronage once taken from Congress, it will soon be found that the motive of the machine has ceased to exist. To-day no man can secure any political advantage without arranging in advance with a score of hidden manipulators. He must bargain away places before he is elected. He must traffic in the property of the public which was never intended to be at his disposal. He must pay toll to a swarm of political thieves and pirates who hunt the political vestibules. It is because this is so that our best men no longer seek public office; that the character of Congress declines steadily; that there are no longer any great statesmen in public life; that issues of conviction are disappearing, and are being succeeded by personal issues, and mere wars of factions for the spoils. All these demoralizing agencies are due in the first place to the abuse of patronage. The same class of evils naturally finds representatives in State, county and municipal as well as in national politics. Everywhere the people are less able to make their will felt. Everywhere the least honest and respectable political elements are becoming the most influential. Reform the civil service and this would soon cease to be the case. With the extinction of patronage the professional politician would find his occupation gone. He would be compelled to seek some more useful and less mischievous calling, and once more legislative or executive positions, without the fear of being bound by corrupt bargains as a preliminary process. This is the initial point of practical reform. After it everything else that is necessary will come with far less trouble, but before it nothing can be done. To prevent the possibility of usurpation of governmental powers, or change of governmental forms, by either a plotter or a mob, or by a mob crazed by the sinister teachings of demagogues, stable and honest non-partisan government must be secured; and we know no other way to secure this than that which we have here indicated.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

It is always very difficult for those who live in a country to appreciate its capabilities. They become so familiar with its general features that they fail to realize their significance, and thus it is often left to strangers, coming fresh to the inspection, to point out the possibilities of the future, and to predict the greatness of the land. It may be alleged that there has never been any lack of self-appreciation about the people of California, and that it has been perhaps rather over-rated than depreciated. But for all this it is true that the full capabilities of this State have never yet been realized, and that though many loose expressions have been employed about it, no conceptions of the future which even its smallest beginnings indicate, has been at all generally formed. At this moment a change is taking place in the condition of Southern California which a few years hence will have been forgotten in the rapid growth of that region. This change has been brought about entirely by the building of the Southern Pacific Railroad. That is the truth, and it ought to be known. Southern California has languished and grumbled and dozed and done nothing, for a quarter of a century. With splendid natural resources she was too isolated to prosper. All the efforts of her people, to establish colonies, to introduce irrigation, to encourage settlement and cultivation in various ways, have been most difficult and discouraging enterprises until now. It was not that they failed in practical parts. Irrigation was never more successful. Orange and lemon-growing, and wine-making, were followed with highly satisfactory results. But everything was so far removed from a market that the people seemed to be laboring against hopeless disabilities, and so they fell into a peevish, discontented, dyspeptic mood, and lent themselves to all kinds of subversive and mischievous doctrines. They were particularly bitter against railroads, which they declared unmitigated evils. They so arranged the Constitution that it was no longer possible to carry freight to Los Angeles at

the low rates dictated by ocean competition. But the Southern Pacific was pushed forward rapidly, despite this ill temper, and presently they began to realize that a wonderful thing had happened; a market had sprung into existence for all they could produce. A year ago there was no sale for anything in Los Angeles. To-day the demand for home produce is so large and constant that it cannot be supplied. And this is the work of the railroad. It has brought the trade of Arizona and New Mexico to the door of Southern California. It has found the latter a permanent outlet for all her productions. It has, as with the wave of a magic wand, substituted prosperity for stagnation, brisk commerce for sluggish inducements to settlement for discouragements, every thing bright and cheerful and beneficial for everything gloomy and depressing and injurious. Los Angeles and all the southern counties are about to be lifted out of the Slough of Despond and put forever upon their feet, and this sudden and permanent improvement is the work of the Southern Pacific Railway, which this benefited section has been cursing and snarling at for years.

The capabilities of Southern California are as yet by no means thoroughly exploited. The soil is one of the richest under the sun. Even the mesa lands, which a few years ago were commonly regarded as worthless for any purpose, are capable of growing anything under irrigation, and there is no difficulty in irrigating them. Indeed, this is the land of irrigation, and there can be no question that under the improved methods of tilling now being adopted, it will within twenty years become one of the richest regions in the country. There is literally no limit to its productive capacities, and henceforward there will be no limit to its market either. Hitherto the want of a market has been the most serious hindrance to progress in the Southern counties. It has damped enterprise, discouraged industry, and caused many pecuniary undertakings to shrivel up and die. But the advent of the railroad has changed the geographical relations of Southern California. Before, it was connected to the southward with deserts and barrenness generally. Arizona afforded little trade, and there was nothing beyond. Now there is a rich and growing country of unlimited extent to fall back upon, and this with a practical monopoly in the hands of the Southern Californians. They could not compete with the South and East in supplying their new market with general merchandise, but when fruit and wine are in question they have nothing to fear from any rivalry. Chicago, St. Louis, New Orleans, Galveston, are all equally at disadvantage when Los Angeles comes forward with the special products of which she is the agent and representative. Nor is there any likelihood that her advantages in these respects will be wrested from her. On the contrary, the brilliant promise now held out to that section of the State through the improvement of her communications must attract large accessions to the population, and cause the present staples to be more generally cultivated than even now. Fruit and wine will long continue to be the special productions of the southern counties, and there is no reason why they should not become as celebrated as the fruits and wines of Italy. The people of Southern California are beginning to see that the Southern Pacific is a beneficial enterprise, and we do not think they will retain any desire to "cinch" the capital invested in that undertaking hereafter.

THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

There can be no doubt that the Republican State Convention faithfully represented the predominant public sentiment in instructing the delegates to Chicago to vote for James G. Blaine. The determination which the majority in the Convention showed to bind the delegates to this programme beyond the possibility of escape, may be regarded as the natural consequence of former infidelities to the party will. If in the ironclad resolutions which were adopted on this occasion there is anything repugnant to the spirit of political independence, those men who in former years cheated and misrepresented the Republicans of California must be held responsible for it. The spirit which led to this action is identical with that which in New York has produced that independent movement known as the Young Scatchers' movement, which was forced upon self-respecting citizens as the only possible means of resenting the tyranny of the machine. It has now been made manifest in the plainest way that the California Republicans will submit to no more manipulation of the kind which has more than once before caused the defeat of the party in this State. The party here is for Blaine. Its members feel confident that the State can be carried for him, if he receives the nomination at Chicago. They do not feel confident that it could be carried for Grant, and therefore it was alike their duty and interest to make the expression of sentiment in the Convention as pronounced and emphatic as possible. Nor will this positive and unmistakable declaration be without its influence in other States. We believe it may be asserted that upon this question the view taken by the California Republicans is the view taken by a great majority of all the Republicans on the Pacific slope. On this side of the mountains Blaine is the favorite, and no other candidate can evoke anything like the enthusiasm his nomination would produce. It may be well for those politicians in other States who are now working so hard to prevent the free expression of the popular will in this connection, to pause and mark the increasing signs of restiveness and impatience which are gathering around them. The indications that no candidate who is not indorsed by the rank-and-file of the party before the nomination can obtain a full party vote at the polls, are so unmistakable that persistence in the machine programme already suggested is a doubtful rather to throw the Presidency into the hands of the Democrats than to forego their purpose.

But the instruction of the delegates for Blaine was not the only significant incident in the State Convention. The speech of Mr. Piley, in which he asserted that he had been unable to represent his own ward in San Francisco because he had refused to put himself at the disposal of a professional "manager," called public attention once more to a kind of political

abuse which is assuredly becoming more odious and less tolerable every day. Mr. Piley was right to be indignant, and to express his disgust and anger. We in American citizens are denied admittance to State Conventions because they do not happen to be acceptable to the "Jenny Dwyers" of politics, it is time to let the people know it, and to impress the outrage upon them in the most forcible way. The indisposition to submit to this kind of degradation is, however, a healthy symptom, and like the exhibition of firmness made by the Convention, it conveys a warning to those who need it most. The truth is that partisan rule is very feeble at this moment, even though the machine may seem in many of the most important States to be in the most complete working order. There has never been before so grave a doubt as to the ability of conventions to carry out pledges made to support the nominees of the party, whoever they may be. There are candidates who are certain to obtain the support of the party if nominated, but so much cannot be alleged with any confidence of all the candidates. Whether California shall choose Republican Electors this fall is a question which cannot, as in times past, be determined by ascertaining the extent of the party strength, for no politician of average sagacity would be willing to assert that the full party vote can be polled for whoever is nominated at Chicago. The same uncertainty exists in other States, and therefore the seeming power of the machine is largely an illusion, which may prove to be wholly insubstantial when put to the test. The popular demand for faithful and untrammelled representation is steadily acquiring volume and significance, and those who ignore or neglect it this year are very unlikely to have further opportunities for controlling national or State politics.

DEMOCRATIC DOCTRINE.

One of the planks of the Pennsylvania Democratic platform begins, "The right of free ballot is the only means of redressing grievances and reforming abuses." Suppose this be granted, how does it work for the Democratic party? Will it be asserted by the press of that party that the right of free ballot has been conceded to the colored voters at the South since the war? Doubtless there are Democratic journals capable of making that or any other assertion, but it is certain that the country will not believe any declaration of the kind. Again, did Governor Garcelon and his associate Councilors show any particular reverence for the right of a free ballot when they undertook to steal the State of Maine by the most wholesale and impudent usurpations, forgeries and frauds ever perpetrated in the history of the republic? Such measures as the Pennsylvania Democrats have adopted are in truth the thinnest kind of "measures to catch flies." Nothing is more firmly established than the practice of the Southern Democrats to prevent the colored citizens in that section from exercising the right of a free ballot. They have had plenty of grievances to redress and abuses to reform, but they have not been allowed to touch either. Democratic doctrine appears to consist in a most profound regard for the ballot whenever the voters happen to be of their own way of thinking, and an equally profound dislike of it whenever it may be employed by their opponents. They are moved with exceeding indignation at the thought of Federal troops being placed near the polls, but when White Leaguers or Red Shirt Brigades have marched into and surrounded the polls, and have by force prevented the casting of Republican votes, they consider nothing objectionable in the proceedings. This inability to perceive more than one side of a question has been their political ruin, and their deficient sense of honor has precluded them from concealing their folly. As a result they adopt the most self-condemnatory resolutions with the gravity of wooden Indians, and then wonder that everybody does not take them at their own valuation.

CHINESE BELLICRENCY.

It is not very easy to ascertain whether China really contemplates war upon Russia, or whether the latter Power is seeking to create that impression for purposes of her own. It is however certain that the Chinese Government is extremely ill satisfied with the cessation of Kuldja, and that it is desirous of regaining that province, principally because its possession gives control of important passes to whatever Power holds it. China does not regard Russia as a safe neighbor, and that is probably the reason of her uneasiness. It is also possible that the Beaconsfield Government may have supported the Peking Government in its resistance to Russia, though we observe that this has recently been denied upon Russian authority. China is no doubt capable of giving the Russians a great deal of trouble, and of involving them in a war which could not be protracted and expensive, and which the ultimate gain would be doubtful, even if the Mascovie arms were successful. Neither country has any real interest in such a conflict, and it is tolerably certain that under the new Liberal Government all the influence of England will be exerted to preserve peace and to settle the outstanding difficulties between the two powers amicably.

A GALLANT NAVAL ACTION.

The most brilliant and daring feat of arms during the war between Chile and Peru was unquestionably the running of the Chilean blockade of Arica by the Peruvian steamer Union, commanded by Captain Manuel Villavicencio. The Union entered the port in the dusk of early morning, passing between the Chilean ironclad Huascar and Amazonas, and at once began to discharge her valuable cargo of munitions of war, and at the same time to take in coal. When daylight showed the Chileans how they had been circumvented they at once prepared to avenge themselves by destroying the audacious intruder. Joined by the Chilean ironclad Almirante Cochrane, which carries three hundred pound guns, the cruisers entered the harbor, and discharging the fire of the batteries, and the Peruvian monitor Manco Capac, concentrated their fire upon the Union. As she was laying broadside on to the shore, discharging her cargo into lighters, she could only work her starboard guns, and they were but seventy-pounders. Nevertheless her crew went

to quarters promptly, and the brave captain fought this overwhelming force for seven hours, when the Chileans gave up the contest and withdrew, leaving the Union but little the worse for her terrible encounter. Not satisfied with his splendid achievement up to this point, the captain of the Union determined to obey his instructions literally, and to return to Callao in the teeth of the blockading squadron. Having finished coaling he accordingly steamed quietly out of the harbor, and on nearing the enemy put on such a burst of speed that he fairly ran away from them before they could realize what was happening. The Union can steam fifteen knots, and is, therefore, well able to show her heels to any ordinary vessel, but there are few pluckier or more completely successful deeds than this in the whole annals of naval warfare, and the famous Admiral Cochrane, after whom the Chilean ironclad has been named, would have recognized a kindred spirit in gallant Captain Manuel Villavicencio.

GRANT'S CAIRO SPEECH.

General Grant's speech at Cairo, Illinois, has taken the Stalwarts between wind and water, and they do not know which way to look for relief. They have endeavored to justify the third-term movement by asserting that a "strong man" was needed at the helm because the South meditated another rebellion, and because the condition of that whole region called for the most drastic measures. Now General Grant has recently made a flying trip through the South, and, as he himself says, he has seen a bit of every State that was in the rebellion. Wherever he went he held receptions and made speeches, and talked freely with the leading citizens, and when he got to Cairo, in his own State, he addressed the people and told them what impressions his Southern tour had made upon him. He said, speaking of the Southern States: "It is gratifying to me, and I know it will be to you, that in every one of them scenes, decorations and speeches were much the same as we see and hear to-day. The stars and stripes were floating everywhere. A great portion of the speakers in every instance were men who in the conflict wore the gray; and the speeches which they made show their present devotion to the flag for which we fought, and which is all we asked of them—that they should respect and honor the flag and become good citizens, and hereafter, if it should be assailed by a foreign foe, that they should unite with us as one people. From the assurances they give I believe they are sincere, and I hope they expressed the sentiments of the majority." It is impossible to see how after this the friends of General Grant can pretend that there is anything in the Southern issue. In fact their mouths are closed on that issue, for they certainly cannot repudiate or dispute his authority on such a question, and yet this was the only plausible feature in his candidature. If, as he himself now declares, there is no basis for his "strong man" theory, it follows that his candidature must rest upon the record he made while in civil office before. What that record was we have heretofore shown. It is one which would fatally handicap any candidate. And it is necessary that this collapse of the "strong man" movement be pointed out now, since after the nomination it would not only be still more significant, but still more impossible to meet.

A CONGRESSIONAL POEM.

Decidedly the most remarkable literary event of the day has just occurred at Washington, of all places in the world, and still more singular, in Congress. The facts are as follows: The delegate from Wyoming Territory, Mr. Stephen J. Downey, is a gentleman of eccentric tendencies. A short time ago he introduced a bill to appropriate \$50,000 for paintings by living artists commemorating the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, his idea being that these paintings should be hung on the walls of the Capitol, which he thought were sufficiently enriched by representations of scenes from heathen mythology. As the House was not in the humor to listen to his remarks in support of this curious bill, he found no difficulty in obtaining leave to print what he pleased to call an "argument" on the proposition. Next morning the House was astonished out of its property by the discovery that the Delegate from Wyoming had caused to be printed in the solemn pages of the Congressional Record a poem in blank verse and rhyme intermixed, numbering 2,700 lines, and entitled "The Immortals." The poem itself is a most extraordinary production, and must convey abroad the impression that the cultivation of esthetics has been sadly neglected by our Congressmen. It is not only bad verse, but it is nonsense of the most pronounced kind, and betrays in the author a literary incapacity only surpassed by his towering self-conceit. So absurd an incident has never before occurred in Congressional annals, and while a good deal of anger and vexation has been exhibited, and some talk has been had of expelling the too enthusiastic poet, it is probable that the exclusion of his masterpiece from the permanent records of Congress is all that will come of it. If this ridiculous affair should move Congress to put an end to the extravagant and mischievous custom of giving leave for the printing of undelivered speeches, it would not have been without its usefulness, but we fear this practice offers so easy an escape from long-winded and unimpaired harangues, that Congressmen will not be induced to relinquish it without much pressure. Meantime Mr. Downey is the first poet who ever could say that the United States of America had been his publishers, and though he may make this claim we do not think the United States have any reason to be proud of the circumstance.

THE GROWTH OF LIBERTY.

Mr. James T. Mackenzie discusses the question of the growth of social liberty in the Contemporary Review, in opposition to Professor Max Muller. He is of opinion that within the last twenty years liberty has rather been curtailed than extended, and he thinks that had John Stuart Mill been alive he would have repeated all his warnings and reproaches with added emphasis. He takes the ground that the extension of freedom of opinion has been more ostensible than real, and that there is a powerful and despotical conventionalism, which still prevents men from expressing their views candidly on many questions,

such as religion and the relations of the sexes, labor and capital, and several others. There is no doubt such a pressure brought to bear in many regards that men often find it easier to conceal their opinions, but we cannot believe that this tyranny is not far less than it was a quarter of a century ago. If no marked change has taken place in England, assuredly such a change has occurred in American society, and it is one of the most noticeable features of the times. It is desirable that there should be even more freedom than exists, but it would be absurd not to recognize the extent of the gains which have been already made.

PACIFIC COAST ITEMS.

The fare from Carson to Bodie has been reduced from \$15 to \$10. St. James' Sunday-school, at Eureka, Nev., has 150 scholars on its rolls. Bert Gosdyner, the boy who was run over by the cars near Martinez, died at his mother's residence in Oakland Wednesday night. There is a pressing and crying need of a brickmaker and mason at Bakerfield. Some large structures are contemplated and there are plenty of small jobs almost daily. A girl, apparently about 14 years old, was seen driving a six-horse team over Main street, Red Bluff, on Wednesday. She handled the reins and whip equal to an old 49 Jehu. A fine specimen of a shad, such as used to be caught in the Hudson, was on exhibition at an Oakland fish market Thursday. It was captured in the bay, and weighed about a pound and a half. In the Territory of Arizona, with a population of 60,000, there are only five Protestant ministers and four Protestant churches. The churches have a total seating capacity that does not exceed 1,000. They are excited in Carson, says the Bodie Free Press, over a picture on exhibition representing the burning of the Sierra. We have a picture of that sort up here, on a large scale, too. What is most discouraging, it looks as though it was going to remain on exhibition all summer. John M. McKee, of Napa, has just made a purchase of 20,000 acres of land in San Joaquin valley, and receives with his purchase a large amount of grain and live stock. He paid for the property \$200,000, and expects to realize one-half of the purchase money from his grain and live stock this season. Benicia is evidently on the high road to prosperity. The recent advent of the railroad has awakened the dormant energies of the property-owners, and they are improving their houses and surrounding grounds. Several new and cosy little houses are noted as already built, and others are in process of construction. Besides these, there are large buildings, and more valuable improvements, all of them a great contrast to the Benicia of one year ago. Nearly two years ago, says the Alameda Argus, a man living in the western part of town named Frederick Thomson was arrested on a charge of arson, the circumstances attending the burning of his house, it was alleged, warranting the arrest. Thomson was kept in the County Jail six months before he was tried, and was then acquitted by a jury. He has now sued the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company for \$31,350 damages for false imprisonment and attendant loss of work and illness. The Tucson Record of a late date states that the engineers of the Texas Pacific Railroad and also of the Arizona, Colorado and Santa Fe, and Southern Pacific Railroads are at present in El Paso, camped near Fort Bliss. The Southern Pacific have surveyed their line to within ten miles of El Paso. The Arizona company has seized upon the El Paso canyon, and are grading it for the purpose of holding it against the other two. The Texas Pacific has purchased two tracts of land next to old Fort Bliss for the sum of \$11,500. The town is full of strangers, and the railroad boom is at fever heat. There is great excitement in that section. A party of gentlemen who yesterday ascended Mount Davidson—going straight up the face of the mountain—observed a somewhat singular phenomenon. They say that all the ground on the slope of the mountain where bare of snow was completely covered with bugs somewhat resembling Colorado beetles. A bright orange was the predominant color of the beetles, and they were present in vast numbers that it was at first supposed that the ground was covered with a bright-colored moss. The beetles came up out of the ground, and their only business seemed to be to absorb the warmth of the sun. On the eastern face of the mountain the snow-banks are not very deep, but on the northern slope drifts appear to have formed by a great depth.—Virginia Enterprise, April 29th. Los Angeles farmers are interested in a new mode of destroying squirrels and gophers, which has been tried with great success in Texas. It consists of a portable furnace for burning charcoal and sulphur, closed at the top, but with a pipe leading to the ground to convey the fumes into the squirrel-holes. Connected with the furnace is an air pump of cheap construction to force the fumes down into the hole of the furnace has a sharp flange, which cuts into the ground around a squirrel-hole, forming a tight joint. All the holes in the neighborhood are to be filled with dirt, and when smoke is seen coming through the same care to be taken, and the machine moved from point to point until the whole district is passed over. Thousands of squirrels per day may be killed by this cheap and simple method. A colony of bees that had been domiciled in the town hall at Bakerfield for several years had grown too numerous for strict comfort to the occupants of the lodge rooms up stairs. It became necessary to remove them, says the California Argus, and L. B. Ramford undertook the job. The engagement opened about noon and lasted till the shades of night, and by that time about half the inhabitants of the town were besieging the droves for sprits of ammonia, and the bees, though suffering a severe loss of honey stores, remained masters of the field. For several days thereafter the eminently respectable citizens went about disguised as pious, innocuous sheepherders, while others who had never laid claim to distinction announced themselves as prominent citizens, and exhibited the numerous prominences on their heads and faces in vindication of the claim.

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.

[From San Francisco exchanges of April 29th.] The imports of treasure by the Panama steamer yesterday were \$127,319. The United States steamer Lackawanna will leave port to-morrow on a cruise. At 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon Sheriff Desmond took I. M. Ketch, held to answer for the murder of Chas De Young, from the City Prison to the County Jail, where he will remain pending trial in the Superior Court. Yesterday noon eighteen boys confined in the Industrial School escaped from that institution by scaling the south fence by means of a ladder, which had been carelessly left standing near the fence by a carpenter while he was at dinner. Counterfeit half dollars are numerous, and are chiefly dated 1857, 1875 and 1877. The counterfeiters are well executed, but a close scrutiny will reveal a flaw under the talons of the eagle and an imperfection in the letter "f" in the word "half." An applicant for papers of citizenship appeared before one of our Courts a few days ago, and among the questions asked by the Judge was this: "Were you a citizen when you came to the United States?" "No, your Honor," replied the applicant, "I was a carpenter."

HAMLET'S PHYSICAL DISABILITIES.

Mr. E. Vale Blake has a paper in the May Popular Science Monthly, in which he undertakes to argue that Shakespeare meant to draw, in Hamlet, a character in which the physical weight of adipose tissue overcame will energy, and so produced infirmity of purpose and abortive action. The observation of the Queen concerning Hamlet, in the fencing scene, "Ho! he's 'and scant of breath," appears to constitute almost the sole foundation for Mr. Vale's hypothesis. He conceives Hamlet as a lymphatic, sluggish person, capable of powerful emotions under strong provocation, and then volcanic in his outbursts, but always prone to procrastinate and temporize through the enervating effect of his "too, too solid flesh." This idea is worked out with a great deal of force and ingenuity, and it must be said that it has the special merit of making intelligible and coherent many things in the play which have perplexed commentators for generations. There is of course one consideration which demands no notice, namely the consideration that Shakespeare may not have had any such profound and subtle purpose as nearly all his commentators insist on ascribing to him. The mistake of reading new meanings into great authors is one of the commonest, and we are by no means satisfied that much of the literature of Hamlet criticism and exposition has not been of this character. Meantime we are free to say that Mr. Blake has produced a very well arranged and plausible argument, and that in several respects it has more force than the conventional conception of Hamlet, as a lean, saturnine, and sallow youth. Mr. Blake regards him as a blond and corpulent blonde—and a blonde he certainly ought to be, being a Dane—and attributes his general tendency to vacillation to his superabundant fat.

There has seldom been a period when the demand for political reform was more generally recognized than at present, or when more hopelessly different remedies were proposed in greater profusion. In the May number of the International Review Mr. George W. Julian and Mr. Albert Stickney were first, on "The Abuse of the Ballot and its Remedy," and the second on "Government Machinery." Each thinks the plan he proposes can alone save the country, each thinks his plan the one important consideration, yet neither agrees with the other regarding the causes of the existing evils, or the methods of abating them. Mr. Julian declares, in a very energetic manner, that "the sovereign remedy for all the evils connected with 'popular government is popular government.'"

There can be no doubt that the Republican State Convention faithfully represented the predominant public sentiment in instructing the delegates to Chicago to vote for James G. Blaine. The determination which the majority in the Convention showed to bind the delegates to this programme beyond the possibility of escape, may be regarded as the natural consequence of former infidelities to the party will. If in the ironclad resolutions which were adopted on this occasion there is anything repugnant to the spirit of political independence, those men who in former years cheated and misrepresented the Republicans of California must be held responsible for it. The spirit which led to this action is identical with that which in New York has produced that independent movement known as the Young Scatchers' movement, which was forced upon self-respecting citizens as the only possible means of resenting the tyranny of the machine. It has now been made manifest in the plainest way that the California Republicans will submit to no more manipulation of the kind which has more than once before caused the defeat of the party in this State. The party here is for Blaine. Its members feel confident that the State can be carried for him, if he receives the nomination at Chicago. They do not feel confident that it could be carried for Grant, and therefore it was alike their duty and interest to make the expression of sentiment in the Convention as pronounced and emphatic as possible. Nor will this positive and unmistakable declaration be without its influence in other States. We believe it may be asserted that upon this question the view taken by the California Republicans is the view taken by a great majority of all the Republicans on the Pacific slope. On this side of the mountains Blaine is the favorite, and no other candidate can evoke anything like the enthusiasm his nomination would produce. It may be well for those politicians in other States who are now working so hard to prevent the free expression of the popular will in this connection, to pause and mark the increasing signs of restiveness and impatience which are gathering around them. The indications that no candidate who is not indorsed by the rank-and-file of the party before the nomination can obtain a full party vote at the polls, are so unmistakable that persistence in the machine programme already suggested is a doubtful rather to throw the Presidency into the hands of the Democrats than to forego their purpose.