

THREE ORIGINAL STORIES.

During the coming year, and commencing December 1st, the WEEKLY UNION will publish three Prize Stories of California. The first, the publication of which will commence in the first week of December, will be entitled, "The Ventures and Adventures of Charlie Gould." This is an intensely interesting story of the Stock-Gamboling period of California, and was written by Edward P. Cahill, of Los Angeles. The price of the WEEKLY UNION will be \$2 50 per annum.

THE WEEKLY UNION.

The WEEKLY UNION for 1881 will be far the most desirable paper published in the State. It is now the superior of any. It is the only weekly which goes to its readers twice a week; the only one which will give prophetic legislative reports; the only one to publish an original serial romance, founded on modern Californian history. It is the paper among weeklies of all others for home, farm, shop, office, street, market and counting-room. It is sent post-paid for a year for \$2 50.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday government bonds were quoted at 111 1/2 for \$4 of 1867; 101 1/2 for \$4 of 1881; 112 for \$4; securities, \$4 1/2 @ 83; silver bars, 111.

Silver in London yesterday, 51 1/4; consols, 100 7/16; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 104 1/4; 4s, 106 1/2; 4s, 115.

In San Francisco half dollars are quoted at 21 1/2 cent to par; Mexican dollars, 10 1/2 buying, 21 1/2 selling.

At Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 78 2 1/2 @ 54 for good to choice California.

Miner's stocks were fairly active in San Francisco yesterday morning and prices were tolerably well sustained. In most cases the figures show a slight improvement over the best rates at the corresponding Board on the 24th. The middle and south-end stocks were the most popular at the Board yesterday morning. Hale & Norcross advanced to \$4 50, the highest price this month. Alta is again cropping up. Demetrius Dominguez, 17 years old, was hanged for murder yesterday at Placita, A. T.

After a hard fight with horse thieves, the citizens of Grant county, A. T., succeeded in seriously wounding two of his band and recovering 22 head of the stolen stock.

Important discoveries of gold placer diggings are reported from Alaska.

Five miners were caught in a snow shed in Colorado Saturday, two being killed and a third badly injured.

Indian Agent Terry has given bonds for his appearance for trial at Denver April 7th.

A synopsis of the annual report of the Indian Bureau is given this morning in our dispatches.

W. O. Ackerly was seriously if not fatally burned at San Jose yesterday morning by the explosion of a student lamp.

The body of an unknown woman was found frozen stiff at Chicago yesterday.

Henry Nabusa was killed at Cincinnati yesterday by being caught in some shunting.

Charles Ross (resident) was murdered last night at Berkeley, N. J.

Robert, son of President Lincoln, received the most votes on the Electoral ticket in Illinois.

Marens de Lafayette Hawley was executed for murder yesterday at Selma, Va.

The public debt this month will be decreased about \$2,000,000.

The police suspect that Mrs. Martha E. Leback whose burned body was found at Jersey City Thursday, was murdered by her husband.

The Grand Jury at New York examined witnesses yesterday in the matter of the Morer error.

The steamer Simps has been lost on Lake Huron, and it is feared that all on board perished.

The Secretary of the navy has ordered the British steamship Sandringham out of the navy yard dock at Norfolk, Va., for her commander's recent discourteous conduct.

The disciples, a religious body with which General Garfield is associated, are about to build a church at Washington.

During the week 236,000 ounces of silver have been purchased for the Mints at New Orleans and San Francisco.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company have reduced the passenger rates from Omaha to Ogden from 75 cents per mile to 60.

The royal family attended the funeral of Chief Justice Cockburn at London yesterday.

Bismarck's ailment is now said to be rheumatism.

A great storm prevailed yesterday on the South Sea coast, doing much damage.

W. A. Harvey, prominent citizen, died suddenly at Elko, Nev., yesterday.

Michael Kurtz was found dead in a barn at Detroit yesterday.

L. Booth Winter cut his throat yesterday at Detroit in a fit of temporary insanity.

An unsuccessful attempt was made Thursday night to rob the railroad station at San Fernando, Los Angeles county.

A passenger train was derailed near Caliente, on the Southern Pacific, yesterday, but no one was hurt.

In the fighting at Duligno the Turks lost 200 killed and wounded, and the Albanians lost 400.

The trials of the indicted Land Lessees will begin at Dublin December 28th.

New counterfeits \$10 United States notes have been discovered.

A million and a quarter of dollars were withdrawn from the Bank of England yesterday for shipment to New York.

Garfield's majority over all in Maine was 4,160.

The Montegomeries are to occupy Duligno with 40,000 men.

By the falling of a scaffold yesterday at the Harlem river railroad bridge, two men were killed and three seriously injured.

Readers of the Record-Union will find the inside pages of today's issue unusually interesting.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Mr. Clarence King makes a strong argument on behalf of the continuation of the national geological survey, and we hope that Congress will be wise and liberal enough to make the necessary appropriation for this purpose. Mr. King states that half a million dollars a year will cover all the expenses of a national survey, and even if the cost was twice as much it ought to be undertaken. The importance and usefulness of these surveys cannot be exaggerated. From a purely material standpoint their value is incalculable. If such surveys had been made twenty years ago they would have saved hundreds of millions of dollars which have been lost through lack of the information which the work of Mr. King and his colleagues is supplying. Of course it is a gigantic undertaking, but it must be remembered that when once completed it will be accomplished for all time; that posterity will be furnished with the fullest information in regard to the conformation and mineral deposits of the whole of the country; and that benefits at present unperceived are certain to flow from the work. It is evident from Mr. King's report, as from the volumes already prepared, that the Survey corps are doing their duty in the most conscientious and thorough manner, and that their labors are destined to be honorable to themselves and an enduring monument to the progressive and liberal spirit of the United States. No doubt President Garfield will use all his influence in support of an undertaking the value of which he is so well able to appreciate, and a Republican Congress cannot do better than to signalize its return to power by putting the Geological Survey upon a permanent basis as regards the necessary funds.

The Duchess of Edinburgh is the member of the royal family who is the least well known to the world of fashion and the people of England generally.

THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL REFORM.

There is necessarily a great deal of curiosity and even anxiety concerning the nature of the policy to be adopted by the incoming Administration. General Garfield has given few or no indications of what he purposes, nor can any definite conclusion be drawn from his past career. He has been a Congressman and an active politician for twenty years. He has been accustomed to view things from the standpoint of party expediency. He has once or twice shown a disposition to uphold even partisan abuses. On the other hand he has displayed a mental grasp far beyond that of the average politician. He has evidently endeavored to do his duty by the whole country rather than by party alone. And he has, by his intellectual cultivation, his scholarly tastes, his redemptive power, and his general affinity for the more exalted and noble tendencies of national life, appeared to belong naturally to the elements which are at present trying to combine their forces against political corruption and the spoils system, and in support of civil service reform. Nevertheless it is necessary to remember that in his letter of acceptance General Garfield took what appeared to be anything but advanced ground on this subject. He then intimated a belief that local appointments should be made by and with the advice of Congressmen; a principle which, if literally carried out, would be fatal to even the least measure of reform in the civil service. Since the election it has been apparent that an effort is being made to carry abroad the impression that the new Administration will be either controlled by, or on the best possible terms with, those political elements which are regarded by all friends of reform as most obnoxious to improvement. Day after day reports and rumors have been circulated that this, that or the other political "boss" was to be offered a seat in the Cabinet; that some notorious machine politician was believed to have the ear of the President-elect; that some particularly "stalwart" elements were to be infused into the Government; that it was to be administered on a basis which would entirely satisfy the most extreme politicians; and hints of that character. There is really no warrant for suspicion that these intimations have any support in fact. They are advanced anonymously for the most part, and not a few of them are contradicted subsequently. But the importance of the matter is such that the friends of reform cannot help feeling anxious as to the intentions of General Garfield. For this question of civil service reform is one which cannot be thrust aside, which will not stay suppressed, which is growing continually, and which is enlisted a larger and more determined public opinion every year. Party managers will do their best to evade it. The men who have been trained under the spoils system will fail to comprehend it. Self-seekers will endeavor to deny it. But it will force itself upon the attention of the country because it involves so many things besides the mere consideration of how certain offices shall be filled. A little more than a year ago a committee of Congress, composed necessarily of active and experienced politicians, used the following language in a report: "At the end of each four years the entire Federal patronage (amounting to one hundred and ten thousand offices), is collected in one lot, and the people divide themselves into two parties, struggling in name to choose a President, but in fact to control the enormous patronage, which the President, when elected, is compelled to distribute to his party because he was elected to distribute it. The temptation to fraud, to usurpation, and to corruption, thus created, is beyond calculation. A prize so great, an influence so powerful, thus centralized and put up at short periods, would jeopard the power and safety of any nation. No nation can withstand a strife among its own people, so general, so intense, and so demoralizing. No contrivance so effectual to embarrass government, to disturb the public peace, to destroy political honesty, and to endanger the common security, was ever before invented." This is strong language, but it is the language of men who from their position must know the subject they are discussing. It is, therefore, the more significant that, no matter with what ulterior motive, they should have borne this testimony in regard to the spoils system, and it must be remembered that their testimony harmonizes completely with the conclusions reached by far more disinterested observers.

The evils of the spoils system are fortunately becoming apparent to the people. It is no longer upheld as the best possible system, save by a few hide-bound partisans here and there, who are as deficient in intelligence as they are behind the age in appreciation of the public needs. It is very generally recognized at present that to this system we owe nearly all the most dangerous and discreditable of our political phenomena; that it adds bitterness and unscrupulousness to our political contests; that it organizes corruption, venality, dishonesty in politics; that it has built up the detestable "boss" system, by which a few adroit wire-pullers are enabled to control the patronage and consequently the politics of whole districts and States, to the entire suppression of public opinion, and to the degradation of knaves and rogues; that it fills our public offices with incompetent persons; that it prostrates the fiscal system of the nation into a mere plunder-collecting machinery for the special benefit of the dominant party; that it teaches partisans to regard party as equivalent to country; that it has paralyzed our foreign service by filling our consulates and missions with utterly unfit and utterly unselected officials; that it has enormously increased the expenses of government, and as greatly degraded the standard of competency in the public service; in short that it has turned government into a means of enriching demagogues and rascals at the expense of the people, and in doing this has driven the best elements of society out of politics altogether. These facts the people are beginning to understand, and therefore when some swashbuckler partisan undertakes to arraign a party chief because he has not regulated every appointment according to the old spoils standard, there is not only less disposition to approve the indictment, but there is a growing impatience with the impudence of it. No doubt there remain only too many of the Bourbon class who

think it treason to put any but abject partisans in office, and who think the unpardonable sin consists in appointing a Democrat to office under a Republican Administration, or vice versa. So much, however, has been gained that the facts of the spoils system are now freely listened to and their force admitted. It is indeed quite impossible to deny these facts, and therefore the hide-bound partisans usually fall back upon some vague generalities about "practical politics," which it seems as if they were to constitute a small minority. But another incentive to venality is the operation of a pervading corruption which renders a single vote, or even many votes, useless and worthless. The man who knows how little public opinion is consulted under the present political methods; how easily a few astute politicians contrive to manage and control the votes of wards, and consequently of cities, and so of States; must sometimes feel that contest against so thoroughly organized a system of political usurpation is quite idle, and that the only sensible course is to swim with the stream and make the most of such opportunities as present themselves. The "boss" system inevitably tends to cultivate venality, for it implants despair of better things in the minds of those who often possess a feeble moral balance. The tendency to do as others do is always very strong. The men who can refrain from wrongdoing when they see all or most of their neighbors indulging in similar escapades, are very few. The majority are content to be no better than their fellows. Example is powerful, also, and the examples which politics afford are seldom of a kind to discourage venality. The masses see demagogues successful. They see men of education and capacity stooping to lie and cog and pander and deceive themselves in a score of ways for the sake of office. They say to themselves that these men are their superiors in point of intelligence, and if such men sell themselves, why should not the humble voter make market of his vote. The standard of morals in politics is of course neither higher nor lower than that which obtains out of politics. It reflects the spirit of the age. The amount of venality to be found in the United States to-day is undoubtedly a very fair gauge of the morality of the American people generally. We do not believe that it is really so bad as might seem from the evidence adduced, but we are very certain that some of the most influential causes of political immorality depend upon the spoils system, and can be removed by abolishing it.

This is much to be thankful for, but it is of the utmost importance that the incoming Administration should take up the work where President Hayes has left it, and carry it forward. That General Garfield has the ability to comprehend the need of political reform, and the courage to undertake it, we cannot doubt. Nor can he be reflection hesitate as to the course which is most for his own honor and interest. It is said that he is an ambitious man. If that be so, his ambition must lead him to desire a high place in the esteem of his countrymen, and in no way can he gain this more surely than by advancing the great cause of reform which has hitherto been urged against such formidable and persistent obstructions. There are but two courses for him. On the one hand there is reform and all that it involves. On the other hand is the spoils system, with all that implies. General Garfield knows already to the advocacy of the latter course. General Grant gave the policy a full trial, and when his second term expired the Republican party was almost destroyed. It has, therefore, been made apparent that the people will not tolerate the apotheosis of the spoils system. When it is tried they vote against the responsible party, and this without any reference to the possibility of a change for the better. It cannot be too distinctly pointed out that the administration of President Hayes has been in every thing worth having a much more successful one than that which preceded it. President Hayes has pursued a course which has made it possible to elect General Garfield. Had the rule of the "bosses" been permitted through this administration, General Hancock would undoubtedly have been the President-elect. This is the simple truth, and its lessons are obvious. If General Garfield desires success, and reputation, and enduring honor and fame, he must walk in the direction indicated by his immediate predecessor, and he must carefully eschew all promises calculated to encourage or give prominence to the sinister influences which arise out of the spoils system, and which have already once threatened to bring that system and the Republic to an end at the same time. Reform is the only possible policy for a man of Mr. Garfield's intellectual and moral caliber. Any other, any second course, would lower him from the position he has already gained. There is no going backward for such a man, and with him forward of necessity means upward.

BRIBERY IN POLITICS.

A correspondent of the Nation, writing from one of the interior counties of New York, recounts his experience as a "worker" in politics during the late campaign. He was a Republican, of liberal principles and advanced ideas, and he says: "I have had full faith in the success of the Republican cause, believing that the majority of the voters, especially in the rural districts, when fully aroused, would vote from conviction with the Republican party." Believing this he went to the polls early and stayed all day, peddling tickets, talking to voters, and watching "the progress" of the voters and the methods of the "workers and poll-drivers." And what he discovered was that "upwards of twenty per cent of the voters were openly for sale. I learn that more than sixty were bought by the Republican workers at a price varying from \$2 to \$5 each. How many the Democratic workers secured here and there, who are as deficient in intelligence as they are behind the age in appreciation of the public needs. I have since learned that the towns in our county each require on an average at least \$250 for the sole purpose of buying votes on election day, and that this is the usual sum expended in this manner." The discovery of these facts set this Republican on the track of further information, and his researches were rewarded. He says: "I am informed that it cost our candidate for Congress in a district north of (1) Republican, and who was elected by a large majority, not less than \$25,000 to pay his election expenses within the past sixty days. I find that it would be folly for anyone to aspire to office in this county or neighborhood who was not wealthy and willing to pay liberally for the honor—that wealth is almost the sole requisite in a candidate for any office of importance. Finally, I find that this state of things is by no means exceptional, but that it is precisely the same in the adjacent counties and Congressional districts." Is the experience of this young politician local and peculiar? Is it paralleled in other and even in most parts of the country? And if it is, what conclusions are to be derived from such evidences of the prevalence of venality in politics, not only among office-holders and seekers, but among the masses—the sovereign people, above whose standard of morality neither parties nor governments can be expected to rise? In the first place it must be realized that there always has been and always will be a certain amount of public venality. This is as natural as immorality of any other kind, and to suppose that any form of government can be free from it is to suppose that under some forms of government human nature ceases to be human nature. Ignorance is a prolific mother

of political venality, moreover. The man who does not understand why he has a vote, or what the franchise implies, or how he may endanger his own interests by neglecting his political duties, is ripe for a bid of money for his vote. There can be no patriotism without intelligence. Institutions cannot be loved before they are comprehended. Of course there will always be some men dishonest enough to sell their votes with their eyes open, but they are sure to constitute a small minority. But another incentive to venality is the operation of a pervading corruption which renders a single vote, or even many votes, useless and worthless. The man who knows how little public opinion is consulted under the present political methods; how easily a few astute politicians contrive to manage and control the votes of wards, and consequently of cities, and so of States; must sometimes feel that contest against so thoroughly organized a system of political usurpation is quite idle, and that the only sensible course is to swim with the stream and make the most of such opportunities as present themselves. The "boss" system inevitably tends to cultivate venality, for it implants despair of better things in the minds of those who often possess a feeble moral balance. The tendency to do as others do is always very strong. The men who can refrain from wrongdoing when they see all or most of their neighbors indulging in similar escapades, are very few. The majority are content to be no better than their fellows. Example is powerful, also, and the examples which politics afford are seldom of a kind to discourage venality. The masses see demagogues successful. They see men of education and capacity stooping to lie and cog and pander and deceive themselves in a score of ways for the sake of office. They say to themselves that these men are their superiors in point of intelligence, and if such men sell themselves, why should not the humble voter make market of his vote. The standard of morals in politics is of course neither higher nor lower than that which obtains out of politics. It reflects the spirit of the age. The amount of venality to be found in the United States to-day is undoubtedly a very fair gauge of the morality of the American people generally. We do not believe that it is really so bad as might seem from the evidence adduced, but we are very certain that some of the most influential causes of political immorality depend upon the spoils system, and can be removed by abolishing it.

GERMANY AND THE JEWS.

The movement against the Jews in Germany is perhaps the most extraordinary phenomenon of modern times. It is equally difficult to account rationally for its genesis or its purpose. The offense of the German Jews, so far as can be gathered from the literature of the contest, consists in their success. They have, by the exercise of superior capacity, acquired wealth, position, intellectual influence. They have been able financiers, far-seeing merchants, vigorous journalists, enterprising projectors. They have won success in every avocation, and it is apparently an unavailing conclusion that their success has brought upon them the envy and hatred of certain classes in Germany. It is the more difficult for Americans to understand the attack upon them because in this country we have long since learned to estimate men by their capacities, without reference to their origin or race. It is impossible to discover any reasonable ground for the German hostility to the Jews. It is not asserted that they are not good citizens. It is not pretended that they are not moral and law-abiding members of the community. Yet notwithstanding the entire absence of any plausible ground of objection, we find the crusade against them being pushed even to prescriptive legislation, and what is most astonishing, we find the Government supporting the movement. That Prince Bismarck favors it can no longer be doubted, but what he expects to gain by it is a mystery. If the Jews are subjected to civil disabilities such as the English Parliament removed from them some forty years ago, the presumption is that they will refuse to reside longer in a country which persecutes and degrades them. Their exodus would not do but entail some suffering or at least serious inconvenience and loss upon them, but what would it do for the German Empire? Never since the Moors were driven out of Spain has a more suicidal policy been proposed, if we except the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Spain and France paid dearly for their folly and fanaticism in those cases. Is Germany envious of a like experience? The fact that this social war has broken out in a nation renowned for its liberalism in matters of philosophy and theology, and that it has received the support of the class of educators, adds to the singularity and paradoxical character of the situation. What has moved grave and learned German Professors and Presidents to join so irrational and bigoted a raid against one of the most useful and respectable elements of the nation? The explanations which have been put forward do not explain it. It is said that the Jews are becoming too influential, too wealthy, too absolute in matters of finance. But surely these are not reasons at all. They are merely silly and vulgar and contemptible prejudices, of a kind which we should not be surprised to encounter in a mob of ignorant and stupid peasants, but quite out of place in cultivated minds.

The Jews may be driven out of Germany, and if they go they will take with them a very large proportion of the wealth and the intellect and the enterprise of the country. But it seems to us that the grounds upon which they are being arraigned are in no way restricted to any race. Bismarck appears to be envious of Jewish wealth and capacity. If this is so, however, he would be equally envious of the wealth and capacity of those who should take the place of the Jews. The German people must be very simple to suppose that the intolerance of superior powers which Bismarck is here exhibiting, can be confined to the Jews. It is an intolerance which he is quite as likely to display against his own fellow-countrymen should occasion occur. And this assault upon the opportunities and liberties of a race is a bad omen for Germany, viewed from any standpoint. It is worse than if it were a religious warfare. It is a war by Absolutism upon popular expansion. The Jews have been directed to prosper under the iron hand of Bismarck. They have prospered so greatly that he cannot control the finances of the empire without their assistance. He wishes to be supreme, and therefore he proposes to rid himself of these obnoxious people; and the credulous Germans have suffered themselves to be included into playing his game, not thinking that they are helping to establish a precedent which will be turned against them the next time. Where is the boasted Teutonic instinct for freedom, when such disgraceful movements as this are possible in Germany? Is it to this pitiful and wretched conclusion that the much-vaunted educational system of Germany has brought her foremost thinkers and scholars, her statesmen and her governors? There is not another civilized country in the world in which such a spectacle would be possible to-day. Not even in Russia would it be tolerated. But enlightened Germany, Philoprogen Germany, Germany of the Kulturkampf, Germany of the model educational system, appears to have flung aside reason and dignity and sense of justice, in order to indulge in an outbreak of bigotry which is the more absurd when we reflect that scarcely one of the foremost revilers of the Jews have any title to the name of Christian. Taking it altogether it is certainly a most wonderful freak of national folly, and it can scarcely have other than mischievous results for the German Empire, whatever end it brings to the Jews.

A HERETIC PUNISHED.

It seems that the enemies of Professor Robertson Smith in the Free Church of Scotland have at last hunted down their quarry. When he was arraigned in the Ecclesiastical Court a year ago, in connection with his article on the Bible in the "Encyclopedia Britannica," he succeeded in baffling his persecutors. Subsequently another volume of the Encyclopedia was issued, containing an article by Professor Smith on the Hebrew language and literature, and this afforded the basis for a second attack upon him. A Commission was accordingly appointed to examine this article, and it has made a report finding him guilty "of irreverence in his treatment of the Scriptures; of speaking of them in such a manner as to give the impression that God is not the author of them; that their narrative portion is not authentic; and that their prophetic portions were untrue." The special and particular offenses of the Professor are pointed out in the report. He has had the audacity to characterize Ezra and Nehemiah as being "singularly destitute of literary merit;" he alleges that two chapters of Isaiah "seem to have been first published as literary broadsides;" he speaks of the Song of Solomon as a "lyric drama," and of the story of Jonah as "a parable." Of course the Commission did not bring forward any evidence that Professor Smith's characterizations were erroneous. That was impossible. They could not compete with him in learning, but they could distance him altogether in bigotry and blind superstition. So they agreed that his conclusions, based upon learned research in the origin of the so-called sacred writings, were heretical, and notwithstanding an eloquent and masterly defense by the Professor himself, the Assembly suspended him from his Professorship for six months. This is a triumph of organized imbecility over superior intelligence, and that is the light in which it will be regarded. Professor Smith has been punished for discovering and declaring the truth, and for nothing else. The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland has shown itself to be no whit more advanced than was the Papal Government which condemned Galileo. Evidently if the Assembly had the power it would follow the example of the Papacy and impose silence upon Professor Smith, and would condemn the "Encyclopedia Britannica" to be confiscated and destroyed because it contains his heretical exposure of the true character of the canonical books. Such manifestations of bigotry, intolerance and stupidity are among the most powerful agencies which are operating to destroy human regard for ecclesiastical systems.

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

The New York Tribune criticizes the electoral system on the strength of the Indiana blunder which is supposed to have taken one electoral vote from Garfield and transferred it to Hancock. It says "while we still have the electoral system it will be well to bear this incident in mind to point a moral of absolute accuracy in future campaigns." The moral which this incident points is that the present electoral system ought to be abolished. That is the only rational conclusion to be reached, and that conclusion had been adopted by nearly all thinking men long before the late election. All experience has shown the present system to be clumsy, inefficient, and dangerous. It is a circuitous mode of doing that which can be much more certainly and safely effected without any such clamorous machinery. It was an experiment at the first, and it has never been a satisfactory experiment. It subjects the election of Presidents to chance and accident of the most trivial and preposterous kind. It might at any time enable a careless or corrupt clerk somewhere to reverse the will of the people. It might in fact under any circumstances plunge the country into civil war. It has no compensations, moreover. All its characteristics are objectionable, and it is time the country made up its mind to be imperiled no longer by an arrangement which was never intended to apply to the conditions which have arisen since the Constitution was drafted, and which becomes more untrustworthy every time it is used. The sensible, statesmanlike thing to do, is to get rid of it altogether, and hereafter vote for President and Vice-President directly, and let the actual majorities decide the event.

THE FUTURE OF SWITZERLAND.

The Fortnightly Review has an article by Fritz Condliffe-Owen on the future of Switzerland, which is more than usually suggestive and interesting. It is concerned with the question whether the independence of Switzerland is likely to be maintained in the future, and it shows that this is extremely doubtful. Surrounded by four powerful nations, Germany, France, Italy and Austria, Switzerland has hitherto owed the preservation of her independence to the fears and jealousies of her great neighbors. But there are indications that in the near future it may become more to

their interest to divide her territory among them than to unite in guaranteeing her neutrality, and her own sordidness seems to be helping on some such catastrophe. Several times in the past she has sold the right of crossing her territory to foreign armies, and even to rival foreign armies at the same time. At present she is building two great cross-railroad systems which are to facilitate communication with her neighbors, and for the construction of these lines, that is, for the St. Gothard tunnel and for the Mount Cenis tunnel, she has sought subsidies from Italy and France. Of course in so doing she has paved the way for future claims and complications of the most serious kind. More than this, France has for ten years been extending the fortifications of her frontier against German aggression, and in doing so she has obviously prepared to carry the war into her enemy's territory by invading South Germany through Switzerland. Germany of course will not sit quiet and allow such arrangements to be completed, and the result must be dangerous if not fatal to Swiss independence. The Cantons, however, appear to have lost their patriotic instincts of late years, and to be absorbed in money-getting. They are also playing with fire by allowing Socialists, Nihilists, Communists and all kinds of revolutionary cattle, not only to harbor at Geneva, but to publish the most incendiary journals there. This license may not always be submitted to patiently by the Governments whose heads are threatened with assassination from Swiss territory, and on the whole the little republic appears to be drifting towards very serious perils, which its people do not realize.

THEATRE RUMORS.

It is curious that while the first reports about the new Chinese treaty were particularly precise and full, as time passes the attainable information in regard to it becomes more and more slender and uncertain. The State Department has received intelligence, it is now stated, that two Chinese treaties have been negotiated; one purely commercial, and the other dealing with the question of immigration only. As to what the purport of the latter may be, nothing appears to be known certainly, but it is vaguely intimated that it relegates the whole matter to Congress. This is equivalent to saying that we are to make our own regulations in regard to Chinese immigration, but it does not seem probable that such a latitude would be accorded by the Chinese Government without making some reservation in the interest and for the protection of its subjects. The whole subject-matter of the treaty is, however, thus far in doubt, and apparently it will be necessary to await its arrival by mail before the actual work of the Commission can be comprehended.

A COMBINATION BLOCKED.

Mr. Everts appears to have got the better of the cable companies. The latter have apparently been thinking of a combination for the purpose of raising the price of dispatches, but the astute Secretary points out that their consciences contain express provisions prohibiting any combination for such purposes, and therefore the scheme will have to be relinquished on the threshold.

CHURCH AND STAGE.

From Moody and Sankey to Sheridan, the Actor—Some Cognitions and Some Criticisms.

SAN FRANCISCO, November 24, 1880.

The world this week is given over to gray, and the ghosts of turkeys that are to be eaten stalk along the mental horizon. The whole seven days snuff of dinner and suggest menu from early morn till dewy eve. The human mind is preoccupied with the supreme moment of Thanksgiving Day, and invitations to giblets and cranberry sauce fly about as thick as verses on Valentine's Day. In all these United States is there one man who holds by the customs of his fathers and prays long-visited and smiles on the great Thursday of November? Nay; rather does every eye bulge out in fatness and every voice ring with a jolly horn of stuffing and mince pie. As a matter of fact, the other night a hardy individual—I think he was a minister—suggesting a day of fasting and prayer in aid of the cause, but Mr. Moody, who is stout and hearty, as if having eaten Thanksgiving dinner every day in the year, hardly favored the idea, and asked how many people would fast and pray were a day appointed. A very humble old woman, having passed her three-score-and-ten years, has recently died in our neighborhood. Her name would be of benefit to no one, as it is and always has been shrouded in obscurity. Like the most of us, she was just no one in particular, yet I envied her the peace of her death more than if she had been First Lady of us all. To the question if she was not afraid to die, she replied, "Why, no, dear; why should I be afraid? I hope it may come to-day rather than to-morrow. I have lived up to my days and my sorrows are all behind me. I have raised my children, I have tried to do all the good I could, I have been a Christian woman and I am so sure of my future that I feel God and heaven just ahead. Afraid to die! Oh, no, my dear." Very much impressed and affected by her calm certainty, and longing myself for that frame of mind, I went to hear Mr. Moody, hoping that he might convert me to it. I think under any circumstances I should be ashamed to focus a thousand eyes upon me by shouting or going to a mourner's seat or rising to speak, but if to be converted was to believe the beautiful things that seem doubtful to me now, then I wished to be converted. I felt myself speculating as to my right and left hand—was this woman a Christian or that man? A pretty young girl with sparkling eyes sat just in front of me, and in a clear melodious voice she joined in all the hymns. My impulse, in my yearning, troubled longing, was to touch her on the shoulder and whisper, "Pretty young creature, do you believe these wonderful tales?" In the crowd I saw an acquaintance. How strange now it seemed that in all our conversations we had never touched upon this assumed belief, but I had reached her eyes as if to find assurance and asked anxiously, "Do you believe it?"

ONE BY ONE.

The ministers of different churches came into the pulpit till it was crowded. I should much have liked to sweep aside the veil that hung between us, to see for myself if they believed it all, or if not quite all, then how much? Could boldness to confront them have been given me, I should have assailed them passionately with words, I am afraid. "John Humphreys, do you believe in the mysteries of atonement? Asa Piske, first lawyer and then preacher, do

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.

(From San Francisco exchanges of November 26th.)

The steamer Colima, from Panama, brought 41 cabin passengers and 36 in the steerage.

From November 1st to the 25th, both dates inclusive, 45 wheat vessels were cleared from San Francisco.

Interest in the Haskell manslaughter case seems to augment as the trial wears on, for the Court-room is crowded daily.

The merchandise exports of the week were valued at \$1,406,509, and increase of \$79,070 from the previous week. Six coast steamers arrived at the wharf yesterday with full cargoes of produce. One of them brought 750 tons of British Columbia coal.

The real estate tax collections up to this morning amounted to \$233,425, and at noon \$25,000 had been paid in, making a total of \$258,425.

Dr. James P. Whitney, one of the best-known physicians of the city, died yesterday afternoon at his residence, No. 1007 Sutter street, of paralysis.

George A. Fisher, a native of New York, aged 30 years, a waiter at Larkin's saloon, No. 446 California street, dropped dead at the northeast corner of Pine and Sansome streets about 9 o'clock this morning. He leaves a family at No. 335 Green street.

The crush for hearing Moody and Sankey last night, if it passed off peacefully, was the opening of the season, and whether the masses came from curiosity, or with a desire to be converted, it is certain that public interest in their ministrations is not in the least on the wane.

It is expected that the third section of 1,000 feet of the new sea-wall will be finished next month. Work on the sea-wall will probably cease after the completion of section four, owing to the legislative enactment prohibiting further appropriations from the fund appropriated for their appropriations more than one year.

Lebig Co.'s Coca Beef Tonic.

"It has more than realized my expectations," says Professor DUNNAN CAMPBELL, M. D., Professor of Anatomy (College Physicians and Surgeons; Member General Council University of Edinburgh, etc., invaluable for chest, lung, biliousness, dyspepsia, and general debility. Beware of cheap, worthless imitations under other and similar names. Ask for Coca Beef Tonic.

you believe in your inmost soul that Jesus, born of woman, is the Son of God? S. K. Noble, stand still and tell just how sure you are that every word of the Bible is true. John Reid, of Victoria, and Mr. Harford, and yet, Edward F. Walker, and you the Rev. Mr. Gibson, and you, Mr. and you, and you, and the tall one over yonder; gentlemen, as you stand in the presence of your God, tell me, I beseech you, do you firmly believe there is a God, a Christ, a heaven, a future at all, and how can a woman believe what she would, and can't? Then Mr. Sankey sang, and it was hymn-singing, indeed. Over all the vast congregation a hush, impressive in itself, descended, and we all seemed to soar with the lifted voice. Some say these men are to stay here all winter, and perhaps if they do I may find myself out of doubt. In the meantime I see with worldly eyes, and Mr. Moody seems not very eloquent, not so very magnetic, but to have had granular and anecdotes. His co-laborer, Mr. Sankey, looks clean and sleek, and carries about him a cultivated air. They have both my best wishes and my cooperation as far as the latter is concerned. A minister said a day or two ago, "Oh! you church-members who go to theaters!" and there was a

WORLD OF REBUTS.

And horror in his tone. To me the evening at the theater is like the intense, vivid, earnest, absorbed reading of a book, in which the mind is so lost that the characters live, breathe and speak as real men and women, with impassioned voices with world-like gesture, with changing countenance and quivering lips. Sometimes