THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

SATURDAY.....MAY 22, 1880.

THE San Francisco office of the Daily RECORD-UNION and WEEKLY UNION is at 208 Montgomery street.

THE LEADING WEEKLY.

There is to-day no paper in the State or on the coast which presents such strong claims to every person feeling the need of a reliable paper as the SACRAMENTO WEEKLY UNION. It is published twice each week in eight page parts, thus bringing the news of the day oftener and earlier to the reader than it is possible for the old style weekly to do. The WEEKLY UNION is the most varied in departments, edited with the most scholarly ability, and conducted with the most regard to the enlightenment of the people, the advancement of the State and the development of her best energies. In art, agriculture, science, political economy, national policy, home and foreign news, general miscellany, sports of the field, market reports, literary reviews, and all the other general features of a first-class journal for the home, street, office, shop and business mart, the WEEKLY UNION has no superior. Its subscription list increases daily with unprecedented rapidity, and in the rapid and continuous extension of its circulation there is no corresponding record.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

IN New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 107½ for 4s of 1907; 103¾ for 5s of 1881; 109¾ for 4½s; sterling, $4 86½@4 89½; silver bars, 114¼; silver coin, ¼ discount buying, par selling.

SILVER in London yesterday, 52¾d; consols, 99 3-16; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 105¼; 4s, 109¾; 4½s, 111.

IN San Francisco half dollars are quoted at par; Mexican dollars, 93 buying, 94 selling.

AT Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 10s @10s 6d for good to choice California.

MINING STOCKS were steadier in San Francisco yesterday morning. Prices were barely up to the best rates Thursday morning. The only thing noticeable about the market was that a sort of armistice had been accepted by both buyers and sellers, and bears and bulls. The changes from Thursday noon were small, and about equally divided between an advance and a decline.

THE station and bridge on the South Pacific Coast Railroad at Glenwood were destroyed by fire yesterday.

JAMES RICE was found dead yesterday at Santa Cruz.

DIPHTHERIA prevails to an alarming extent in some sections of Oregon.

A CHINAWOMAN fell into a creek in Union county, Oregon, Wednesday, and was drowned.

OF the 500 Piute Indians who settled on the Yakima reservation in Oregon a year or so ago, less than 200 now remain.

A. L. HUMPHREY, who arrived in Oregon thirty-three years ago, died in Lane county, that State, Thursday.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S birthday will be celebrated at Portland and Victoria.

AN eight-year-old boy was drowned Thursday evening at Milton, W. T.

THE rush through Seattle for the Skagit mines is increasing.

THE Board of Survey, after examining the iron-clad Monadnock at Mare Island, have rendered a report recommending her completion.

THE Democratic State Convention adjourned sine die at Oakland yesterday at 12:30 P. M.

AN exciting time was had at Omaha yesterday, in connection with the smelting works strike.

THE Illinois Republican State Convention sends a solid delegation to Chicago for Grant. The Convention yesterday nominated candidates for State officers, with Shelby M. Cullom for Governor.

MRS. ELIZABETH RAMSDEN, 51 years old, hanged herself Thursday night at Salem, Or.

GOLD is said to have been discovered in paying quantities near Olympia, W. T.

A CHINAMAN has been appointed Deputy Sheriff in New York city.

IN New York during 1879 there were 255 deaths recorded directly due to drunkenness.

NEAR Powhattan, O., Thursday, Mrs. Emma Jane Robinson murdered her husband, Warren Robinson.

THE French Chamber of Deputies is prorogued to the 15th of July.

TWENTY-FIVE calkers were discharged yesterday from the Mare Island Navy Yard.

THE New Orleans schools are closed, owing to an insufficiency of funds, until October 1st.

A CONSTANTINOPLE dispatch announces that several tribes in the pashalik of Bassovah have revolted.

THE Cabuli troops in Herat are divided into two factions, and are fighting.

THE Alabama Republican State Convention instructed its delegates to Chicago to vote as a unit for Grant.

SUROFF, Prefect of the St. Petersburg Police, has been relieved.

LEON SAY is a candidate for the Presidency of the French Senate.

THE May musical festival at Cincinnati closed last night.

Readers of the RECORD-UNION will find the inside pages of to-day's paper especially worthy of attention. On the second page the regular departments of "Outdoor Amusements" and "The Household" will be found, together with a description of a trip over the Southern Pacific Railroad, a letter from Rev. Dr. Platt on the question of Godless schools, proceedings of the General M. E. Conference at Cincinnati, poetry, etc. The third page contains a continuation of the story "Set in a Silver Sea," the department of "Our Letter-Box," and a letter from Paris. On the sixth page will be found "Agricultural Notes," "The Quiet Hour," notices of new publications, Pacific coast news items, mining notes, etc. The regular weekly review of the San Francisco markets is given on the seventh page.

RUSSIA'S WAR PREPARATIONS.

There can no longer be any doubt that Russia anticipates a war with China, if she has not already resolved that there shall be such a war. She is sending her strongest vessels into the Pacific, and collecting munitions of war in such quantities, and with such haste, as to betoken a serious purpose. Apparently also she intends to carry on her operations more by sea than by land, though such a programme is likely to lead her into complications with other powers, who are not concerned in her quarrel. What China no doubt prefers would be a war in Central Asia, where she would have a great advantage over her enemy, and where her redundant population could be made effective at the least outlay. The Russian commanders are not credited with much knowledge of their profession, but there are some among them who know the difficulties of Central Asiatic campaigning, and these have probably represented the enormous expense of prosecuting a war in that direction. On the sea China is comparatively powerless, but there she is likely to have more effective mediators than in Kuldja, and so the Russian plan may not prove effective after all.

THE GEORGE CHARGES.

We think it will have to be admitted that there is nothing in the so-called George charges, seeing that a Democratic Congressional committee, on the eve of a Presidential campaign, has thought it useless to investigate them, notwithstanding the intimation that they involve accusations against a prominent Republican candidate for the Presidency. Such a refusal under such circumstances certainly must be regarded as a very emphatic verdict of "not guilty." If there were the least plausibility in the charges; if it seemed possible to torture them into a semblance of verisimilitude; it cannot be doubted that they would have been inquired into sufficiently to bring the allegations before the country. Those charges must indeed be transparently foolish and vain which at such a juncture are rejected by a Democratic committee as undeserving notice.

DR. PLATT AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

We print to-day a letter from Dr. Platt in regard to the question of religion in the public schools. It will be seen that he favors the abolition of the State system of education, and the substitution for it of sectarian schools. He proposes, specifically, that the State should confine itself to the maintenance of primary schools, and would have no tax levied "for any school higher than the primary." Yet he admits that this arrangement does not satisfy him: "This is not altogether as "I would have it, for the Church ought to "have access to children in their earliest "school days, and keep it, and in most "cases would have it." Here we have the admission that Dr. Platt really believes in the complete control of education by the Church; and that though he is content to leave the State the primary schools, he only offers this compromise because he thinks it would not prevent the Church from securing most of the younger children also. This is a very serious topic, and we shall treat it with due gravity. Dr. Platt has flung down the gauntlet and denounced the American public school system as prejudicial to the best interests of the country. He claims that the Church, not the State, ought to have the supreme charge over the education of the masses. And to show that he means what he says he has deliberately advised parents to remove their children from the public schools. In the name of freedom of intellectual development, of true progress and civilization, we accept this challenge, and we undertake to prove that Dr. Platt's position is wholly untenable; that it is inimical to Liberty; that it is calculated to foster wretched and debasing superstitions alone; and that his methods could only issue in the degradation of the people, and in the production of a race of foolish, credulous, priest-ridden slaves, incapable of advance and expansion, bigoted as Spaniards, and stagnant as Chinese. And in the first place we will ask why it is that he wants the Church to have control of youthful minds, and why he is not willing to let religion be put upon the same basis as science in the educational course? His answer to this is that "Science pertains to material phenomena, and the "older the mind the better; religion pertains to the feelings and sentiments, and "the younger the mind the better." Dr. Platt ought not to require to be told that this is mere verbiage, and no definition, much less an explanation. The truth is that he wants the Church to have control of the youthful mind because he knows that such beliefs as the Church deals in can only be implanted upon a passive and plastic mind, being so contrary to experience, and so deficient in evidential support, that minds which have been trained in the ethics of belief of necessity reject them. "Religion in the young," he says, "is love, trust, and "awe, apart from any judgment of "the reason, but which is afterwards submitted to the reason." Religion in the young, that is to say, is a blind, unquestioning acceptance of whatever fantasies and fables are presented to the crude childish mind. Being so accepted without question, these beliefs become settled habits of thought, and the time, with the majority of such victims, never comes, when the creed is fairly submitted to the reason. The habit of regarding certain matters as true, without any investigation, will incapacitate even the strongest intellects from subsequent scientific analysis of these beliefs, and this is why so many otherwise clear-thinking men have found it possible to retain the grossest superstitions side by side with the most advanced scientific knowledge. The Christian missionary who goes to India finds no difficulty in detecting the fallacy of the religions he there encounters. He smiles in conscious superiority at the idea of the immaculate conception of Sakya Buddha, at the legendary history of Krishna, at the reputed miracles and supernatural interferences. And he marvels how it is that men should credit such conspicuous and undisguised fictions, and is all the time blind to the complacent and illimitable credulity in the same direction illustrated in his own person and mission.

This is what early training in superstition will do for men. It not only incapacitates them from distinguishing between truth and falsehood; it teaches them to shun truth as something evil. Says Coleridge: "He who begins by loving Christi-"anity better than Truth, will proceed by "loving his own sect or Church better than "Christianity, and end in loving himself "better than all." The first duty of the parent is to see that the child is taught what and how to believe, for upon the education it receives in this regard must depend its future destiny in no slight degree. Dr. Platt seeks to forestall the growth of mental ability to judge between truth and falsehood. He would enforce beliefs upon the immature mind in the hope of thus molding it permanently. And such a proposition we denounce as treason to humanity. "Belief," says Professor Clifford, one of the noblest and clearest minds the country has produced, "is ours not for "ourselves, but for humanity. It is "rightly used on truths which have been "established by long experience and wasting toil, and which have stood in the "fierce light of free and fearless questioning. Then it helps to bind men together, "and to strengthen and direct their common action. It is desecrated when given "to unproved and unquestioned statements, for the solace and private pleasure of the believer; to add a tinsel "splendor to the plain, straight road of "our life and display a bright "mirage beyond it; or even to "drown the common sorrows of our kind "by a self-deception which allows them "not only to cast down, but also to degrade us. Whoso would deserve well of "his fellows in this matter will guard "the purity of his belief with a very "fanaticism of jealous care, lest at any "time it should rest on an unworthy object, and catch a stain which can never "be wiped away." The primary condition of healthy mental development is training in the ethics of belief, and discipline in inquiry. No complete character can be built up without this foundation. No courageous and useful investigation can be hoped for from any other kind of men than such as are so educated. But Dr. Platt would poison the whole fountain of education, would debauch the tender minds of our children, by teaching them that belief without inquiry was a duty, and by habituating them to regard the most degrading superstitions with complacency and blind faith until they have lost the capacity for distinguishing between the credible and the incredible. We assert that the first duty of the State to its people is to see that they are given the means of learning to judge, and that to this end the teaching of Science in the public schools ought to be greatly expanded. And we assert that this is the true religious scheme of education, and that Dr. Platt's view is in its essence irreligious. For of Science it can be said, as Herbert Spencer has eloquently observed: "It alone can give us true con-"ceptions of ourselves and our relation to "the mysteries of existence. At the same "time that it shows us all which can be "known, it shows us the limits beyond "which we know nothing. Not by dog-"matic assertion does it teach the impossi-"bility of comprehending the ultimate "causes of things; but it leads us to "recognize the impossibility by bringing "us in every direction to boundaries we "cannot cross. It realizes to us in a way "which nothing else can, the littleness of "human intelligence in the face of that "which transcends human intelligence. "While toward the traditions and authori-"ties of men its attitude may be proud, "before the impenetrable veil which hides "the Absolute its attitude is humble—a "true pride and a true humility. Only "the sincere man of science can truly "know how utterly beyond, not only "human knowledge, but human conception, is the Universal Power of which "Nature, and Life, and Thought are man-"ifestations."

But Dr. Platt would dwarf men's minds, and put their souls on the Procrustean bed of superstition and dogmatic theology. Between his position and that of Rome there is indeed nothing to choose, and whoever has resisted Roman assaults upon our public school system must regard this Protestant attack as equally dangerous and deadly. It is upon the schools that the future of the country depends. Whatever power controls the schools will mold the destinies of the nation. The pretense that morals can only be taught in connection with religion, is one the fallacy of which has long since been exposed. Morals are the necessary result of the growth of society and the experience of men in their relations with one another. The influence of religion upon morals has always been enormously exaggerated. The most religious ages, or the ages when the human mind submitted most abjectly to the Church, have been among the most flagrantly immoral in history. The truth is that morality is not only independent of religion, but the morality which is taught independently of religion is higher and broader than that which is taught in connection with it. The idea that teaching children to believe a number of statements which are not only incapable of demonstration, but the falsity of many of which is susceptible of proof, can improve their morals, is indeed one which could only have occurred to a mind already hopelessly warped by the practice of blind credulity. But it is too late for the successful advancement of such barbarous and retrogressive propositions. The world has at last extricated itself from the strangling clutches of the priesthood, and the era of scientific education has dawned. Henceforth religion must stand upon a scientific basis, or it must fall. There can no longer be any tolerance for the stifling and paralyzing system under which for so many centuries the human mind was coerced into the blind acceptance of preposterous dogmas, and prevented from inquiring into the truth of the things it was compelled to accede to. There is no disposition among the American people to return to those methods. Thinking men hold that a religion which cannot stand fair and full analysis must be a very poor and worthless affair, and those who are willing to doom their children to the degradation of education by "faith," as opposed to education by reason, are becoming fewer every day. The American educational creed is broadening continually, and it is both necessary and well that it should be so. The Church is free to teach what it can get people to believe, but it must not tamper with the schools. There the children are to learn how to exercise their judgment; how to distinguish between what is credible and what is not credible; how to appreciate the mystery and marvel of the universe; how to realize their relations to their surroundings in all ways. By such a training they will be prepared to choose wisely in regard to religion, and true religion has everything to hope, and nothing to fear, from the ripening of the popular judgment, and the elevation of the popular standard of belief. But for such schemes as Dr. Platt's there is needed a public sentiment such as the Middle Ages alone could have supplied, and a patience under priestly arrogance and priestly contempt for reason which, thanks to the spirit of civilization and enlightenment, the world has outgrown.

THE POLITICAL FIELD.

Logan has fulfilled his contract, and delivered the forty-two votes of Illinois for Grant. The methods pursued in doing this, however, have created an amount of feeling which is certain to bear fruit hereafter, and will deepen the hostility to machine politics already so generally manifested. The Illinois Convention was captured by the Grant men, and the minority were not allowed a hearing. The final action was so far from being unanimous that it had the support of a bare majority of the Convention. This settles the question of the vote of Illinois, however, and in the opinion of many it also assures the nomination of Grant at Chicago on the first ballot. Certainly the probability that he will obtain the nomination is very strong, and therefore it is in order to examine the situation, and ascertain what prospect of his election exists. In the first place it will have to be admitted by even the most stalwart supporters of Grant that he can only be elected by securing the full vote of the Republican party. The idea that he has anything to expect from Democratic votes is not worth considering. The Democracy will come out of the South with 138 votes, and they only need to carry New York and Indiana besides to make the next President. The Republicans cannot count upon a single electoral vote in the Southern States. They must make all their gains in the North and West. They will need a solid North in order to win the fight. Can they obtain it with Grant as their candidate? In endeavoring to find an answer to this question it is necessary to take into consideration the late St. Louis Convention of anti-third-termers. At that Convention it was resolved to put a third candidate in the field in the event of Grant's nomination at Chicago, and a committee of one hundred was appointed to take the necessary steps in that contingency. The men who met on that occasion were assuredly in earnest, and they were as unmistakably representative men. They stood for a large and influential element; an element which is not only irreconcilably hostile to the third-term scheme, but which is equally opposed to the nomination of the particular candidate now being pushed so determinedly to the front. It must therefore be counted as among the certainties that if Grant is nominated a third candidate will be put in the field. No doubt much will depend upon who that candidate is, but it must be assumed that a man will be selected of sufficient character and repute to secure the hearty support of all the Republicans who are opposed to Grant and the third term. It will of course be claimed that such a movement cannot seriously injure the Republican prospects, but no one who realizes the extreme closeness of party strength even when no disorganizing influences are in operation, can regard such an outlook without grave misgiving. It must also be considered that the probable action of the Democrats threatens to strengthen the independent movement. At present there seems no reason to doubt that Tilden will be the Democratic nominee, and if he is it is very certain that no dissatisfied Republican will think of voting the Democratic ticket.

In such a case there must be a tendency in certain elements in both parties to center upon the third candidate. This tendency may not be strong in the Democratic party, but it will be very strong among Republicans. Can the Republican party hope to win under such circumstances? We are aware that the machine managers have calculated upon the abandonment of all serious opposition as soon as Grant was nominated, but from a careful study of the indications throughout the country we are convinced that they are deceiving themselves in this. There is a strongly marked and firm determination in many quarters not to accept Grant as a candidate, and we entertain no doubt that this determination will be held to unflinchingly. The fact therefore must be fully recognized that the nomination of Grant will be the signal for such a break in the Republican ranks as has never occurred before, and that this break will take place at a time when every Republican vote is needed to make victory at the polls possible. The Grant managers apparently have it in their power now to put their programme through, but they do not possess the power to make the Republican masses indorse their policy, and as the case stands this really involves the whole outcome of the campaign. The party could never so ill afford to lose votes as this year; yet if Grant is nominated it may be said that it was never so certain to lose them. It is difficult to understand how those who desire to see the Republican party successful can approve a course which is on its face so hopeless as that now being pursued. It may be alleged that the indications of disaffection are exaggerated, but our observation does not warrant that view. On the contrary, we think the opposition to Grant in many of the Eastern States is far stronger and deeper than has yet appeared, and that consequently the nomination of a third candidate threatens to produce a disruption which will at once be seen to be fatal to all hopes of success for the regular nominee. This is the present outlook, and we see no probability of its modification. It is of course equally useless to advise or complain at such a juncture, but it is impossible not to realize that the whole Grant movement has been an extraordinary piece of infatuation.

TURKEY AND THE GLADSTONE MINISTRY.

The Gladstone Ministry is evidently determined to lose no time in bringing the Eastern question to a settlement, if that be possible. It sees that the increasing weakness of the Porte must shortly bring about a collapse, and that unless such an occurrence has been prepared for it is likely to produce complications of the most dangerous character. The mission of Mr. Goschen in this connection is very significant. He has already had interviews with the German, French and Austrian Ministers, and it is believed that when he goes to Constantinople he will be prepared to inform the Sultan's advisers that Europe is agreed upon the necessity of definite and satisfactory financial and administrative arrangements, and that the Porte must forthwith place itself in the hands of the Powers, or at once abandon the attempt to maintain the fragments of the Ottoman Empire. The utter inability of the Turkish authorities to introduce any reforms, and their obstinate adherence to their old corrupt and violent methods, have at last tired out the patience of Europe. The capitalists and financiers, the rulers of the money market, are aware that Turkey, both in Asia and Europe, affords a magnificent field for investment in many ways, and that nothing is required to make such investment profitable but the abolition of the Ottoman rule. The present scheme is to create an independent territory between the Danube and Bosphorus, and to make Constantinople neutral ground. This is not an easy programme, but it seems to be the only one which offers any prospect of accomplishment, and since it is certain that none of the Powers will consent to a protectorate exercised by one of their number, it may be the best that is in the situation. That the Turks will have to go sooner or later, however, appears inevitable. They are bankrupt in every way. They can neither govern nor fight. They can neither build up a new empire, nor keep the fragments of the old one together. In short their part in Europe is played out, and whether they have any other role in store remains to be seen. The only circumstance suggesting the possibility of this is the rapid growth of Mohammedanism. That religion is now making conquest alike of Africa and Asia, and is even cutting a broad swathe through China. It is driving Buddhism out of Hindostan, and Fetishism out of Central Africa. It is being pushed by energetic and zealous missionaries, and is infusing new life into scores of barbarous races. What this great religious movement portends cannot as yet be conjectured, but remembering that the Porte is the head of Islam it may be conceived as possible that in the not distant future a new Mohammedan crusade might be led by the remnants of the once martial race now apparently on the eve of being driven from the Bosphorus.

A LESSON TO BE STUDIED CAREFULLY.

It too often happens that the most interesting and instructive events happen before our eyes without conveying any suggestion, merely because we are not observing them thoughtfully and critically. A few weeks ago there occurred a change of Government in England, for example. What did that event signify for the most of us? Simply that the Liberals had become more popular than the Conservatives, and so had beaten their opponents. But there was in this event a most suggestive point. When Lord Beaconsfield was defeated, what was the effect upon the English Civil Service? There was no effect. Every man who had previously held office under the Government continued to hold it, with the exception of some fourteen persons, direct members of the Government, who resigned their places. And how quickly the popular will is reflected in the change of Government. The elections are held. The Conservatives are beaten. And in three weeks from the beginning of the elections the Liberal Government has been formed, and has already made its peculiar policy felt to the farthest limits of the British Empire. Does it not strike the thoughtful reader that in these things there lie lessons which Americans may well study with care? Here we have a complete demonstration of what civil service reform will do for national politics. There is in England no lack of popular interest in politics. On the contrary, the popular interest increases continually. But there are no places to be worked for at primaries or in local conventions. There are no means of propping up rotten Congressional timber with Custom-house appointments and Postoffices. Every man who desires to enter public life as a politician must stand upon his own bottom. There is no doubt still too much bribery and corruption, but no American politician will pretend that we are exempt from that form of abuse. We have bribery and corruption of the English kind, plus the official corruption machinery pertaining specially to our system. There they have advanced so far as to bring the Government directly within reach of the popular will. Here, with a professedly democratic scheme of government, the control of affairs is practically beyond the reach of the masses, and even when they succeed in changing the policy of the dominant party, they have to wait a long time before their will finds expression in the law-making power. A change of Government crowns a fierce campaign in England, and no more than fourteen persons change office. The whole complex machinery of the Government runs on without a check or a pause, and no man in office has any reason to apprehend dismissal because his politics do not agree with those of the new Government. Surely this is a result well worth attainment. Surely we shall have no security against the most dangerous and demoralizing corruption until we have divorced our civil service from party politics in like manner.

PULP MANUFACTURERS IN CONGRESS.

The persistence with which the united efforts of the press of this country to procure a reduction or repeal of the duty upon paper and its materials, have been opposed, has naturally provoked a great deal of surprise, the tendency of the average politician being generally to shun the displeasure of the press and to court its good-will. When therefore a whole Congress shows itself not merely indifferent to the good-will of the press, but deaf to the appeals of justice made in its behalf, the presumption is that something more than meets the eye is influencing the situation, and that these Congressmen are in fact beng braced up from behind the scenes in some incomprehensible manner. The explanation of this mystery is said to have been discovered in the circumstance that two former members of Congress (we are not sure whether or not they still hold seats) contrived to smuggle a bill through which gave them the monopoly of paper pulp manufacture. These monopolists, it seems, have since sold their exclusive privileges, at the rate of $75,000 a year, to as many other firms as represent an annual income of $1,500,000. All this capital, and all that is indirectly invested in the business, is now fighting the press, and endeavoring to retain the duty on imported pulp. The presumption of course is that the two old Congressmen who engineered the bill through and so made fortunes for themselves, have been supplying the necessary "nerve" to the present Congress, which they are certainly well able to do. They could in fact afford to spend a couple of millions upon the lobby rather than lose their enormously lucrative monopoly, and no doubt they are prepared to spend whatever sum is necessary to prevent the repeal of the obnoxious tariff. Meantime the press has no corruption fund available. If Congress is venal, all the press can do is to prevent the men now there from being returned again; and if they are paid well enough to make up for the curtailment of their public careers, they are not likely to care much for the infliction of that penalty. It is possible, however, that the exposure of this state of things may bring about its abrogation, for shame sometimes effects what no appeal to a sense of honor or justice can accomplish. It is a monstrous thing that the whole press should be taxed wantonly for no other purpose than the enrichment of a handful of greedy manufacturers, and a clear fixing of the responsibility for this iniquity will have to be done in the near future.

A FACT WHICH NEEDS TO BE APPRECIATED.

One of the commonest and most misleading of fallacies is the belief that when individuals become very rich they somehow represent a robbery of the rest of the community. How common this notion is was impressed upon us recently by the remark of a gentleman, himself wealthy, that Vanderbilt possessed more money than any one man ought to be permitted to retain. The implied reason of course was that Vanderbilt could not have become thus wealthy without having forced a proportionate number of people into poverty. But there is no foundation in fact for this belief. The truth is that so long as there is general freedom of acquisition and employment, and security for property and life, and protection for all alike, it does not signify how rich individuals become; they cannot impoverish the community in so doing, but rather they expand and multiply its avenues of acquisition and its capacities for enjoyment. There is always room enough in the world for everybody. There is no limit to the creation of new capital. It would be possible for every man in the United States to become possessed of ten millions of dollars, and still there would be plenty left for the rest of the world. No man injures another by becoming rich. On the contrary, whoever absorbs and accumulates capital, and reinvests it in various ways, adds as much new life to his neighborhood as though he had brought and settled there a number of families whose productive capacity would equal his expenditure of capital. The growth of rich men is in fact indispensable to rapid progress in civilization. Uniform poverty involves uniform barbarism and stagnation. Vanderbilts are no doubt calculated to excite the envy of the sluggish and the narrow-minded, but they are none the less phenomena which bespeak the strength and vitality of modern civilization, and which prove the magnificence of the possibilities in this republic. Vanderbilt's wealth has been accumulated under free institutions, and it is an evidence of what can be done without force or fraud, and simply by enterprise, judgment, brain-power and perseverance. Such figures serve as examples of what may be effected in these times, but they represent no impoverishment of the masses.

THE DEMOCRATIC "FRAUD" ISSUE.

The Democratic State Convention which met at Oakland this week adopted a platform containing among other things a resolution denouncing "the fraud by which "R. B. Hayes and W. A. Wheeler were "declared President and Vice-President of "the United States, and the fairly elected "candidates, Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas "A. Hendricks, counted out." It is true that some time has elapsed since the events referred to in this resolution are alleged to have happened, but this ought not to have rendered the Democratic Convention oblivious to the facts of history. The so-called fraud of which they complain was the issue of an agreement to which their own most trusted leaders and representatives were consenting parties, and to all the results of which those leaders and representatives subscribed. It is the hight of nonsense for these Democrats, therefore, to talk as though the election of Hayes and Wheeler had been effected in a surreptitious manner, and the only inference that can be drawn from it is that they never intended that the Electoral Commission should act freely and independently. For rational beings to agree to a certain method of adjusting a difficult dispute, and then to find fault with the adjustment solely because it did not give the victory to their side, is ridiculous and puerile. Moreover, the cry of fraud has been out of place in Democratic mouths ever since the exposure of Tilden's cipher transactions, nor will the lapse of time justify its resurrection. It has been too conclusively proved that the Democratic candidate did his best to buy his way into the Presidency to make it possible for his supporters to utter the word "fraud" without stultifying themselves. Those who uphold Samuel J. Tilden as an honest and reputable candidate must be altogether too thick-skinned to be good judges of moral questions.

POSSIBLY A WHOLESOME FEAR.

A Washington dispatch reports a Democratic Senator as favoring some action in regard to the electoral count, on the ground that if nothing was done at this session the Republicans might override the Democratic majority in both houses by force, and seat their candidate by the bayonet. This is not a complimentary view to take of the law-abiding disposition of the Republicans, though it must be admitted that it is justified by the bragging talk of the "stalwarts," about the need for a "strong" man. But if this fear of violence should induce the Democrats to deal with the question of the electoral count, it will prove to have been a salutary apprehension, and the country will have something to thank the "stalwarts" for at last.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors yesterday all the members were present.

On motion, a vote of thanks was adopted for donation of goods to a destitute family by the firm of Weinstock & Lubin through the Board of Supervisors.

Bids for furnishing drugs for the City and County Dispensary were opened from M. S. Hammer, A. C. Tufts, Bell & Kolliker and Terry McMorry, and contract awarded to A. C. Tufts, who was the lowest bidder.

HALL OF RECORDS.

The following notice to contractors was introduced by Supervisor Beckley:

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Supervisors of the county of Sacramento on or before the 8th day of July, 1880, at 10 o'clock A. M., for erecting a fire-proof building for the records on the lot adjoining and west of the Court-house, or some lot adjacent thereto in the same block, said building to be paid for out of a special tax levied this fall as provided by an Act of the Legislature, approved April 27, 1880, amended laws, Section 4,046 of the Codes. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Plans and specifications can be seen from June 1st at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Court-house, Sacramento, Cal.

Mr. Beckley then offered in support of the above the report of the Citizens' Committee made December 11, 1879, as follows:

Your committee, to whom was referred the question of providing a Hall of Records for the safe keeping of the records of Sacramento county, beg leave to report as follows:

First—We believe the county should, as soon as practicable, build a fire-proof Hall of Records. We believe there is great unanimity among the taxpayers of the county in favor of such a step.

Second—We think the present Court-house lot is too small to afford sufficient room for a properly-lighted building, and therefore advise the immediate purchase of the next adjoining half lot to the west of the Court-house, 40x160 feet, if it can be had at a price not exceeding $5,000. We believe the present Board of Supervisors have the power and means to effect this purchase.

Third—In regard to the erection of the building, we would advise that no steps be taken until after the next Legislature shall have passed a general law (which they must do under the new Constitution) for the government of counties. The best course to be pursued in the erection of the building will depend much on the provisions of that law. If it should be deemed necessary to proceed with the work in the early spring, probably it will require a special election and vote of the people to authorize the expenditure. It, however, the building can be delayed until fall, it may probably be done without any such election.

Fourth—We are of the opinion that a suitable fire-proof building can be erected and finished, ready for the occupation of the records, at a cost of about $15,000; and certainly an expenditure greater than $20,000 for the building and furniture (exclusive of the cost of the lot) ought not to be imposed on the taxpayers for the building.

N. L. DREW,
L. C. CHANDLER,
J. McGUIRE,
FINDLEY R. DRAY.

The subject of issuing notice to contractors and inviting proposals was fully considered by the Board and adopted.

THE CHAIN GANG.

Upon motion of Mr. Bailey, the Chair was instructed to appoint a committee to confer with the Board of City Trustees in relation to the chain-gang.

The Chair appointed as such committee the full Board of Supervisors, to meet with the Board of City Trustees at the City Hall on Monday, the 24th instant, at 10 A. M.

COUNTY AUDITOR'S ACCOUNTS.

The following expert report on accounts of the County Auditor and ex officio Recorder was received and approved:

SACRAMENTO, May 17, 1880.

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento—Gentlemen: I have examined accounts of William E. Gerber, County Auditor and ex officio Recorder, from March 6, 1878 to March 1, 1880. From examination of total fees collected and entered in fee book, and fees paid him by Collector of Licenses, and cash paid by him to Treasurer, I find that all excess of fees over salary have been paid by him to the county. Each voucher on file I have compared with warrants issued and returned paid, finding the same to agree, no warrants issued for which there are no vouchers on file. Each amount of cash paid County Treasurer, as shown by accounts of other county officers, reports and receipts on file, have been correctly charged to the account of the County Treasurer, and each monthly credit for warrants and interest coupons paid by Treasurer has been correctly computed and entered. I have checked, compared and computed total amounts of all warrants and coupons so returned, proved the correctness of all amounts entered, credited, and all balances of cash book, finding the same correct. All of the accounts of the county are kept in clear and intelligent shape. Fee book and records clean and clear. Respectfully,

A. J. HOPPER,
County Expert.

Also, the following report was received and approved of the

COUNTY TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS.

SACRAMENTO, May 17, 1880.

To the Hon. Board of Supervisors of the county of Sacramento—Gentlemen: I have examined accounts of County Treasurer D. E. Callahan from March 1, 1878, to March 1, 1880, and find as follows: All amounts of cash paid him by county officers, etc., as shown by reports on file in office of County Auditor, and all credits for warrants and interest paid, are correctly entered in cash book, his cash book being a duplicate in entire of County Auditor's, agreeing with same. All cash received is entered previous to March 1, 1880, except $169 61 received as migratory tax from other counties, entered to account May 12, 1880, and short credit of $5 in warrant paid, corrected same date. The following statements show total receipts and disbursements of County Treasurer from March 1, 1878, to March 1, 1880. Respectfully,

A. J. HOPPER, County Expert.

Table showing figures for the term accompanied the report.

BOND AND PETITIONS.

The bond of Stanton Meyers for Road Overseer of Freeport Ferry road was approved.

The petition of the American River Bridge Company asking the Board to withhold the fixing of rates of tolls, and the times that same shall take effect, until the 22d day of June, and that the hearing of the matter for a free ferry be heard at the same time, was granted.

A petition was received from J. B. Green, N. H. Holister, C. W. Clark and J. M. Stephenson, asking that the order of the Board of the 18th inst. organizing a new swamp land district, being a portion of old Swamp Land District No. 2, be set aside on account of informalities in the proceeding establishing the same, which petition was granted.

The petitioners thereupon filed a new petition for the formation of such reclamation district, and the matter was set for hearing on June 23, 1880, at 11 o'clock A. M.

L. Winters, G. W. Locke and S. Lavenson petitioned to have certain lands set apart as a swamp land district, which matter was set for hearing on June 23, 1880.

A petition from residents of Mississippi township, asking the Board to form a new school district, was received, and will be considered on June 8th, at 2 P. M.

A CAPITAL MISTAKE OF CALIFORNIA CAPITALISTS.

[Los Angeles Herald, May 24.]

During the opening stages of her history California was so prodigally endowed that many colossal fortunes were accumulated by men who were not noted for exceptional general intelligence or business sagacity. Riches simply gravitated to some men, and they waxed wealthy without very well understanding how. Owing to the extravagant rates of interest which prevailed, after a man had accumulated money a very fascinating employment was to loan it out at one and a half and two per cent. a month. Manufacturing industries were avoided in favor of usury, and later came the poppy-drunk of the Comstock. To-day California is struggling under the load of too much interest and too much dependence on purely gambling stock excitements.

For several years past a well-defined crisis has characterized the Pacific coast, the salient features of which are the decay of the Comstock lode, the development of Colorado as a treasure producer and the system of railway extension which makes it possible to unlock that storehouse of the precious metals, Arizona. It was entirely in the power of San Francisco capitalists to have monopolized Colorado. They preferred, instead, to surrender the glorious opening to Eastern capitalists; and, as a result, Omaha is to-day a far more important bullion center than San Francisco. Arizona is, par excellence, a California outpost, and yet the unlimited openings there have been partially thrown away by our sluggish "solid" men. For one Californian who to day has a dollar invested in Arizona there are ten citizens of Philadelphia and Pittsburg, to say nothing of the East generally, who have put ten dollars into Arizona prospects.

The fact is that Arizona promises a greater development than either Nevada or Colorado, although we are aware that it will not do to talk flippantly about Nevada, with its unprecedented treasure yield. Nevertheless there is hardly a section of our neighboring Territory from which encouraging accounts of mineral developments do not reach us. These deposits are scattered about with a prodigality without precedent, and no man can say but that, when the era of deep mining shall arrive for the Territory, the history of the Comstock lode will be reproduced over and over again. Nothing in mining annals will compare with the present record of the Tombstone and Patagonia districts. They have literally developed themselves, under almost incredible difficulties, although Eastern capital is now beginning to flow into them very abundantly.

This is a very bad omen for California. We must be permitted to speak a word of warning. Do not our capitalists know that if this process is allowed to go on, railway extension, involving a connection with the East, will result in the loss of the entire trade of Arizona to this State? We in Los Angeles occupy a comparatively independent position. The people of the Territory must have our soil products, ranging from the olive, orange and pomegranate to the potato. They will require our wines and brandies and flour and grain. But with San Francisco the case is far different. Only a controlling interest in the developments of Arizona can secure to that city a large proportion of the trade of Arizona from the very moment there is a through rail connection with the East below the snow-belt. A very slight sagacity would suggest to the business men of San Francisco that they ought to be up and doing. One half of the money lavished yearly on the Comstock lode would bind Arizona to the metropolis of the Pacific coast as with hooks of steel. In the one case the money appears to be thrown away on a minerological squeezed lemon; in the other, it would be expended in securing the domination of a very promising virgin treasure field. How it comes that San Franciscans have been so remiss thus far to their interests is the mystery of our journalistic observation.

However, it is quite possible to repair the stupid oversight. The opportunity still lies open to the capitalists of San Francisco. What will they do with it? Will they repair their blunder or aggravate it? Time only can tell, and the time is growing short, withal.

An umbrella factory was recently destroyed in Philadelphia. The man who set it on fire committed arson, but he kept a great many other people from violating the eighth commandment.

When his cousin, Charlotte Dunne, was married, Jones said: "It was Dunne before it was begun, Dunne while it was being done, and not Dunne when it was done."