ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE

THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

SATURDAY.....JUNE 19, 1880.

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

THE WEEKLY UNION.

With the opening of the campaign the WEEKLY UNION will be of still greater interest to the people. While it will in no respect lessen in the variety of its matter, it will present also the current political news in such manner as to enable its readers by its perusal to be constantly well informed on the issues before the people and the positions assumed by the respective political parties. The WEEKLY UNION presents each week more and better matter than can be found in any journal of the Pacific coast. It gives the current news and criticism in art, science, agriculture, trade, mechanics, the social world, fashion, discovery, invention, mining, sporting affairs, literature, etc. It appears in semi-weekly parts, each part consisting of eight pages. Thus it makes up weekly an aggregate of sixteen pages of select matter. It goes out twice a week instead of once, as is the rule with the old style weeklies. It thereby reaches its readers with fresher news than the ordinary weekly can furnish. The reader of the UNION will find that he is three days ahead in information regarding current news of the world, than his neighbor who adheres to the once-a-week journals of the day. The UNION presents the latest and fullest telegraphic advices, has a large corps of correspondents, and devotes itself to the development of the State and coast, the opening up of the resources of the country, and the advancement and elevation of the people. The UNION has had an unprecedented addition to its subscription lists during a year past, and the extension of its circulation continues with unabated vigor. The UNION is furnished by mail, post-paid, for $2 per year.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 108½ for 4s of 1907; 103½ for 5s of 1881; 109¾ for 4½s; sterling, $4 86½@4 87; silver bars, 115½; silver coin, ¼ discount buying, par selling.

Silver in London yesterday, 52¾d; consols, 98 9-16; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 105½; 4s, 110¼; 4½s, 112.

In San Francisco half dollars are quoted at par; Mexican dollars, 93 buying, 93½ selling.

At Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 9s 6d@10s for good to choice California.

Mining stocks were lower in San Francisco yesterday. The Comstocks opened tolerably steady at the early informal call, but weakened under free offerings at the regular session. The decline in these descriptions since Thursday noon varies from 5c to 87½c per share. The Bodie stocks were also weaker. Goodshaw fell to $1 90 yesterday morning, after selling at $3 25 two days ago.

Four men were killed in a mine at Gold Hill, Nev., yesterday, and four others injured.

Fire at the Dalles, Or.

The Teachers' Institute of Siskiyou county is in session at Yreka.

A young man named Lake was accidentally shot and killed near Millerton, Fresno county, Wednesday.

The Grand Lodge, A. O. U. W., for Oregon, will convene at Astoria June 23d.

The evidence is all in at Santa Cruz in the case of Otto, the defaulting County Treasurer, and the arguments were commenced yesterday.

Twelve Algerine convicts, escaped from Cayenne, have arrived at Boston.

The departure of an expedition from Arizona to take possession of the State of Sonora, Mexico, is to be prevented by the military authorities.

The census of Chicago indicates that the population of that city is about 475,000.

Samuel Garratt was seriously injured at Chiles Valley, Napa county, Tuesday, by the explosion of a rifle cartridge.

The population of Brooklyn, N. Y., is stated at 555,000.

William Thomas Thornton, the English author, is dead.

St. Louis finds from the census that her population is only 375,000.

The Supreme Court of Indiana has decided that an October election must be held in that State.

The President yesterday appointed John M. Morton Surveyor of Customs at San Francisco.

According to a London dispatch Lorillard's Falsetto has been scratched for all his engagements.

Fires raged in the wood-piles in the mountains near Washoe City, Nev., last night.

The prospects of the Ceylon coffee crop are unfavorable this year.

John McGuire, a State Prison convict, was sentenced to death at San Rafael yesterday for the murder of another convict named Andrews.

Samuel Sampson Howard was hanged yesterday at Bastrop, Tex., for the murder of Alexander Farmer.

Three incendiaries, who were to have been hanged yesterday at Greenville, S. C., were granted a further lease of life by a respite.

In an uprising of troops at Havana, Cuba, six of the mutineers were shot.

Jessie Jones, aged 12 years, was drowned at Seattle, W. T., yesterday.

The citizens of Silver City, N. M., are on the brink of starvation, no provisions being obtainable for love or money.

Joseph Montgomery committed suicide Wednesday near Tucson, A. T., with strychnine.

At Tucson, Thursday, the thermometer marked 130° in the shade, and yesterday 125°.

The North Carolina Democratic State Convention, which met at Raleigh yesterday, was so largely attended that an open air meeting was necessary. Jarvis was nominated for Governor.

Quiet has been completely restored at Leadville, Col., and all the militia except one company have been mustered out.

The local option resolution was yesterday adopted in the English House of Commons by 229 to 203.

Readers of the RECORD-UNION will find much to interest them on the inside pages of to-day's paper. On the second page will be found "Agricultural Notes," "Outdoor Amusements," a letter from New York, poetry and miscellany. The third page contains a continuation of the story "Set in a Silver Sea," a letter from Candelaria, Nev., the household department and other matters. A review of new publications is given on the sixth page, together with the department of "The Quiet Hour" and various articles of interest. Our regular weekly review of the San Francisco market will be found on the seventh page.

KEARNEY HOLDING HIS OWN.

Kearney has been interviewed, and expressed the opinion that what California needed was immigration from the East, but that until he had exterminated all the hell-bound villains now infesting the State, and had compelled the Chinese to go, such a migration could not well be expected. If Kearney himself could only be persuaded to settle down at the East, we think the movement westward could be started without much difficulty, however. A few of his characteristic addresses would prepare the best elements of the Eastern population to go anywhere to get out of the reach of his foghorn voice. And if, after they had gone West, some philanthropist would cause Kearney to be cremated, it is very probable that they could be induced to stay with us.

A DEMAGOGUE REBUKED.

The House of Commons administered a heavy rebuke to the demagogue O'Donnell, who so persistently and indecently attempted to make the House journals a vehicle for his malevolent and improper attack upon a foreign Embassador. He endeavored to brazen it out despite the emphatic condemnation of the whole House, without distinction of party, but being threatened by the Speaker with arrest or expulsion if he persisted in defying the authority of the House, he found it expedient to sneak out, having taken nothing by his motion but such a stinging censure as anyone with a thinner hide than that of a rhinoceros must have collapsed under. It is very rarely that the House unites in censuring one of its members, but when it does there is no room for doubt that the condemnation is deserved.

PRACTICAL AND UNPRACTICAL EDUCATION.

We are glad to see that the local Board of Education has had the good sense to make arrangements for a fair test of the Quincy school system, and that the most certain method of testing it, namely by importing a Quincy teacher, has been adopted. We have no doubt as to the result of the experiment. The Quincy system has only to be known to be preferred, for it is emphatically a practical system, and it really educates, which is more than can be said without reservation of the more common methods. Unfortunately fashions and traditions have governed educational as well as all other matters in the past, and the influence of these fashions and traditions has been quite strikingly exhibited during the recent educational flurry in this city. It has for some time been a superstition that the study of arithmetic was of the first importance, and the desire that this branch of instruction should be fully attended to has led to the growth of a slavish deference for arithmetic of itself, without any reference to its practical use. As a result teachers have come to regard brilliant tricks of fence—"schoolmasterisms," as they are called in the profession—as the aim of instruction, and the public have followed the lead with characteristic thoughtlessness. There is always danger that the ultimate purpose of education will be lost sight of, and that the ceremonial will come to dominate, as it has so universally done in religion. Indeed, this tendency has been the bane of all educational policies in all ages and countries, and it is only within a few years that any determined, general, or enlightened effort has been made to substitute practical for unpractical education. A common cant phrase among the old-fashioned educators has always been the value of unpractical studies for mental discipline. This has been alleged invariably as an excuse for devoting the most precious years to the acquisition of the most useless knowledge. The extravagant regard for the classics of Greece and Rome which unquestionably has operated more than any other cause to retard intellectual progress, to foster a narrow and mischievous conceit of learning, and to distort the general view as to what constituted desirable instruction, is directly in point. But it is quite possible to employ other studies as harmfully as the dead languages have been employed, and if the old shibboleth of aids to mental discipline be brought in support of the wrong, quite as much stagnation may be produced by arithmetic or grammar as by the classics. We do not hesitate to say that the amount of time bestowed upon grammar and arithmetic in the schools at present is out of all proportion to their usefulness. At least half the arithmetic taught is never needed in any way from the time the school career is closed, and as for grammar, nobody ever learned to speak, write or compose accurately from the study of a text-book. Years are in fact thrown away in the acquisition of dry and barren forms, which ought to have been utilized for the conveyance of real practical knowledge. Arithmetic is no doubt necessary to an educational course, but it is not the one great purpose of education, and too much of it may very easily be taught. It should be sought to teach children the outlines, at least, of the history of the human race; the physical structure, first of the earth they inhabit, second of the bodies they exist through. The language of this country should be made familiar to them through its best literature, and thus taste and judgment would be formed and strengthened at the same time that knowledge is imparted. One of the most fatal mistakes of the whole educational system is the theory of text-book compilation. It seems to be thought indispensable that every iota of attractiveness should be carefully eliminated from those works, and that the information should be conveyed in the hardest, driest, most ugly and repellant manner. When books are made on the same principle for adult readers they are at once rejected. The world will not look at your Dryasdusts, but consigns them to the lumber-room or the pulp makers. But it is nevertheless thought necessary that children, whose intellects are even more delicate and fastidious than those of grown people, should have their knowledge imparted in the least savory and appetizing way.

If the schools taught through the medium of the higher productions of English literature, we are convinced that the effects would be such as to vindicate the change. As it is the children may go through the entire school course, and after all know hardly anything of importance, beyond the little arithmetical knowledge capable of being adapted to business pursuits. Of the beauties and excellencies of English literature, that inexhaustible mine of intellectual wealth, they know no more than the few and feeble glimpses afforded by the school readers. Of history they are innocent beyond a sketchy acquaintance with that of the United States. But they have had their brains nearly dazed with lessons in grammar and word analysis, and they can parse a sentence with machine-like precision, though quite probably they could not compose one grammatically, or write five lines without some gross blunder in orthography. What do our schools teach children concerning the world in which they live, their place in the world, their relations to other living things, the source and nature and scope of the knowledge which must be acquired before anything like a liberal education can be attained, and matters of that kind? These schools go on turning out year after year the same kind of mediocre results, and the reason they are accepted so patiently is perhaps suggested in Bishop Wilberforce's remark: "Our girls," said the Bishop, "are certainly very badly educated; but our boys will never find it out." There has never been an educational system so defective that it did not have enthusiastic adherents, and that those whose youth had been wasted by it did not feel it a duty to stick up for it through thick and thin. Parents in many cases are incapable of judging concerning the progress of their children, and such parents are pretty sure to be amongst those who are most taken with the paraphernalia of learning, and who think there is a great deal in that blessed word Mesopotamia. But the failure of the system is shown by a general average taken over a number of years, for such an average will demonstrate the practical stagnation of intellectual matters from decade to decade. It is, however, a great step forward to have come to a realization of the need of educational reform, and the Quincy system is certainly the best yet devised for introducing better things. It, however, does not alone suffice to give our system the force it lacks. The Quincy methods are concerned rather with the handling of the tools than with the selection of them, and it is the latter which is the most important consideration. What is needed is to distinguish clearly between practical and unpractical education, and to separate the one from the other. Unpractical education is that which does not lead to anything; which merely burdens the mind with formulas never to be required again; which opens no path to future acquisitions; which rather instills a distaste for knowledge by its own insipidity; which is away from the interests and aims of real life, and has no bearing upon human events. Of this character is a great deal of instruction still clung to as absolutely necessary. It all ought to be discarded.

Practical education on the other hand is that which leads to further knowledge; which implants an interest in and thirst for more information; which teaches concerning matters of constant and direct interest; which enlarges the perception of the general order of nature; which gives just ideas of man's place in the universe; which teaches how to use the capacities in acquiring all necessary knowledge, and by making learning agreeable recommends it to the young. This is the aim and object of the Quincy method, and its real value consists in the fact that whatever it teaches is of practical utility, and it is so taught as to be remembered. Of course even under the Quincy method it is quite possible to give bad instruction, but the temptation to it is less, and the facilities for rational teaching are greater. The new Constitution has raised the most serious obstacles to school reform of any kind, however. That most abominable instrument has disorganized and demoralized the entire system. It has given the selection of text books into incompetent hands, and it has made their decisions binding for four years. The probability that local school boards will be capable of making intelligent selections is very slight. It may happen, but it is extremely unlikely to do so. As a result the book agents have a far greater influence than they had before, and practically these agents are permitted to determine what our children shall learn for the ensuing four years. Before any radical improvement can be effected this plan will have to be abolished. In fact the whole educational article in the new Constitution is so objectionable that it must be radically amended or altogether eliminated. Meantime all that can be done is to encourage the introduction of the Quincy method of teaching, and to prepare the public for more extensive and radical reforms in the educational scheme. In order to do this parents must be accustomed to ask themselves seriously what it is that their children bring away when they leave the public schools. It is not to be expected that those parents who know less than their children will be able to reflect to much profit upon this question, but there are many intelligent and cultivated minds which must perceive the importance of the inquiry, and which will realize the hollowness and deficiency of the present system directly they begin to apply practical tests for themselves. The desire of all public-spirited and patriotic men and women must be to strengthen instead of weaken the public schools, but the way to do this is to reform their defects, and thus afford opportunity for making them better. At present the public mind is approaching the conviction that education, as now pursued, fails to educate. If that is the case we must endeavor to remedy the evil, and the first step towards reform consists in ascertaining clearly wherein the fault consists.

THE CINCINNATI RIDDLE.

The country is getting interested in the approaching struggle at Cincinnati, and none the less so because the outcome is more than usually obscure. The most remarkable circumstance thus far is the hopeless disagreement among the leading Democratic politicians in regard to the prospects. No two of them seem to think alike, and the various "booms" are being handled in a confused and confusing manner, calculated to deepen the general impression of bewilderment. Tilden is represented as withholding his final determination even from his most intimate friends. They go to Cincinnati apparently uncertain whether their leader will be a candidate or not. Those who are best acquainted with Tilden nevertheless entertain no doubt as to his candidature. It is sufficiently evident that he thinks he has a lien upon the nomination, and that having formed this conclusion long ago he is very unlikely to change it. It is probable that he looks upon himself as being so differently situated from all other candidates that he could not relinquish his claims to anyone. It may therefore be expected that he will make the most resolute fight in his power for the nomination, and that he will not give in unless he is fairly forced to surrender. There is evidently no trustworthy information to be obtained in regard to the strength of Tilden, or for that matter of any other candidate. This fact is largely due to the circumstance that so many of the delegations are without instructions. They represent a formidable element in the Convention which has no special preferences, but which is prepared to go to the man who exhibits the greatest strength when the test comes. A powerful canvass is being made for Judge Field, who has within the past few weeks come to the front as a real candidate, and whose qualifications are being displayed very prominently and persistently. Seymour continues to be talked of notwithstanding his repeated and positive declinations. The belief that he is more likely to carry New York against Garfield than any other Democrat who can be named, is at the bottom of this "boom." It is, however, questioned by New York journals whether this belief is not ill-founded. The *Tribune*, for instance, observes that "when Mr. Seymour ran, "twelve years ago, he was beaten in every "Northern State except New York, New "Jersey and Oregon. He carried the latter State by only 164 votes, whereas it "has just given a Republican majority of "800 or more; and he carried his own "State only by reason of the gigantic naturalization frauds which were employed "in that year to elect Governor Hoffman, "and which caused the enactment of the "Federal Election law as a preventive. If "nominated now, he would have against "him an honest ballot-box, the intense "hostility of Mr. Tilden, and the organized opposition of the Greenback party." Whether indeed Mr. Tilden would oppose him in the campaign may be regarded as open to question, though as the nomination of any other man would certainly wreck his own Presidential aspirations forever, it is quite possible that he might employ probably his last political energies in revenging himself upon the party that had abandoned him.

It is evident that the nomination of Mr. Seymour would not necessarily be a good one for the Democrats. The Greenback opposition to Seymour in Indiana, and possibly in New York, would be sufficient to defeat him. To conciliate the soft-money element a candidate of bad financial record would have to be put up; such a man as Hendricks, for example. Perhaps Thurman might win the votes of the Greenbackers, for his financial views have been sufficiently heretical, but then a soft-money candidate would as certainly antagonize all the hard-money elements in the party, and they can still less be disregarded than the others. This dilemma may compel the Democrats to look for somebody who has no positive record on finance, and who can therefore be put forward as the friend of the Greenbackers in soft-money localities, and as the friend of honest money in hard-money localities. There are very few, if any, of the candidates now in the field who have not at some time committed themselves on the currency issue, and the fact that the Greenbackers will be a factor in several important States this fall renders it absolutely necessary that they should be conciliated if possible. The Democrats have two plans before them. One is to try to make the 50 votes they are supposed to need by capturing the soft-money votes in soft-money States; and the other is to make the fight altogether in hard-money States, on hard-money principles. Their difficulty consists in the circumstance that they cannot be sure of avoiding a Greenback opposition or a hard-money opposition anywhere, the currency issue having divided communities without any regard to party lines, and in such a way that it is impracticable to separate the elements at all systematically. The Convention may therefore in the end be driven to abandon all attempts of this kind, and be obliged to take up some candidate without reference to his financial position. This shows, however, that the campaign is destined to be a very embarrassing one for the Democrats, and that they cannot count upon any Northern State with confidence, no matter who they nominate.

THE SOUTH AMERICAN WAR.

The war between Chile and Peru and Bolivia appears to be approaching a termination through the inability of the Peruvians to maintain hostilities much longer. It is not a little remarkable that this fierce and disastrous struggle has been permitted to proceed so long a time without any effort being made by the Government of the United States to bring about an adjustment of the matters in dispute. The states now at war have already almost exhausted one another, and the probabilities are that when peace is made they will both be exposed to those internal convulsions which always menace the South American Governments during periods of abnormal difficulty or excitement. Apart from all sentimental considerations, it must be the interest of the United States that these petty powers should be at peace, and not at war. For while they are at peace they progress, and develop their resources, and extend their commerce, and are generally good customers of ours. Whereas war interrupts all trade, renders payments uncertain, jeopardizes past obligations, and tends to stagnation and retrogression generally. The position of the United States as the dominant power in North America, moreover, imposes upon them certain international responsibilities which cannot be lost sight of. Our Government is naturally and necessarily the arbiter in all disputes arising on either of these continents, and it ought never to derogate from this position nor seek to evade its duties in the premises. There is reason to believe that the South American war might have been terminated some time ago had the Washington Government exerted itself vigorously to open negotiations. Such a policy of isolation as our indifference in this case seems to indicate is both narrow and dangerous. It is possible that we may be able to hold aloof from the concerns of Europe, but we can never hope to maintain such a policy in regard to the inhabitants of these continents. The Americas are inevitably the diplomatic field of the United States, and they ought never to relinquish their control over that field. It is indeed possible that the Administration may have been restrained from intervening in this case through a consciousness of the impotence of our navy, but bad as its condition is it is certainly adequate to the protection of the flag against Chile and Peru, and therefore such an excuse for inaction can hardly be admitted.

THE BERLIN CONFERENCE.

The European Powers are holding a conference at Berlin to readjust the Greek boundary. That is the ostensible purpose of the meeting. The real one is to give Greece a portion of the Ottoman Empire, perhaps as a reward for the course taken by the Greeks when Turkey was in her death-struggle with Russia. At that time the Greeks suddenly became valorous, after their peculiar fashion, and undertook to steal in upon the rear of the Porte, and do some plundering and murder. Even then, however, the first motion towards self-defense made by the desperate Ottomans sufficed to send the cowardly Greeks scampering, and the Powers found it necessary to suppress the attempt at invasion. Now, however, it is being discussed whether the moribund condition of Turkey does not demand a premature administration of her effects, and the anti-Russian elements are bringing forward the claims of Greece as a means of anticipating any Muscovite stratagem for acquiring a hold upon Roumelia. It is alleged that as a counter-stroke the Russian diplomatists are inviting the Porte to take up arms against Greece, and as the Sultan really has little or nothing to jeopardize, it seems quite probable that he will resist any attempt to extend the Grecian frontier with all the means at his command. The statement that the Porte contemplated armed resistance to all Europe no doubt had its origin in this hostile movement against Greece. The Porte, in fact, appears to have taken special pains to intimate that it has no intention of resisting any reasonable representations on the part of the Powers, but the inference is justified that it will not hold its hand if Greece attempts to seize Turkish territory. The King of Greece has recently been visiting France for the purpose of sounding the Government. He seeks a military contingent, but it is not at all likely that he will obtain it, for French statesmen knew too well that he who interferes with the Eastern Question is always liable to find himself entangled in the most serious complications, and moreover in this case it is to be seen whether Germany is for or against the Greek programme. It was originally the English plan to bring Greece forward in this way, but nobody can tell whether Gladstone intends to go on with the undertaking, and still less can it be perceived whether the other Powers are prepared to assume the almost inevitable consequences of backing Greece in such an invasion. That it is the beginning of the end as regards the fragments of the Ottoman Empire, is clear enough, but it is not by any means certain that the policy now proposed can be carried out without involving a war of formidable implications.

SHAM MEDICAL COLLEGES.

A piece of good news comes from Philadelphia. It is to the effect that a successful descent has recently been made upon the sham medical colleges which have so long infested and disgraced that city, and which have sent broadcast over the world diplomas furnishing the most dangerous equipment to the worst class of quacks living. Through one of those peculiar defects in the law which from time to time are revealed to bewilder and perplex the lay observer, these Philadelphia rascals had escaped several previous attempts at prosecution, and becoming emboldened by impunity had pursued their nefarious business in a very open and impudent way. It was finally through the public spirit of a newspaper, the Philadelphia *Record*, that the arrests were made. That journal six months ago called the attention of the Attorney-General to the frauds, but it was alleged that that official had no funds with which to prosecute. Upon this the *Record* offered to advance the funds to the Commonwealth, upon promise of reimbursement by the State Legislature, and the proceedings commenced. The *Record* has done nearly all the necessary work, having through its city editor succeeded in getting evidence of the sale of forty-three diplomas to various persons. The city editor himself obtained three medical diplomas, one in English from the Eclectic Medical College of Philadelphia, one in English from the American University of Philadelphia, and another from the National Eclectic Medical Association. So accommodating was the last-named concern that, though it was only organized in 1879, it dated its diploma to the reporter as far back as 1878. All these bogus diplomas purported to show that the holder of them had studied medicine for three years, had attended two full courses of lectures, and had passed a satisfactory examination in each of the seven branches of medicine. Having further succeeded in buying five other diplomas for $150, the *Record* concluded that enough evidence had been accumulated, and accordingly the arrest of John Buchanan, Dean of the American University of Philadelphia and the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania, and President of the National Eclectic Medical Association, was effected, together with that of two of the bogus Faculty. It is expected that five fraudulent medical colleges of the most infamous character will be broken up by this prosecution. A thorough ventilation of the names of the pretended colleges that sell diplomas will in any case have a very depressing effect upon the business. It is indeed amazing that the people of Pennsylvania have so long permitted this villainous traffic to be carried on in their midst, for it has never been a secret that these colleges were fraudulent, and that they were at all times willing to supply any quack with a diploma for a few dollars. They have, in fact, been licensing murderers for years, and the moral and conscientious Philadelphians have looked on coolly and offered no protest against the infamous business. We are, however, glad that after all a newspaper has come to the front and fairly shamed and driven the reluctant authorities into the performance of their duties, and we hope that the scoundrels who have been carrying on the sale of diplomas will get heavy sentences, seeing that the scoundrels who bought these diplomas are unfortunately beyond the reach of the law.

CONDITION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

It is certainly time the state of the United States navy was appreciated by the public, for if any occasion should arise demanding the vindication of our national honor against some powerful maritime government, it is clear that it would as things stand be quite impossible to effect anything. A recent report of a House Committee informs the country that the navy consists in all of one hundred and two vessels, though a number of them have no title to the name of war vessels, and have evidently been smuggled on the register for no other purpose than to swell the list. For example, there are 27 tugs, nine of which are described as "utterly useless." We next come to 22 sailing ships, the comments on which are "rotting," "unfinished," "utterly worthless," and so forth. There are five first-rate steam vessels, but not one of them is in service. Those which are used at all are employed as training or receiving ships, and one of them is "in a ruinous "condition," and "worthless for any purposes as a ship." There are 27 second-rates. Of these we learn that three are "unfinished, rotten and worthless," seven are laid up in ordinary, and probably "unworthy of repair;" one has "for many "years rotted at her moorings," one is "worn out," two are "too rotten to be repaired," another "has been condemned," and still another is unfinished "because "not worth putting the engines in." Of 29 third-rates six are laid up in ordinary and "should be sold," two are "antiquated paddle-wheel steamers of obsolete "type," and none of them "would do us "great credit in time of war." There are five fourth-rates, none of which are of "any account as vessels of war." We have 24 ironclads, of which ten are unserviceable and generally worthless, while the fourteen in effective condition "have not a single "rifled gun" among them. To sum up, of the nominal 140 vessels of the navy, only 66 are in service, and of them more than half are described as next to useless. It is in fact perfectly apparent that our navy is utterly worthless for any purpose of defense or defiance, and that the only practical purpose it serves is to afford an annual excuse for large appropriations, which are employed in manufacturing political capital by giving places to those who will put their votes where they are calculated to do the most good. It would be much cheaper, and quite as profitable in every other way, to abolish the navy altogether, and depend upon the merchant marine for everything except ironclads in the event of war. A small and effective fleet of ironclads might be kept up, but the navy on its present footing is evidently a mockery and a delusion.

STRANGE DISAPPEARANCES.

Among the most singular disappearances are those which occur on the eve of marriage, yet these are by no means infrequent. Two very remarkable cases have recently occurred, one in London and the other in New York. In the London case the bridegroom vanished suddenly the day before the marriage was to have taken place. The mystery was at last solved by his turning up on the Continent somewhere, with another woman, whom he had run away with. His betrothed has brought an action for breach of promise against him, and claims heavy damages. The New York case was again that of a bridegroom. He suddenly disappeared a few hours before the time set for the marriage, and up to the latest accounts nothing had been heard of him. He was a young Jewish merchant, of steady habits, good business position, high moral character, and generally speaking one of the last men anyone would suspect of eccentricity or aberration. The presumption in cases of this kind is usually that a woman is at the bottom of it, but this is by no means always the explanation. It is possible that there is generally an undiscovered cerebral defect, which is developed by the excitement of the occasion, and that it overthrows the reason at the critical juncture. And strange as these sudden disappearances are, M. Quetelet will tell us that they occur with the utmost regularity, and that given a community of fixed size, the number of such disappearances may be calculated in advance with the utmost nicety. Buckle made very free use of this fact in developing his necessitarian doctrines.

FITZ JOHN PORTER.

It is encouraging to find that Fitz John Porter's old military comrades do not believe in the justice of the sentence passed upon him, but that they have joined in an appeal to Congress to grant him a new trial. It is true that there ought not to be any need for such an appeal, for that the result of the last inquiry was to remove every shadow of blame from him, and to demonstrate in the most conclusive manner his loyalty and good judgment. It is deeply discreditable to the country that this gallant and able officer should be permitted to languish under the cruel imputation of treason, insubordination, and incapacity, when it is notorious that his conviction was procured by false evidence and the most shameful misrepresentations, and that the falsity of every point upon which that conviction rested has been established beyond controversy. Another generation will do him full justice whether this one does or not, and then his persecutors and unjust judges will be themselves in danger of the infamy they have so malignantly endeavored to fasten upon him.

GWIN AND TILDEN.

The long account of an alleged interview with Tilden given to a New York reporter by Dr. Gwin, appears to have brought the latter into an embarrassing position. A relative of Mr. Tilden, who was present on the occasion, publishes a statement to the effect that many things appear in Dr. Gwin's account which Mr. Tilden did not say. Dr. Gwin in a note admits that on some points the reporter "has fallen into error," but he does not say what those points were, and therefore his statement is little to the purpose. If Dr. Gwin were not a California politician, and therefore beyond suspicion of any questionable proceedings, it might be suspected that he had taken advantage of a brief interview with Mr. Tilden to put words into the latter's mouth by no means calculated to help the old gentleman's own candidature. That explanation being, however, out of the question, we suppose the blame must be placed upon the wicked reporter.

A SLIGHT INDICATION.

It is stated that the campaign at the South was opened very characteristically at Montgomery, Alabama, on the 12th instant, by an attack upon a Republican ratification meeting, and the throwing of rotten eggs at the speakers. Knives and pistols are also said to have been drawn by the assailants, and it is intimated that the former were used, and several persons wounded. The information of this affair does not come through the Democratic press of Montgomery, the only reference to it found in those journals having been a statement that the front of the building before which the meeting was held was next morning found to be smeared with rotten eggs. The Alabama Democrats are evidently determined that their part of the South shall be solid, and they have no intention of allowing Republicans to hold meetings. In a few weeks Democratic speakers and journalists all over the North will be inviting free men to join the party whose ideas of liberty are illustrated by such outrages.

DISARMAMENT.

An English Liberal has proposed that steps be taken to invite all the European powers to unite in a general scheme of disarmament. No doubt such a scheme affords the only chance, short of a bloody war, for reducing the enormous armies of the continent, but so long as the people are content to bear the burdens, it is not to be expected that the rulers will manifest any desire for a change. It is the masses of Europe who are injured by these great standing armies, but it is the governments which are to be appealed to in favor of disarmament. Under the circumstances there is no prospect of success for the undertaking. If the masses had coherence and resolution enough to unite for their own salvation and release, no government could withstand them, but their abject and docile submission to dynastic policies prevents their enfranchisement, and must continue to do so until they acquire a better apprehension both of their own power and their own interests.

PRESS EXPRESSION.

What Some of the Coast Papers Find to Talk About.

The Biggs *Recorder* warns farmers to send the wheat clean to market else the California standard in Liverpool will decline to nothingness.

The Marysville *Ledger* about the marked ability in the Chicago Republican Convention, and the gracefulness with which the party accepts its work.

The Alameda *Argus* says: "It is seldom that a Convention presents for the office of President and Vice-President better men than Garfield and Arthur."

The Eureka *Leader* says: If the Apostle Paul were to run for office on the Republican ticket the Democratic newspapers would dig up his record and print it.

The Los Angeles *Herald* says: "With Dillaye as the nominee of one branch of the Greenbackers for President, and Weaver that of the other, all the eccentric people in the United States who never by any possibility get on the winning side have an alternative opportunity of sinking their votes."

The San Jose *Mercury* says it is a singular fact that the Democratic press all over the country have received the nomination of Garfield with so much respect, many of them frankly admitting the excellence of the man, and that if a Republican is to be President, he will fill the position well and honorable.

The Mammoth City *Herald* says: "We have the utmost faith in the magnitude and permanence of the mining industry of this country, and we believe that but few of our political economists have grasped the importance of this great producer of wealth and its influence upon the future position of our country among the other nations of the earth."

The Stockton *Independent* thinks it is lamentable that the Republican nomination of Garfield should have placed the Democrats in such a pitiable plight. They know they can't win the fight with Tilden, not even with the aid of "Nevy" Pelton and the bar'l. It was a tight pull last time to carry New York and Indiana. But it is hopeless to win those States this year.

The Yreka *Journal* enthuses over the nomination of General Garfield, and says: "That Garfield will carry the majority of the Electoral College we do not doubt, and should the Democratic Congress endeavor to deprive him of the office, if honorably elected, we believe the people, irrespective of party, will condemn such action by an emphatic expression that will strike terror to those who attempt any subversion of the people's rights."

The San Mateo *Journal* thus solves the problem to its own satisfaction: "California is now in a transition state. The positive decline of her mines, the want of establishment of manufactories, the inculcated dislike for farming as a life vocation by the most intelligent and best bred youth of the country, have together made a broken period in her history, out of which has evolved our social and financial troubles and distress. There is one grand outlet to the difficulty; it is as simple as it is grand. Educate the best boys to become farmers."

The Nevada *Transcript*, in its review of the mining situation, says: "The gravel mining industry is more prosperous in this part of California the present season than was ever before known to be the case. Capitalists, not only in this country, but all through the money centers of Europe, are having their attention directed to the dead river channels that extend through the Sierras, carrying untold millions of gold locked up in their subterranean recesses. Several extensive partially developed properties of this character have changed owners within a short time, and many other transfers involving the circulation of vast sums of money are on the tapis."

The Carson *Appeal* on orthography: "We always held that superfluous letters in a word should be kickt out. Such a plan saves type, writing, and time spent pawing over the leaves of a dictionary. There is a class of people, dying out, thank heaven, who think speling correctly the chief end of man. A man who spends all his life learning to spel the double-twisted orthographical knots with which our language abounds, has very little time to learn anything else, and is liable to become a fool in consequence. A man who can spel is always intruding his accomplishment upon other people who can't. As well might a man consider he was born great because he could swallow his front teeth without winking."

The *Deseret Evening News* of Salt Lake City thus speaks out the Mormon idea: "The leading men among the Latter-day Saints are as strongly in favor of general education as any men living, and those who state to the contrary either make a great mistake or are guilty of gross intentional falsehood. But they see the weakness of the existing system, and the necessity of radical changes being made in it before its establishment as the settled school policy of the Territory, supported by the public revenue. As the representatives of a divinely-revealed religious system they desire to see the children of its votaries trained up in its theology and spirit, and this cannot be done under a system which bars out the denominational, and indeed is opposed to anything religious in its teachings and tendencies."

OUTRAGE AND MURDER—THE PERPETRATOR OF THE PARKER HORROR IN UTAH CONFESSES.—It will be remembered, says the Silver Reef *Miner* of June 12th, that Mary Parker, and old lady 62 years of age, was found in the foothills between Springdale and Rockville with her throat cut and her person outraged, and that a young man by the name of Jared Dalton was arrested on suspicion of being the perpetrator of the deed, he having been seen with her last, after having brought her the news that her son had returned from Nevada, and was in the mountains near by and desirous of seeing her. The evidence at the inquest was deemed strong enough to hold Dalton, and he was bound over to await the action of the Grand Jury, since which time he has been incarcerated in the county jail at Toquerville. In the presence of witnesses Dalton has now confessed that he and an accomplice by the name of Geo. Jennings had followed the old lady from home, had seized her in the foothills, and after violating her person, in order to conceal their crime, one of them had held her while the other cut her throat. They then doubled up the body and partially covered it with rubbish, where it lay until found by the searchers. After making this confession Dalton said he was tired of living and would like to be shot. George Jennings, the accomplice in the crime of Dalton, has also been captured.

The first gold ever found in the United States was discovered in Cabarras county, North Carolina. A boy shot an arrow at a fish and his arrow stuck in a mass of stuff, the yellow color of which excited his curiosity. He carried it home, and his mother used it for years to keep open the door, without knowing its value. Its weight was thirty-seven pounds troy.

TRY Hammer's Cascara Bitters for billiousness.