

WILLIAM L. ROYAL, of New York, has been retained by the English bondholders to institute legal proceedings to test the constitutionality of the acts of the General Assembly of Virginia in the settlement of the obligations of that State.

THE Republican papers are printing a private letter of Duncell's to a friend wherein he announces that he is a candidate for both the House and Senate.

THE Minneapolis Journal gravely announces that St. Paul concedes the Congressman from this district to Minneapolis. It would be better to look for the decision of this question at the ballot box.

THE Chicago Times is not to be gulled by the silly twaddle that Collector Spalding secured his position independent of Senator Logan's wishes.

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SOILING SEED.

Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters.—ISAIAH 52:xx. The bible often illustrates its teachings by the habits and customs of the people living at the time.

It is quite evident that the Republican papers have more apprehension from Sammy Tilden than any other source. Ever since they stole the Presidency when he was elected in 1876, a guilty conscience has kept the Republicans constantly harping on Samuel.

REFORM seems to have set in earnest in the boss-ridden city of Philadelphia. Last spring the Democrats elected their Mayor, and at the recent election ten Democrats and only two Republicans were elected to the Select Council.

THE Chicago Tribune, referring to the re-instatement of Gen. Fitz John Porter to his position in the army, says: "The edict which shall re-instate Fitz John Porter will be an insult to every Union officer and soldier, and especially to every survivor of that army in Virginia, which Fitz John Porter aided the rebels to overcome."

THE MORAL INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY. The conspicuous and marked feature of the revolution now going on in the political forces of the world, is the potent but conservative influence of Christian example in controlling the actions and passions of man.

Against polygamy indulgences under the guise of Christian fervency and devotion, the civil power of this country was directed for a quarter of a century, and in vain, until reinforced by the moral or Christian influence of the nation.

To sow beside all waters, is to improve every opportunity to do good that presents itself. It is to hold oneself in readiness to do the best one can for all; in a vain, until reinforced by the moral or Christian influence of the nation.

—had only to seek to extend its sphere and empire, in order to arouse a public sentiment that would prove fatal to its longer existence in the country. Mormonism took this step forward: challenged the moral forces of the nation, after having defied the government for over a quarter of a century, and the voice of the people—vox populi vox dei—has gone forth that this foul den must be broken up and die.

But the results achieved through moral agencies in bridling the passions of man, and tempering with mercy the power of government, are not less conspicuous in the Old World than in the New.

THE conservative influence of christian example—the moral force of society—is due to-day to the preservation of civil government and tolerant laws alike on the Baltic and Seine, the Danube and the Thames. Church discipline and ecclesiastical laws are not essential to State autonomy, but they temper the laws and the will of man with the spirit of mercy.

THE utility of public schools in a moral point of view, was a matter of dispute and discussion, even in the old Roman Empire—so many vices and corruptions were developed in the schools, that it was a question whether their abolition would not be promotive of public virtue.

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THE Scotch fire-tree, is to my mind, the best symbol of the Christian. The least of earth is required for its roots; it finds nourishment in a dry soil amid barren rocks, and yet, green in winter as in summer, it towers the highest of all the trees of the wood toward the sky, and with least of earth makes the greatest approach to heaven.

THE orthodox religious journal speaking of the doctrines of the inspiration of the Bible in connection with the reformers of the Lutheran era, says: "The truth is the reformers had no special doctrine of inspiration, as it was not necessary that they should have; each believed that theory that commended itself to his best judgment."

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THE Boston Congregationalist discusses in this way upon the great falling off in infant baptism in the Pædobaptist churches: "Congregationalists—under the attrition of Baptist friction on the one side, and the force of their own principles of individualism on the other—have become a good deal demoralized in this particular."

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TIMELY TOPICS.

SAYS DWIGHT: "I know no other path to thrones but that of blood." WASHINGTON'S birthday was celebrated in many places by holding anti-polygamy meetings, to denounce the twin relics, and demand its abolition.

THE moral quality of the act of issuing passes to legislators, judges and other public functionaries is under sharp and warm discussion in many quarters.

Who has not observed the restlessness of human ambition? Who of us can say, "I am contented?" We all look forward to some thing yet to come. The scenes of to-day disgust us, and we are pleased with the visions of to-morrow.

HAWTHORNE, the novelist, once said that a man highly educated might lose himself in his learning, like bees in their honey. That is, they might become utterly impracticable in regard to all the sensible material affairs of life, simply learned dunces.

THE Christian Leader says of the late Richard H. Dana, of Boston, who was an eminent lawyer, that he practically as well as theoretically refused to act, on the axiom that a lawyer had but one duty, that of screening his client. Mr. Dana strenuously insisted that no profession could release one from the paramount claims of eternal right. There are other professional gentlemen, not a few, who take a like high ground.

MORNING STAR: The great beauty of the gospel of Christ is to be found in its simplicity. It is so simple that a child or a wayfarer man need not err. "He may run that readeth it." It appeals to the heart as well as to the head. Its acceptance is all the condition that is required, and its effect is instantaneous, radical, sovereign and satisfactory.

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SAYS A WRITER: Nothing but immortality can satisfy the mind of man. The mind of man is immortal. The ocean only can fill the ocean's bed. How vain, then, in man to imagine satisfaction in the acquirement of anything perishable.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York Independent, with audacious, brazen effrontery, writes to that journal offering some fifty manuscript sermons of a deceased eminent divine for sale, to be preached over again by any bold, plagiaristic purchaser who may dare to use them.

RELIGIOUS HERALD: The Scotch fire-tree, is to my mind, the best symbol of the Christian. The least of earth is required for its roots; it finds nourishment in a dry soil amid barren rocks, and yet, green in winter as in summer, it towers the highest of all the trees of the wood toward the sky, and with least of earth makes the greatest approach to heaven.

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no God to pray to, goes through a form before his "sermon," so-called, but instead of saying "Let us pray," he says, "Let us be in communion together," and then launches out into the enunciation of a string of carefully prepared platitudes substantially pointless and meaningless, concluding, however, with the conventional "Amen." This "blind guide," in his travesty on pulpit services, must, it is believed, have a short day, for a congregation cannot long be held together, on such a basis even in Chicago. It must be that a sense of self-respect and a sense of common decency, so far predominates in that congregation as to discard the error of the individual, who disclaims the possession of an immortal soul, and denies to the universe, an intelligent, omnipotent, divine Creator.

LAST Sunday morning's GLOBE referred to the career of George C. Miln, successor to Robert Collyer, pastor of Unity church, Chicago. It seems, notwithstanding his advanced infidel views, he is still pastor of the church. He resigned his pastorate, but the church requested him to withdraw his resignation. He did so, with the remark that he considered the action of the church a declaration on their part that they would allow the preacher to travel to the utmost verge of his thought. The following is a recent utterance of Mr. Miln: "I reject the idea of a personal God; of a hell; and of the immortality of man."

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A CORRESPONDENT writing from Japan asserts that the secular press of that country is largely in favor of the spread of christianity, at least in its favor of the largest toleration. The Nichi Nichi Shinbun, of Tokio, an organ of the government, had recently an article on the folly of fighting the "foreign religion." The following paragraph taken from the Japan government newspaper organ, is remarkable coming from the heart of "heathendom."

Who will say it is not enlightened, philosophical, considerate and deeply thoughtful, in the development of principles that lie at the foundation of all improvement and progressive action. The journal says: "Experience plainly proves that religious belief is to be left to men's consciences, and that the spread of religion cannot be prevented for any length of time, even by the government itself. The restoration fourteen years ago seemed to raise the Shintoism to the position of the state religion, whereas the Shinto priests began to put on airs, and the Buddhists were in a state of constant apprehension; yet Shintoism has not gained much influence, nor has Buddhism lost much by it. The rise or decline of a religion lies in the existence or non existence of truth in its system, and it is therefore wholly a matter inherent in itself. If you priests truly feel anxious over the danger that threatens your religion, improve your virtues, quicken your learning, inquire for more truth. Labor steadily to correct your conversation and conduct so as to receive credit in society."

THE CHURCHES.

Pacific Congregational church, Acker street.—Rev. C. Conant, of Cannon Falls, will preach morning and evening. All are welcome.

First Presbyterian church, corner of Lafayette avenue and Woodward street.—Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Preaching by Rev. Dr. S. Conn. Sunday school at 12 m. Young people's meeting at 6:45 p. m.

St. Paul's church (Episcopal), corner Ninth and Olive streets.—Rev. J. H. Thomas, rector. Services at 8 a. m. Morning prayer and sermon, 11 a. m. Evening prayer and address, 4 p. m. Sunday school, 2:30 p. m. Lenten services at 7:30 p. m. Holy communion, 8 p. m.

St. Joseph's church, Carroll street, between Western and Virginia.—Rev. J. H. Thomas, rector. Services at 8 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Holy communion at 10:30 a. m. High mass and sermon at 10:30 o'clock a. m. Vespers at 8:30 o'clock p. m.

St. Mary's church, corner Ninth and Levee streets.—Rev. L. E. Callahan, pastor. Mass at 8 o'clock a. m. Sunday school at 9:30 o'clock a. m. Vespers at 8:30 o'clock p. m. Assumption church, (German), corner of Ninth and Franklin streets.—Mass at 7 o'clock a. m. for children at 8 o'clock a. m. High mass and sermon at 10:30 a. m. Sunday school at 3 o'clock p. m.

St. Louis church, corner of Exchange and Wabasha streets.—Rev. A. Payett, pastor. Mass at 7:30 o'clock a. m. High mass and sermon at 10 o'clock a. m.

THE SOCIAL WORLD.

Practically speaking, the curtain was rung down on the social scene last Tuesday night, when the season's festivities came to a close largely, with a grand flourish of trumpets. The elegant affair of the week was the bal masque of the German society last Monday evening, the appointments of which were unusually elegant and brilliant.

Otherwise there have been a number of pleasing events, but with the advent of the Lenten season there is noticeable a decided falling off in the number of doings. The halls of pleasure are well nigh deserted, and feet that were wont to trip so lightly to the fairy measures of the waltz are now confined to the prim paths of propriety. The happenings of the week will be found below:

Mr. Harry Comb has returned to Deadwood. The ladies of the Vocal club enjoy their Monday afternoon rehearsals very much.

Miss Gussie West will leave this evening on a visit to her friends at Louisville, Kentucky.

The fair at the Congregational church last Thursday night was well attended and very successful. Prof. Leib will assist the Mendelssohn club in their concert in this city next Wednesday evening.

Mr. Daniel E. Fogarty, of the German-American bank, is laid up by temporary, but serious indisposition.

Mr. Ehle Allen is recovering from his illness, and his face is again wreathed in the old-time pleasant smile.

The Misses Rahilly, of Lake City, have returned to St. Joseph's academy, and their musical studies in the city.

Prof. Priem and family will entertain the Beethovens on next Tuesday evening. The boys are getting ready for the occasion.

Ex-Gov. Davis, who has been confined to his home for several days, is convalescent, and is expected to be at his office to-morrow.

Judge O'Gorman has been confined to his residence for two days on account of a severe cold. He will be around again the ensuing week.

A young lady on Dayton avenue, esteemed for her beautiful alto voice as well as for her social charms; is soon to be carried away to a distant state by a young gentleman who formerly lived in this city.

The Terpsichoreans gave a delightful party at College hall last Friday evening, which admirably sustained the reputation of that order for social supremacy. The dancing lasted until 2 o'clock, and the affair was very successful in all particulars.

The first anniversary of the Emmet Light artillery will take place at Market hall on the evening of the 4th of March. The entertainment will be of a literary, musical and social order, and the members of the company will give an exhibition drill.

The members of Christ Church Guild gave a pleasant entertainment last Tuesday evening, assisted by Mrs. Lamprey and Mr. Draper. The programme was literary and musical, and its able rendition reflected great credit upon those who contributed to the entertainment.

The Eight to Twelve social club gave a party Friday evening at the residence of Chief R. O. Strong, on Fort street. The club was handsomely entertained and an evening of delightful festivity was enjoyed. The club derives its title from the amount of time to which the gatherings are limited.

A musical and literary entertainment will be given in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. next Thursday evening, at which a fine programme will be presented. Selections will be given by Miss Mary Priem, assisted by Mr. J. M. Lichtenberger, the secretary of the association, and the Beethoven society.

Capt. Ed. Bean, of the Allen Light guards, will leave this evening for New York and Washington. In the former city he will look up new uniforms for the company, and his visit to the national capital is to secure certain reforms in the mail service of this state. He will be accompanied by Mr. Wm. Anderson, the Seventh street jeweler.

The X. L. Literary society connected with the Congregational church will hold its next meeting to-morrow evening at the residence of Mrs. Dr. Higbee, corner Ninth and Robert. The essay of the evening by Prof. Leib, on the Rise of Culture in Germany and its Results. Miss Kountz, Miss Schwartzwelder, Mr. Baldwin and Miss Thurston will supply the music for the evening.

Rev. S. G. Smith is actively engaged in the translation of the 3-part symphony ode, "The Desert," composed by Felicien David. This magnificent work is for male chorus and orchestra, and it is expected that, under the able and faithful direction of Prof. Priem, the Beethovens will present it soon and show the great progress they have made during the winter.

Elaborate arrangements have been made by the teachers and pupils of the public schools to celebrate, in a becoming manner, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the birth of the poet Longfellow, which occurs to-morrow. Interesting exercises have been prepared for the respective schools and a pleasant time is expected all around. A fine programme will be given at the high school, the exercises to commence at 11:15 o'clock a. m.

Gen. M. D. Flower, supervising inspector of steamboats, returned to St. Paul yesterday from several week's absence in the city of Washington. In speaking of the board of supervising inspectors in Washington last week he states that the members of the board were a unit in favor of repealing the law that requires the officers of all boats to take a reception at the city and state, the last being considered an unnecessary burden on skilled labor.

A quiet and very charming wedding took place in this city last Tuesday morning being the marriage of Mr. W. D. George, the popular traveling salesman for Averill, Russell & Carpenter, and Miss Lillie J. Taylor the accomplished society belle. The ceremony was performed in the presence of a few friends by Rev. Mr. Garnett, at the residence of the bride's parents. After a pleasant reception they left on the 3:40 train for Omaha.

A pleasant surprise was given at Charley Drake's, on Pleasant avenue, two or three evenings since, by the following named ladies and gentlemen: Lizzie Gillon, Grace Haggarty, Martha Haggarty, Hannah Carroll, Katie Cane, Katie McDon-

THE TEXAS CAPITOL.

Three Million Acres of Land Given Chicago Men for a \$1,600,000 Building, [Chicago Inter-Ocean.]

On the extreme northwestern frontier of Texas, cut by the Canadian and Clear rivers with innumerable branches, abounding in rich grazing lands and fertile tracts, is a great square block of territory projecting almost to the northern limit of the Indian territory, and of larger domain than the entire state of Connecticut. Here the Red and Washita rivers rise and clear cold springs abound in vast numbers. Here celebrated battles have been fought and the once lordly Indian subjugated by the hand of the white man. Here herds have fed in thousands, and surveys for various railways have been run through. A land it is of perpetual summer and a climate varying with the finest on the Pacific slope. Long the eyes of speculators have turned toward the spot, and the tide of emigration has been kept on only by the lack of facilities for transportation.

But a few days ago a curious incorporation was noticed among the list from Springfield, of a company of prominent Chicago men empowered to build a state capitol for Texas, and then the startling announcement that this vast territory described, known on the maps as "Pan Handle," had been decided to the incorporation as payment for the proposed state capitol. Most prominent among the names of incorporators were those of the Farwells of this city. Congressman C. B. Farwell was at once visited for facts relative to this unparalleled scheme, and the following dialogue ensued:

CONGRESSMAN FARWELL INTERVIEWED. "Mr. Farwell, the readers of the Inter Ocean would like a description of that little matter in Texas."

"Well, now, I don't believe we know anything about it; do we, John?" turning to his brother.

"Just a little, perhaps," observed Mr. John.

"We had better not tell him, had we?" quoth Mr. C. B.

"Just a little perhaps," again observed Mr. J. V.

"Let me ask you a few questions," said the scribe, "and you can answer as many of them as you please."

"Well, fire away. I might die in a worse cause."

"Who are the parties interested in this transfer of land?"

"A. C. Babcock of Canton, Ill., Abner Taylor, my brother John and myself of Chicago."

"When was the matter proposed?"

"On the 7th of last month I came from Washington on the receipt of a telegram, and we talked the matter over, and soon after sent a reliable expert to make arrangements if everything was satisfactory."

"What about the Texas side of the question?"

"The state set apart a body of land to pay for a capitol which would be large enough to meet the demands of the future. The proposition was made to us, and a telegram from another source assured us that the agreement has been consummated beyond recall."

"How large is the tract of land?"

"It comprises 3,000,000 acres."

"How is it bounded?"

WHERE THE BONANZA LIES. "It comprises what ought to form a part of Indian territory, which bounds it on the east and north at the intersection of a line 30 deg. 30 min. north latitude, with the 103d meridian of west longitude running 34 1/2 miles south of the corner of Kansas, New Mexico and Colorado. The area consists of about 5,000 square miles, being nearly two hundred miles long and almost thirty wide. Some 50,000 acres of this were set aside by the state to defray the expenses of the survey of the tract, and the remainder belongs to us."

"That makes you the largest individual land owners on the globe, does it not?"

"I did not agree to answer everything."

"Both gentlemen smiled, however, and the cat pranced out of the bag at a 2-40 gait."

"A scientific analysis of soils would be next in order."

"Well, a large tract of land adjoining is set apart for grape culture, and California men are experimenting at home and on the tract prefer the latter. They claim that it is the finest vineyard on the continent. There is no stoppage of operations there for winter. It is well watered and timbered."

"What is the prospects of railway projects?"

"Three railways are rapidly pushing through, the Houston and Texas Central railway, and another one from Austin, and one from Denver, which Denver people are building."

"What do you propose doing with this land?"

"I guess it is time for me to go to Lake Forest."

John V. here smiled encouragingly, and thought congressional time a little fast, perhaps.

"Well, then," continued the victim, "we have two and two offers for it, the price of which is upward of \$2,000,000. We think it worth more, and have declined."

LATEST PLANS FOR THE LAND. At this point a letter was handed the speaker, and as he glanced at the contents his face beamed with approval.

"I have the latest and best scheme in hand," he said. "One of the promoters of the project writes that the land can be colonized with 30,000 thirty European in short order, which scheme will realize best, I think. The cattle men meet in Austin today to talk over the land for grazing, and the results of their deliberations will have an important bearing on the future of the Pan Handle. We are not dying to dispose of the land, which we are aware will yield us an enormous revenue."

"You have not yet spoken about the capitol?"

"We are under contract to build it in six years, at a cost not to exceed \$1,600,000, which will give Texas a fine structure. It will be built of local stone and surpass in modern elegance."

The clock on the wall pointed sarcastically at its face value. The gold time-piece of the congressional notable warned visited and visitant of the near departure of the European representative of the office extant of the largest private land office extant, a breathless representative of a morning's contemporary shouted in vain, "You'll let the Inter Ocean 'scoop' us, Mr. Farwell, by going off in that style."

St. Louis, Feb. 25.—A committee of seven prominent members of the exchange have been appointed by President Slayback to solicit aid for the sufferers by the overflow of the Mississippi river in the state of Mississippi.

Steamboat Burned—Four Lives Lost. VICKSBURG, Feb. 25.—The steamboat Bertie Vicksburg burned to the water's edge at Whiting Lake Landing, Steele's bayou. The cargo of 160 bales of cotton and 300 sacks of cotton seed was destroyed. Loss \$15,000. One negro man and three children were drowned.

The general assembly of Virginia yesterday elected five judges of the supreme court of appeals nominated by the Readjuster caucus.