THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

SATURDAY.....SEPTEMBER 4, 1880.

THE WEEKLY UNION.

The WEEKLY UNION is issued this morning. It is sent out twice each week, because it is issued in semi weekly parts. Each part contains eight pages of matter; thus each subscriber receives sixteen pages of matter per week. There is no weekly journal on the coast that can make such a showing. The great advantages of the semi-weekly-issue plan are quite generally understood. It enables a vast number of readers to get the news as early and fully as through the medium of a daily, because in many parts the Postoffice is not reached by the subscriber oftener than twice a week. Events happening after Friday, and prior to Tuesday, are made known through the first part of the WEEKLY UNION on Wednesday, and those occurring the other days of the week are to be found recorded in the issue of Saturday. By subscribing to the WEEKLY UNION the reader gets full telegraphic and news reports, choice literary reading matter, able essays, liberal editorial discussions of popular current topics, full reports of all prominent gatherings and meetings in the State, agricultural intelligence, notes of music, the drama and art, departments for puzzlers, for the household, of fashion, of mechanics, of health, of production, etc. It has an agricultural department devoted wholly to matters of interest to farmers. All its departments are conducted with an eye single to the best interest of the State and the people in it. The WEEKLY UNION is rapidly and constantly extending in circulation. It is mailed to any address in the United States for $2 per year, post-paid.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 110¼ for 4s of 1907; 102⅝ for 5s of 1881; 111½ for 4½s; sterling, $4 82@4 84; silver bars, 110½; silver coin, ½ discount buying, par selling.

Silver in London yesterday, 52¼d; consols, 97 9-16; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 106; 4s 114½; 4½s, 114½.

In San Francisco half dollars are quoted at par; Mexican dollars, 91 buying, 91½ selling.

At Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 9s 4d@9s 9d for good to choice California.

Mining stocks opened strong in San Francisco yesterday morning, and there was an advance of $2 in Utah, $1 in Sierra Nevada, $1 25 in Union Consolidated and $1 in Mexican.

Fire at Portland, Or.; also at Washington Corners, Alameda county.

Two thousand dollars is offered for the scalp of Victorio, the Apache chief, and $250 for the scalp of any of his warriors.

The Presidential party arrived at Omaha yesterday morning, and after visiting the fort left on a special Union Pacific train for California. Secretary Ramsey is now with the excursionists.

The French squadron from Brest has arrived at Toulon, on its way to Ragusa.

The British squadron to take part in the naval demonstration has sailed for Ragusa.

If Chile and Peru do not come to terms England, France and Italy will protect the lives and property of foreigners.

Trouble exists in Indian Territory between the Cherokees and Creeks.

William Henry Wells, one of the originators of *Punch*, and an associate of Charles Dickens in *Household Words*, is dead, aged 71 years.

A steamer from Hamburg for New York took out £120,000 in gold coin.

Details of the great hurricane in Jamaica on the 18th ult. are given this morning in our dispatches.

Charles Steckler, a pioneer merchant, hanged himself yesterday at Jackson, Amador county.

The steamer City of Vera Cruz, from New York for Havana and Vera Cruz, was probably lost in the recent hurricane which prevailed off the Florida coast. Details as far as learned will be found among our dispatches.

R. L. Whitaker, shot in Bodie Wednesday night by George Watkins, died yesterday morning.

Stephen H. Richardson (colored) was hanged at Wilmington, N. C., yesterday, for the murder of his mother-in-law.

Disastrous conflagration at Hart's Falls, N. Y.

By the fall of a rock in the quarry of the Newark Lime and Cement Company near Rondout, N. Y., yesterday, one man was killed and three others badly injured.

Commander Glass, U. S. N., has gone to Sitka, to relieve Captain Beardslee, of the Jamestown.

Fred. C. Chase was fatally injured by a runaway team at Nicolaus, Sutter county, Thursday night.

S. A. Jones, who killed James Sullivan in San Diego county August 21st, has been held to answer in the sum of $3,000.

The funeral of Rev. Dr. Adams, President of the Union Theological Seminary, in New York yesterday, was attended by 400 ministers of different denominations.

Numerous railroad accidents occurred in the East yesterday.

A newspaper writer in Paris has been challenged to fight a duel by an attache of the French War Office.

The Republicans at Syracuse, N. Y., have renominated Frank Hiscock for Congress.

Mrs. Brown and Joseph Wade were sentenced at Indianapolis yesterday to be hanged October 7th, for the murder of Mrs. Brown's husband.

Another attempt to blow up the Emperor of Russia has been frustrated at Charkoff.

The Central Pacific Railroad Company will convey passengers to Oakland on the 7th and 8th instants for half fare, with the privilege of returning at the same rates during the remainder of the week.

The usual quantity of valuable and interesting reading matter will be found this morning upon the inside pages of the RECORD-UNION.

THE DEFEAT OF AYOOB KHAN.

A dispatch received yesterday states that General Roberts has attacked Ayoob Khan, and defeated and dispersed his army, taking a large number of guns. This is what was to have been expected in the event of an engagement, though it seemed doubtful whether Ayoob Khan would stand his ground until General Roberts approached. It is probable that this battle will be the last fought in Afghanistan for the present. It is very unlikely that Ayoob will be able to muster any sufficient force again, and now that the British prestige has been restored they will apparently think it best to retire from the country. When the results of these campaigns are summed up, however, it will be found that nothing has been accomplished. Abdurrahman Khan is incapable of securing the allegiance of the Ghilzais, and it is very doubtful whether he will be able to retain the sovereignty of Cabul. Ayoob Khan possesses the confidence of all the tribes in the Candahar district, and if let alone can maintain himself there. It is impossible for any Power to put Afghanistan under the rule of one man at the present time, and attempts to do so must fail. The English interference has brought only renewed anarchy and confusion to the country, and has done nothing to make a "scientific frontier" more attainable, or to diminish the dangers of Russian intrigue. The withdrawal of the British troops is no doubt the only wise thing to be done now, but the best course the situation affords is sufficiently disastrous and unsatisfactory.

CHILE AND PERU.

It is stated that England, France and Italy have succeeded in inducing Chile and Peru to open negotiations looking to peace. It is a matter for rejoicing that the sanguinary and useless war so long carried on between these two peoples should be brought to a close in any way, but we cannot help regretting that the United States did not assume the duty of mediation in a case so near to its own interests and territory. It is not to the credit of our diplomacy that it should have been left to Europe to bring about a cessation of hostilities between Chile and Peru, and it certainly is not in accordance with the Monroe doctrine that we should so ignore the relations of races so close to our borders.

THE RELATIONS OF LARGE CITIES TO THE STATE.

The agitation now proceeding in San Francisco over the new charter naturally lifts into special prominence the changes made by the new Constitution in the relations between that city and the State. Among the most far-reaching and important innovations created by that ill-conceived and mischievous instrument, was the removal of San Francisco from State control, and the erection of it into a practically independent territory. The framers of the new Constitution did many foolish and deplorable things, but it is doubtful whether they made any worse blunder than this. Experience shows that the most marked tendency in large American cities is towards what may be called organized anarchy. Our seaports and centers of trade drain large districts of their criminal and adventurous elements. They attract to them the shiftless as well as the enterprising. They gather about them masses of political protoplasm, uninformed, brainless, plastic, possessing only the potentialities of intelligent judgment. All these dangerous elements are at the disposal of demagogues. They can be made to respond to any war-cry whatever. They are easily led against the elements which stand for law and order. Possessing nothing themselves, and incapable of accumulating, they are the natural enemies of steady thriftand patient industry. Supporting and supported by the myriad foul doggeries of the great city, these classes sink from bad to worse, cultivating their communism by filthy feeding and lodging, and rapidly growing into chronic and hopeless anarchists and incendiaries, such as the suburbs of Belleville poured out into the streets of horrified Paris a decade since, when the local government had given way to mob violence. Great seaports, again, attract an abnormally large proportion of foreigners. The population of San Francisco is if we are not mistaken the most mixed of any city in the world. Its foreign element already not only outnumbers but outvotes its native element. The latter is in danger of being swamped by the alien horde, and it appears that in a few years San Francisco will be American only in name. The foreign elements furnish by far the largest contingent to the army of the demagogues. It is scarcely to be doubted that the materials already exist there for the imitation of the Tweed Ring. And if the new charter is adopted it will thenceforth always be possible for such crimes to be perpetrated. For of all the lessons taught by municipal government during the last half century, the most important and the plainest is that great cities ought never to be taken from under the influence and control of the State at large. Had not the State of New York possessed such control over the city of New York, and had not the difficulty of tampering with the State Legislature been an effective obstacle at critical times, the Tweed Ring frauds would have bankrupted the municipality downright. In this State it is well known that the Legislature has on several occasions stood between the metropolis and organized plunderers. Again and again have the latter come up here with their carefully matured plans of robbery, and though they have not seldom succeeded in securing the San Francisco delegation, again and again have they been baffled and defeated by the sturdy honesty of the country members. The tendency of urban growth is as we have shown, towards the increase of the venal elements in politics. The elements which desire good government must therefore depend more than ever upon the assistance of the State in emergencies. But the new Constitution cuts San Francisco off from all help. She is to be a law to herself. The Legislature cannot interfere with her concerns. Her people must fight their own battles unaided, and must encounter their thieves and rowdies as best they may. That such a scheme should have been adopted under the existing conditions justifies the sharpest suspicion of the honesty of those who advocated the isolation of the city, for it is perfectly evident that the arrangement plays directly into the hands of the dangerous classes.

The truth is that the city stands in need of the country, and that without the country influence to act as a balance-weight it cannot prosper. The population of the country deteriorates less rapidly than that of the city, in the first place. It is upon the streets of the seaport that the first waves of promiscuous immigration are flung, and these waves are being continually renewed. A large proportion of this foreign matter goes no further, but settles down on the spot to swell the percentage of ignorant and perverted suffrage, and to handicap the conservative elements still more. To shut up the city within itself is therefore to doom it to government by its dangerous and unfit classes, and it seems to us that this is the fight to which San Francisco is sentenced by her new charter, or rather by the arrangements which the new Constitution has made for her. The theory upon which she has been granted a separate government is a very pretty one in the abstract, but unfortunately it has scarcely any relation to existing conditions. Every election that has taken place there during the past ten years has shown a steady increase in the foreign and capricious and untrustworthy vote. There is no ground whatever for anticipating any compensating growth in the vote of the conservative classes. On the contrary, it is evident that they are diminishing rather than increasing, and in fact the tendencies of the government of late years have been such as to drive out many desirable citizens. And it does not matter much what kind of a charter is adopted so long as this isolation of the city continues, for it should be apparent that the proletarian vote must in the end debauch and break down any scheme that can be devised, since this vote promises the offices to the greatest rascals and demagogues, and excludes self-respecting men from politics. Hitherto the State has saved the city, but hereafter this cannot happen. When in the natural course of events a set of knaves get possession of the government of San Francisco, the people will have to endure their abuses quietly, for the Legislature will be incapable of interference. In the past there was always a possibility of defeating bad municipal legislation, or of carrying beneficent reforms, by an appeal to the State. Under the new Constitution that recourse is abolished.

The San Francisco journals are contending over the provisions of the new charter, but whichever side is right or wrong it is to be feared that the new system of government must prove worse than that which it supersedes; not because of any intrinsic defect in the form, but because, as we have here demonstrated, the isolation of the city is fatal to its good government. Nor is this the sole cause of objection to the new scheme. It is injurious as well to the State as to the city. For, in the first place, the whole growth and development of the body politic is checked and stunted by this artificial separation between city and State; this setting up of an *imperium in imperio*. And in the second place the State is exposed to the dangers which must arise from the tendency to corruption so increasingly displayed in the character of the legislative delegations from the metropolis. Of late years San Francisco has been choosing for legislators men utterly unfit for such duties. Many of them have been too ignorant even to initiate legislation or take part in debates, but they have nevertheless voted with canine docility as their fuglemen directed, and they have usually been found voting with discreditable solidity on behalf of bad measures. Under the new Constitution it must be expected that the quality of the metropolitan members will still further deteriorate. They will represent the Sand Lot, or whatever local travesty of politics and statesmanship may be most in favor. And as the numerical strength of the San Francisco delegation is very great in proportion to the whole body, they will exercise a malign influence highly prejudicial to the best interests of the State. In fact it is impossible for the metropolis to be injured without injuring the whole State, and bad government in the one must react upon the other. It is the more unfortunate in this case because the Constitution prohibits the State from interfering with the city, but so arranges matters that the city shall constantly interfere with and influence the State. And it is further to be observed that the nature of the influence to be employed is peculiar. The State cannot meddle with the city for good; and the city can only do harm to the State. This is the outcome of the labor of that incongruous body called the Constitutional Convention. It has done its best to entangle San Francisco in a net-work of bad local government, under pretense of delivering her from mischievous interference. The good people of the city could not put up with the rule of King Log, and now they are about to exchange it for that of King Stork. It needs no gift of prophesy to foretell that neither the new charter nor any other that can be framed will save San Francisco from the consequences of the isolation imposed on her by the Constitution. That isolation alone is capable of counterbalancing all the ingenuity and all the talent that may be bestowed upon such instruments. In fact, if the metropolis is to flourish in the future, and to enjoy good government, we hold that it will be indispensable that the provisions of the new Constitution regarding the municipal government of large cities should be repealed or radically amended. As it is the city is about to be separated from the State, and handed over to the tender mercies of a majority which has thus far shown neither intelligence nor public spirit nor honesty nor respect for law and order.

CAPTAIN EADS ON THE DEBRIS QUESTION.

We publish this morning a highly interesting and instructive account of an interview with Captain Eads, in which the views of that distinguished engineer upon the debris question are clearly set forth. He explains the construction and operation of the willow screens or dams which it is proposed to employ for the purpose of holding back the debris in the upper channels of the rivers. It will be seen that the methods he prefers are not only far more economical than more solid and elaborate works would be, but that they are calculated to answer their purpose far better. These willow screens allow the water to pass through them, but they hold back the heavier detritus, and at the same time check the velocity of the current, thus causing deposits to be made behind them. In these deposits the willows will take root, and thus a growth of brush will spring up, which will not only make the dam more stable, but will furnish a fresh supply of brush for other dams. As the first dams are filled up it will be necessary to construct new ones higher up the river, but a very large proportion of the heaviest debris will be held and kept from coming down into the Sacramento. The construction of these works for holding back the debris is, however, but one feature of the improvements to be undertaken. It is necessary to clean out the lower course of the Sacramento, and in the opinion of Captain Eads it is desirable to bring the whole current of the river into one channel below this city, in order to secure such a volume and velocity as will scour out the channel and prevent it from filling up again. He meets the apprehension expressed by some San Francisco journals, that the effect of scouring out the river might be to cause the debris to be carried down into San Francisco harbor, with the positive statement that San Francisco has far more to fear from the present condition of things than from any results of the new methods. He asserts that that city is even more interested in the proposed solution of the debris question than are the people of the interior, and that she cannot afford to allow the unchecked deposition of debris in the rivers. Captain Eads is of opinion that the break at English Bend may be filled with perfect safety at once, and that no fear need be entertained concerning the ability of the main channel to carry its flood waters when once the flow of debris has been checked, and the course of the lower river has been corrected. Whether this latter part of the work should be performed by stopping the old river channel or Steamboat Slough is a question which he prefers to postpone the determination of until he has made a more thorough examination of both channels. The object to be attained is the concentration of the river in that channel which will secure the least frictional resistance to the flow of water, and thus increase the carrying and discharge capacity of the stream.

He is decidedly of opinion that it would be imprudent to cut any canal across the tules or through the Montezuma hills, his theory being that the only safe and permanent improvement consists in such works as will enable the river to carry all its waters, both main and tributary, without danger of inundation. This is to be done by holding back the debris in the foothills, and by enlarging the carrying capacity of the lower course of the river. The division of the river at Grand Island, he holds, has the effect of checking the velocity of the current and increasing the frictional resistance, and these checks, reacting upon the upper waters of the river, back them up about Sacramento, and so increase the danger of breaks in the levees, and consequent floods. It will be seen that Captain Eads is equally positive as to the necessity for the works he proposes, and their efficacy. If nothing should be done to stop the flow of debris he does not hesitate to assert that it would be only a question of a few years for destructive floods to sweep over the country, while with the steady carrying out of the improvements he advises all danger will be speedily averted. Nothing can be clearer than the explanation given by him of the operation of his works, all of which he has tested fully on the Mississippi, and the efficiency of which has long since been established. His statements in regard to the effects of a continual flow of debris upon the harbor of San Francisco may be recommended to the attention of the press of that city, which so strenuously opposed the passage of the debris bill, under the mistaken impression either that it would result in no benefit, or positive harm, to the metropolis. His views as to the absolute necessity for the prompt application of remedies may also be read with profit by those interior journalists who affected to think that the legislation urged last winter was somehow in the nature of a job, and that the debris problem was a mere invention for the purpose of excusing unnecessary taxation. Captain Eads fully confirms the position of the RECORD-UNION that this is a State issue, and that it would be mere suicidal folly for anyone interested in the State or any part of it to oppose the relief measures proposed.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

If Congress does not stop the coinage of silver as soon as the session opens, there will be a national disaster of the most tremendous kind before long. The increase of silver in the Treasury vaults is proceeding at a rate which renders it inevitable that the crisis cannot be postponed much longer. As the silver grows the gold diminishes. For example, the total of gold in the Treasury last November was $160,443,436. The total of silver then was $55,594,732. In July last the total of gold was $123,126,645, and the total of silver was $77,250,151. The ratio of silver to gold had therefore risen during this interval from 25.74 to 38.60. And what is the tendency and the object of this persistent silver coinage? Nothing can be clearer than the fact that the people do not want the silver dollars. They have steadily refused to take them. When paid out they have been swiftly returned to the Treasury. They are in fact doubly objectionable. They are exceedingly cumbrous; and they are over-valued. If, however, the coinage goes on as it is going, a time must come when the silver will be forced into circulation, and then it will drive gold out. The inferior currency always and of necessity expels the superior. If the silver dollars ever get afloat they will drive all the gold out of circulation. Then the value of the greenback, being no longer sustained by the gold, will fall to the value of the silver. Now the present value of a silver dollar is about 87½ cents, and consequently every man who held a greenback for one dollar would find that it had depreciated in his hands 12½ per cent. Do the people understand what that means? Do business men, and traders, and workingmen think that it will benefit them to reduce the purchasing powers of every dollar in the country 12½ per cent.? When silver had become the sole standard of value, it would still be necessary to measure a great many things according to the gold standard, because gold is the world's standard, and all our foreign liabilities would have to be paid in it. Foreigners, of course, would refuse to take our silver save as merchandise. They would not recognize any legal tender value in it. They would take our silver dollars at a discount of 12½ per cent., or whatever the amount of depreciation might be. The effect of this would be a general rise of prices. Our merchants would mark up their goods to protect themselves against the depreciation of the currency, and as always happens they would leave a margin for fluctuation. If the depreciation was 15 per cent. the rise in prices would probably equal 20 per cent. That means that when the workingman received his wages on Saturday night, he would be unable to buy more than eighty cents' worth of goods with every nominal dollar. The loss would fall directly upon the wage-earning classes, as it always does in such cases. The producers would also suffer heavily, and the speculators alone would make money. The premium on gold would be restored, and every day the folly and disgrace of the country would be paraded through the significant quotations which told the world how far short of par value the money of the American nation was at that time. These are some of the results which must inevitably follow the refusal of Congress to stop the coinage of silver. There never was a more imbecile, fatuous or suicidal measure than the bill which provided for that coinage. The nation had been struggling ten years to secure resumption of specie payments, and when this seemed within reach at last a cowardly and stupid Congress thought it necessary to pass a law which contained within it the absolute nullification of resumption, and the relegation of the country to all the evils it had been so long in escaping. There is not, and there never was, one single respectable argument for the passage of the silver bill. Nobody wanted silver dollars. Nobody has ever used them except under protest. Nobody whose opinion is worth anything has ever imagined that the substitution of silver for gold could ever be other than a calamity. The talk about remonetizing silver has never been anything but an exhibition of the gross ignorance and obstinate perversity of those who have made it. The truth is that the country was in a fair way to permanent resumption when this pernicious and idiotic bill was passed. Had Congress possessed the intelligence and the courage to steadily withdraw the greenbacks, and thus give the country an elastic and self-regulating currency of National Bank notes and gold, all danger would have vanished, and we should have also been in a position to take whatever steps about silver the attitude of Europe might suggest. As it is, we have blundered into the worst conceivable situation, and unless Congress can be induced to stop the folly of silver coinage before it goes any further, there is very great danger that before another year is over we shall be thrown back upon silver as the sole standard, and thus be put in the place of an Asiatic country, and be thrown out of harmony with the progress and civilization of the world.

WHAT THEY LOOK FORWARD TO.

During the recent canvass in Alabama a prominent Democratic speaker in the course of an address said: "If Hancock is "elected you will be paid for all the prop-"erty you have lost through Radical rule, "and you must stand by the great Demo-"cratic party, for a solid South will now "give us entire control of the General "Government, and we can redress all our "wrongs." His audience understood all that was implied in this assurance, and it is necessary that the people of the North should understand it too. We have already pointed out the bent of Southern ambition in this connection, but the question is far too grave to be dismissed with a single notice. Be it remembered that the new Southern raid upon the Treasury is not a mere fanciful invention, but that its character and scope are already clearly shown by formal propositions in the shape of legislation commenced and records and claims either filed or presented. In the first place, a bill is now pending before the House to increase the Supreme Court to twenty-one members. The twelve new Judges, if Democrats, would of course control the Court, and could shape all its rulings upon the amendments to the Constitution and the federal laws. In the second place it is also proposed, and the scheme has been embodied in a pending bill, to abolish the Court of Claims, and transfer its business and jurisdiction to a new Superior Court of five Judges. This Court would adjudicate claims against the Government, and would also decide on appeal cases coming from the lower Federal Courts, in which the amount in controversy did not exceed $10,000. The bearing of this scheme is more fully shown in another measure, to the effect that the District and Circuit Courts shall adjudicate claims against the Government in the sections where the claimants live. All appeals from these Courts would be taken to the new Superior Court, which would of course be constituted with a special view to dealing with them according to the Southern view. There are other bills pending which aim at abolishing the limitation of time as a bar to a large class of claims, to allow rehearings where claims have been rejected, to remove the prohibition against disloyal claims, and in fact to open the door wide for the contemplated raid upon the Treasury. And these measures are merely a small part of the Southern programme. Bills have been introduced for refunding the cotton tax, for refunding taxes collected in the seceding States, for the payment of hosts of claims without adjudication. And to crown the whole it is now well ascertained that at the first opportunity a proposition will be made to exact payment from the Government for the emancipated slaves. With the exception of this one claim all the matters cited have already been put in course of legislative action. As yet the control of the Government necessary to their success is wanting to the South, and so they have not been pressed. But with Hancock in the Presidency there can be no doubt that every one of these measures would in turn be brought forward, and that a pressure would be brought upon the President to assent to them, which he could not resist. It is useless for the Democrats to pooh-pooh these statements, for the bills are in print which reveal the salient features of the Southern programme.

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL JOURNALISM.

Within the past few years the expectation has frequently been declared that metropolitan journalism would eventually absorb and swallow up provincial journalism. Some events, however, have lately happened which seem to justify a doubt on this head, and even suggest a very different line of journalistic development. Last week we referred briefly to the singular mistake made by the London press in regard to the tendency of public sentiment outside the metropolis of England. In the late parliamentary canvass almost every London journal proved entirely wrong in its forecasts, whereas the leading provincial papers were for the most part right. Now there is clearly no reason why the London press could not inform itself concerning the tone of opinion in the provinces, if it undertook to ascertain. There must then be something which interferes with the expenditure of journalistic means and energies upon such objects, or which supersedes them. And as a fact we find on examination that with the increase of great cities the necessity of discussing loca topics becomes greater and more exacting, and that in the greatest city of the world, London, these local topics are of such importance as practically to fill the field, to the exclusion of more distant considerations. And it is, we think, apparent that the same tendency must operate upon the metropolitan press everywhere, and that it must check, if it does not altogether prevent, that reaching out and absorption of the provincial press which has been latterly predicted. For the local demands upon the press of population centers must continue to increase, and when important questions of this kind arise they will have to be discussed to the exclusion of lesser topics. Take for example the press of San Francisco, which has been almost unreadable by people living in the country since the contention over the new charter arose. And though a national campaign is being made we find that this purely local question absorbs the attention of the press, and for the time deprives it of interest to all save its urban readers. This cannot be avoided perhaps, but it is none the less an obstacle to the expansion of the metropolitan press, and an obstacle certain to become more formidable as time passes. It is even possible that out of this situation may grow a new phase of journalism; that the most influential journals hereafter may be simply organs of opinion, dealing sparely if at all in news, and holding themselves aloof from the local concerns which demand so much attention. The *Nation* offers an imperfect suggestion of what we mean.

AN APOCRYPHAL TRIBUTE.

Our Government has just been honored by an offer of a peculiar character from Switzerland. It is thus related in a dispatch: "The United States Consul at "Zurich, Switzerland, has informed the "State Department that the Government "of Switzerland has offered him a me-"mento of the father of their freedom, "William Tell. It is a stone from the "chapel erected on the spot where he made "his escape from the tyrant Gessler. He "wants to know of Mr. Evarts if our "Government will accept it, and give it a "place in the Washington Monument. "Our State Department, after considera-"tion, has decided to accept the gift." No doubt Mr. Evarts concluded that it would appear discourteous to a friendly Government to decline a gift upon which that Government evidently set a considerable value; but at the same time Mr. Evarts unquestionably knows that there is the strongest reason for regarding William Tell as a myth. The truth is that the story of Tell and Gessler is one of those fables which appear in the folk-lore of a score of races. The incident of the tyrant's cap and the shooting of the apple from the boy's head is to be found in a number of legends long antedating the alleged time of Tell. It can be traced to Hindu mythology, indeed, and it has been asserted, with much plausibility, to be a solar myth. The belief in Tell and his exploits is now confined to those who formed their faith before the scientific method in history was adopted. The chapel erected on the supposed site of Tell's escape from Gessler records no historical event, but a popular legend only. Precisely what place a stone from such a building can have in the Washington monument we are at a loss to perceive, but it is possible that the introduction of it there may hereafter lead to doubts concerning the existence of Washington, for our posterity may not believe that this generation committed such a solecism as to combine mythology with sober history in the manner proposed.

MISSIONARY WORK IN INDIA.

Lectures have recently been delivered in San Francisco upon missionary work in India, by a clergyman. He has described the density of the native population, and has dwelt upon the difficulties in the way of proselytism. Singularly enough he has confessed that nine-tenths of the alleged conversions to Christianity in India have been made by the Catholic missionaries. Between the ceremonial at least of that church and the Buddhist there is a very curious and close analogy, as Abbe Huc long since pointed out. But the genuine conversions to Christianity in India have never been sufficient to justify the expenditures made upon them, while it is the opinion of many Indian statesmen that the missionaries have done much more harm than good, by insulting the religions of the people, and by arousing fanaticism with their bigotry and narrowness. It is very certain that those who contribute to the support of the Indian missions are quite literally throwing away their money, and that no tangible effect has been, or is ever likely to be, produced upon the religions of that country by the missionaries of any Western Church.

ANOTHER WITNESS.

Colonel E. N. Hill, an ex-Confederate, but now a Republican, has been making some researches into the Democratic allegations about the cost of carpet-bag government at the South. Judge Hoadly recently said: "The carpet-bag govern-"ments have passed away, and the only "vestige of their existence is a debt of "$170,000,000." Colonel Hill analyzes the subject of Southern finances, and as a result shows that, whereas in 1870 eleven Southern States owed $170,589,972, not less than $127,877,562 of this amount is directly chargeable to the Democrats. This is certainly a very different showing even to anything we had expected; but Colonel Hill gives the full details of the indebtedness and its history, and there appears to be no flaw in his demonstration.

"AN ACT OF JUSTICE."

[Woodland Mail.]

Last week the RECORD-UNION began a new volume. We never could see much sense in the common habit among newspapers of puffing each other every time one or the other entered upon a new year, the chief object being apparently to get a like puff in return. But in case of the Sacramento paper above named, its editorials are so able and its news so full and accurate, that we merely render it an act of justice in saying so. We do not always agree with its editor, but whatever one-sided views he may occasionally advocate they are always clearly stated and ably maintained, so that it is a pleasure to read them, even when the argument runs directly counter to our own well-considered opinions.

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.

[From San Francisco exchanges of September 3d.]

The total registration up to noon to-day was 12,786.

The receipts of the fair up to last night amounted to $18,470 75.

The steamer City of Tokio will be due from China and Japan on the 6th instant.

The steamer Zealandia will be due from Honolulu, Auckland and Sydney on the 6th instant.

Duties paid at the Custom-house yesterday were $31,258 01, making a total of $55,475 53 for the month.

The California Insurance Company has filed a certificate of proceedings extending the period of the corporation until the 1st day of July, 1914.

It is said that in the middle of San Pablo bay the Chinese fishermen have driven in piles, to help them in their fishing operations, thus endangering the navigation of the bay by small craft.

The California Pioneers have abandoned the intention of celebrating Admission Day with a picnic at Fairfax, and accepted the invitation of the Mayor of Oakland to join in the celebration of the day there.

It is reported that Mayor Kalloch has signed the papers for an extended lecturing tour throughout the Eastern States. His topics, it is understood, will refer mainly to California affairs.

The new Appraiser's building at the northeast corner of Sansome and Washington streets, will not be entirely completed for six months, or perhaps longer. The work of finishing the top or fourth story has not been commenced, although an appropriation of $35,000 has been made and is now available for that purpose.

I HAVE TRIED Hammer's Cascara Sagrada Bitters, and find they are all they are recommended to be. O. N. CRONKITE, Sacramento.

COAST DISPATCHES.

SPECIAL TO THE RECORD-UNION.

WESTWARD-BOUND PASSENGERS.

Fatal Runaway Accident in Sutter County.

SUICIDE OF AN AMADOR COUNTY PIONEER

Disastrous Warehouse Fire in Alameda County.

HALF RATES TO SEE PRESIDENT HAYES.

Fatal Result of a Shooting Affray at Bodie.

CALIFORNIA.

Reception of the President — Reduced Railroad Fares.

SAN FRANCISCO, September 3d.—At a meeting of citizens to-day at the Chamber of Commerce, to make arrangements for the reception of President Hayes, ex-Supervisor Stewart Menzies was chosen Marshal. In response to an application to the Central Pacific Railroad Company for a temporary reduction of fares in order to enable as many as possible from the interior to be present at the ceremonies on Admission Day, Supervisor Stetson informed the meeting that the company had agreed to transport visitors to the city over all their lines on the 7th and 8th instants at half-fare, with the privilege of returning at the same rates during the remainder of the week.

Warehouse Destroyed by Fire.

MISSION SAN JOSE, September 3d.—The Washington Corners warehouse, owned by William Mortimer, took fire this morning at about half-past 3 o'clock, and was burned to the ground. The flames spread very rapidly. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is claimed by the manager to be the work of an incendiary. The damage is estimated at from $80,000 to $100,000. 70,000 bags of grain having been stored in the warehouse, of which a great deal will be saved, though smoked and scorched. The warehouse was insured for $6,000; estimated value, $9,000. A. Decoto had about $8,000 worth of grain stored; insurance, $5,000. John Lowerie, $9,000; insurance, $3,000. T. Benbo, 50 tons of choice wheat; no insurance. J. T. Walker, 1,500 bags of chevalier barley and 1,400 of common barley; no insurance. Most of the larger lots were partly insured, but there was very little insurance on small lots. The total amount of insurance cannot at present be ascertained, but the Home Mutual, Phœnix and Western are said to be the heaviest losers. This is the severest calamity which ever befell this township, a great many poor families losing their all.

Suicide of a Pioneer Merchant.

JACKSON, September 3d.—Charles Steckler, the pioneer merchant of this town, committed suicide this morning by hanging himself to a beam in a room in the rear of his store. He went to open the store shortly before 7 o'clock, and at half-past 7 he was found dead. The Coroner's jury this afternoon returned a verdict that he committed suicide while in a fit of temporary insanity. No special reason can be assigned for the deed. He was a member of the Amador Pioneers, the Odd Fellows and the Masonic fraternity. The funeral will take place Sunday. He leaves a wife and six children.

Fatal Runaway Accident—The Yuba Light Infantry.

MARYSVILLE, September 3d.—Fred. C. Chase, the well-known well-borer, lately employed in peddling tinware for the house of E. C. Ross & Co., of this city, met with an untimely death yesterday at Nicolaus. He had left his horses for a moment, which became restless and started to run away. In attempting to stop them he was thrown down, trampled upon and run over by the wagon, crushing four ribs and producing other internal injuries, from which he died last night. His remains will be brought to this city for interment.

The Yuba Light Infantry, Capt. Brown, numbering forty men, arrived in this city this afternoon from Camptonville, en route to the Alameda encampment. They were cordially received by our citizens, and are now being entertained at the Western House. They will go down on the morning train.

Died of His Wounds.

BODIE, September 3d.—R. L. Whitaker, shot in Bodie Wednesday night by George Watkins, died at 3 o'clock this morning.

Admitted to Bail.

SAN DIEGO, September 3d.—The preliminary examination of S. A. Jones, charged with the murder of James Sullivan at Mount Fairview August 21st, which has continued five days, closed this evening. Defendant was admitted to bail in $3,000.

Passengers Passing Mojave.

MOJAVE, September 3d.—The following Southern overland passengers passed Mojave September 3d, to arrive in San Francisco September 4th: E. L. Clark and wife, New York; G. Andrade, P. H. Welander, San Francisco; C. W. Gellet and wife, Oakland; Jonn H. Hoar, New York; C. Kendrick, Oakland; John Clay, Jr., Scotland; E. Quimons, Mrs. K. E. Spencer, San Francisdo; E. A. McDonnell, Tucson.

NEVADA.

Passengers Passing Carlin.

CARLIN, September 3d.—The following passengers passed Carlin to-day, to arrive in Sacramento to-morrow: Mrs. J. G. Wootten, Iowa; John Martins, England; Miss V. A. Merrill, Wisconsin; Mr. Afton, Oakland; Mrs. M. M. Sheppard, Wisconsin; Mrs. B. Hobert, Master George W. Hobert, San Francisco; Miss H. W. Martin, California; Mrs. Ellen A. Johnson, South Africa; Miss Josie B. Somme, Miss Lizzie F. Somme, Chelsea, Mass.; D. C. Thorne, Prescott, A. T.; W. E. Bayley, wife, daughter and child, Chicago, Ill.; G. W. Woodson, Amity, Or.; Mrs. L. L. Sproul, Chico, Cal.; Miss Addie Hobert, California; Miss Louise Hebbard, New Hampshire; I. G. Burnett, San Francisco; A. Roberts, Miss Sarah Roberts, Portland, Or.; A. M. Palmer, New York; Mrs. J. Coughlan, J. Feigenbaum, San Francisco; Mrs. D. A. Day, Oregon City; George Draper and wife, Miss H. T. Draper, Massachusetts; Mrs. Kate E. Sunderland, Chicago, Ill.; A. Heinz, San Francisco; James Hood, Frederick Hood, Scotland; J. A. Parker, Alabama; W. W. Dunlap, Bodie, Cal.; J. Malott, Los Angeles, Cal.; W. Wolf, San Francisco; James O'Neil, Leadville, Col.; P. J. Henaly, St. Paul; Henry Harris, David Sampson, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Mary Johannes, Marysville, Cal.; Mrs. James Hutchinson, Oakland; Miss M. M. Bryant, Kansas; Charles Roth, Louisville, Ky.; 44 emigrant passengers, including 24 males, to arrive in Sacramento September 5th.

OREGON.

Wheat Market—Fire.

PORTLAND, September 3d.—The market for wheat during the past week has shown no sign of improvement as yet. There have been few arrivals from the valley and Eastern Oregon, and still fewer sales. A number of small lots were disposed of at $1 32½ per cental, which is an outside figure. Holders demand $1 37½@$1 40. But buyers are unable to meet these figures in the face of the Liverpool quotations and no immediate or ultimate prospects of an improvement. No charters have been reported this week. Owners hold vessels firm at 65s., while agents would hesitate to offer above 60s. No change to report in wool.

A fire broke out this morning in the residence of R. B. Knapp, corner of Third and Montgomery streets, and partially destroyed the building and contents. Loss, $2,500; fully insured.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

En Route to Alaska.

PORT TOWNSEND, September 3d.—The steamship California arrived from Portland to-day and left at 4 P. M. for Alaska, touching at Victoria to discharge freight. Among the passengers for Sitka are Paul Schulze, President of the Northwest Trading Company, and Commander Henry Glass, U. S. N., who goes to relieve Captain Beardslee, of the Jamestown.

I CHEERFULLY RECOMMEND Hammer's Cascara Sagrada Bitters for dyspepsia, habitual constipation and liver complaint They have made me a well man.
R. DAVIS. 411 K street, Sacramento.

HAMMER'S CASCARA SAGRADA BITTERS for habitual constipation.