LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

PERUVIAN POTTERY.

NO COMPLETE COLLECTION IN EXISTENCE—THE DIFFICULTIES INCREASING EVERY YEAR.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The suggestion of your correspondent, "P. P.," in regard to a complete collection of Peruvian pottery, is well timed. There is not in fact such a collection in existence, not even in Lima. The one in Cuzco, which belonged to the late Señora Zeutino, is very full in general antiquities, but deficient in pottery. The collection sent to the Centennial by the Peruvian Government was of only little value. The few pieces in the Central Park Museum are fairly typical, but the collection is far from complete. The Folsom collection has rested for a quarter of a century in the vaults of the New-York Historical Society, and everything of interest connected with it is almost forgotten. It should be unpacked and placed where it can be properly exhibited and studied by the public.

Your correspondent, however, is mistaken as to the plentifulness of ancient pottery on the Peruvian coast. After three centuries of persistent treasure hunting, the coast ruins, and indeed nearly all Peru where aboriginal remains are to be found, have been dug over and over again by those indefatigable destroyers of everything except the precious metals, which can readily be converted into money. The Spanish priests also, who followed in the track of the conquest with much zeal, did their best to destroy all things, including pottery, which reminded the Indians of their ancient traditions and idolatries, and we find the pious chroniclers recording the destruction of these sacred vessels by the thousand.

The ancient Peruvians of the coast (the Chimus) were remarkable as workers in metals. Their chief excellence, however, was in their pottery. It is impossible to enumerate the countless varieties of forms and combinations in these fragile but almost imperishable remains. There are hardly two specimens alike. Not only do we find almost every combination of regular or geometrical figures, but earth, sea, and air are laid under contribution to supply shapes for the pattern. Men, animals, birds, and fishes, shells, fruits, and vegetables all find their reproductions in clay. Even the physical features of the ancient inhabitants, their architecture, arts, customs, styles of dress, and religious notions—in fact, all the history that will ever be known of a departed civilization save a few vague traditions—find illustration here. Hence the importance of such a collection as has been suggested. Cannot sufficient money be obtained to secure it, and proper persons be found to undertake the task of collecting it? It will every year become more difficult to obtain, and should be neglected no longer.

Brooklyn, Jan. 17, 1877. E.

MOTHERS-IN-LAW.

THE CASE IN ENGLAND—PRIMOGENITURE—RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN NOT AFTER ONE'S OWN MIND—TWO VIEWS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: When people are troubled by the disfavor shown to mothers-in-law, does it not show that in some way the coat fits? Some of us don't mind it, and the more there is said the more we laugh. The fact is, it will not do to be oversensitive, and one never can restrain people from having their little jokes. The true course is to keep out of the way so that they shall not hit us.

There are two sides to the question, as there are to most things, and I fancy a part of this prejudice is traditional and imported from England. There is something inexpressibly painful in the condition of many women there, owing to the law of primogeniture. I do not say it can be helped, but merely state the fact. A woman in her own home reigns supreme, of course in her place as the wife. The husband dies, the eldest son becomes of age and takes possession of the estate, of the house, or houses, and she, on her jointure, retires to her jointure house, and after reigning so long, and perhaps still in the very prime of life, she becomes second and subordinate to her children. It is the law and the custom. I do not say it can be helped, but it must be very hard.

In this country it is as you take it. If a mother does her best, and brings up her children well, and is self-respecting and reasonable, she is not likely to suffer as a mother-in-law. But she can no longer expect to hold the first place. The Scripture declares and reiterates that a man shall "leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife." It may be, not that he loves them less, but he loves his wife more. And in the case of a daughter, her own home and her own duties are of necessity first with her, though as these multiply she will the more appreciate her mother and what she has done for her.

There are two ways of taking life. One is to claim perfection, and to blame everybody who does not come to your standard. The other, perhaps, can be better expressed in the words of another. Said she, in a confidential talk one day: "If my children do wrong, I blame myself for not having taught them better; if they go wrong, I feel ashamed that I did not put them in the right way. If they should fail in respect (which they have not done so far), I should take myself to task for it. It will not do to expect too much in this imperfect world." There is a poem somewhere, called "Laying Down the Kingdom," which is full of meaning. It may be very hard, but it is the order of nature, and if we try to resist fixed laws, we suffer. Moreover, this is our temptation. We want to see our children as wise at the beginning as we are at the end of the course. It won't do. Experience can only be bought. It can neither be borrowed nor taken as a gift, and without experience who shall be wise? ONE OF 'EM.

New-York, Feb. 6, 1877.

A DEFENSE OF THE SPITZ DOG.

UNJUST ATTACKS—WHAT HE HAS TO SAY FOR HIMSELF.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I protest against the unwarranted attack that has been made upon the little Spitz dogs. I have found them remarkable for devotion, sagacity, affection, and cleverness. I have rarely known them to be dangerous. If they could read and speak I fancy they would now demand a hearing and say something like the following: "I do not wish to decry other dogs, but I will hold up my own kind. If we are not useful we are certainly ornamental—and you know 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.' Certainly the words 'beautiful' and 'charming' have been applied to me; and I must say I thought, when bending over a placid pool one day, the terms were quite appropriate, and showed on the part of the utterer very good taste. Of course, all Spitz dogs are not like myself. I was brought up, I might say, in the lap of luxury, carefully trained and educated, and surrounded with many refining influences. Ask my mistress if I am a dangerous animal. Ask any one who knows me, and they will say No! Why, I believe if I were lost, or anything should happen to me, their grief would be inconsolable. Pardon the fear; it always affects me when I think how they would miss me, and how, perhaps, they would say, 'Do you remember our dear little Spitz with his frolicsome ways; how he bounded out to meet us on our return, and how overjoyed he seemed when we returned his caresses?'

"It is necessary to train up children; why not dogs? If people will only teach us how to conduct ourselves in trying emergencies; how to control our tempers when chased by boys, clubbed and stoned, or when forced to wear lin appendages to that natural appendage used by us to express our emotions, we may in the course of time be able to meekly bear it all. Or through the influence of our friend, Mr. Bergh, society may become so civilized that cruelty to animals will be a thing of the past. In that case, take the word of an honest dog, who never told a lie, you will hear no more of people being bitten. It is not fair that because one or two of my race, with perhaps a highly strung nervous organization, brought up in the gutter, neglected and unpetted, turn when they are trampled on, that we should all be condemned. I shudder now every time I meet a policeman, and am actually growing paler every day. Come then to our rescue and say a good word for us, and you will always be greeted with a wag." SPITZ.

New-York, Feb. 5, 1877.

POETRY AND FACTS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Some time ago I pointed out Longfellow's inaccuracy when he placed a lady of the olden time in a New-England garden gathering "sweet alyssum and columbine," the first plant being an annual flowering in August and to the coming on of frost; the second a perennial, flowering from early May to mid June. Now, however, Charles Reade makes Summer and Autumn, July, September, and November all rejoice in synchrone together. If Dr. Cross will only turn to page 50 of Leonard & Scott's *Blackwood* he can there be enlightened and delighted by the sight of "cherries red and black," that "gleamed like countless eyes among the cool leaves," while "pigs big and little crossed the lawn" "and dived into the adjacent woods after acorns." Now, do not the English acorns fall in November? Are not the cherries all ripe and rotten there before the last week in August? Perhaps the English pigs are provided with prehensile paws, by the aid of which they can climb in quest of the half-ripe acorns. And then, too, Charles Reade winds up his rural paragraph with the description of a vista in meadowy England through which one can have a forty mile *coup d'œil* and see "all the sweet varieties of color that gem our fields as they bask in the afternoon sun of that golden time, when Summer melts into Autumn and mellows without a chill." Is not that the month of September? Now, how the great novelist can chime these anachronisms together I am at a loss to divine. D. BATCHELOR.

Utica, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1877.

THE PICTURE OF FARRAGUT.

DID HE WEAR THE LONG SKIRT COAT SEEN IN THE PICTURE?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Since Mr. Page has in to-day's TRIBUNE so satisfactorily disposed of a long-standing criticism as to the accuracy of detail of the Farragut picture, it may not be out of place to call attention to one other which I do not remember to have seen in the public prints. The question has been raised as to whether or not the Admiral is properly represented in what appears to be a long uniform or skirt coat, as it is called. The coat ordinarily worn at sea by naval officers, and the one which would be most likely to be worn under circumstances here understood to be referred to, is the double-breasted sack, known as the sea-coat, an undress, blousy sort of regulation coat; and it was one of this kind, as I am informed, the Admiral wore on the memorable occasion so picturesquely portrayed by the artist.

These very criticisms have been the means of exciting an extended interest in the painting, and have doubtless induced a closer examination of details than was anticipated by the artist, his object being to represent the incident rather than perfection of detail, and it has been in this sense that I, for one, have looked at and admired the work; but if to this the artist shall be able to make it "historically" correct in details, the value of it must be greatly enhanced, and he be congratulated upon having "buttoned better than he knew." J. Y. C.

Brooklyn, Feb. 8, 1877.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC MUST FALL.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Thousands of your readers will rejoice to see such communications as appear among your list of "Letters from the People" to-day on Temperance. It shows that the time has come for the popular heart to speak on this most vital subject of morals or politics before the American people. The late speech of the Hon. H. W. Blair of New-Hampshire in Congress on a prohibitory constitutional amendment is most timely and important. The question is indeed, as one of your writers suggests, more important to this nation than the one of who is to be President of the United States.

Both the present political parties as such are in favor of laws legalizing the liquor traffic of the land, and whoever is to be President will during the four years of his rule witness 60,000 drunkards each year fill untimely graves, while 600,000 are following in their footsteps as drunkards, all of whom are helping to "pay a tax" on, and to consume the whisky which our Government is causing or permitting to be made by law, said Government deriving a large share of the profits, thus becoming a partner in the crime.

And yet Congress has for two years refused to appoint a commission to investigate this evil, although thousands and tens of thousands of men and women all over the land have petitioned them to do so. To see the Hon. Mr. Blair advocating this cause carries us back to the days when old John Quincy Adams used to present the petitions of the Quakers and others for the abolition of slavery. At last slavery and the traffic in human flesh fell. So will it be with this still greater evil. It must fall, for it is opposed alike to God and humanity, and it will surely destroy our nation if we do not destroy it. This we can do by law as effectually as we destroyed slavery. Much, oh how much of discussion will yet have to take place ere the national heart is aroused, but each letter or speech coming before the country is a harbinger of the coming day. And may THE TRIBUNE do as noble service in the cause of Prohibition as it did in past years for Abolition. J. O. M.

Kingston, N. Y., Feb. 3, 1877.

LIFE INSURANCE DEFAULTERS.

IS THERE NO HELP?—PLEA OF A SUFFERER.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: No, not if justice is done to the officers of both defaulting companies, will there be a life insurance panic. Why place a premium on crime by letting these defaulters go scot free, continuing them in honorable positions, faring sumptuously every day on their ill-gotten gains, while their poor victims are reduced to straits that goad them on to despair—and sometimes to like dishonesty? Our last premium was paid with borrowed money, and we are doing without the necessities of life to repay it. Have Truth and Justice fled this earth forever? The country is full of this form of crime and high-handed wickedness. All over the land there are thousands of families suffering from and burning with indignation over the wrongs done by embezzlers. The thief and pickpocket have no social status; their work is done in secret. But here are men robbing the widow and the orphan—defenseless women and children—advertising their business through the public press. And is there no redress? Must people go on placing their hard-earned dollars in savings banks and insurance companies, and when their time of need comes, see them burst like bubbles over their heads? Shall they wear their garments threadbare, live on uncarpeted floors, and sit down to a scantily spread board—the husbands go without their "duffles" and the longed-for books, that in the hour of death their souls will not be burdened with the care of a penniless home? And after all the struggle and toil, must they meekly and silently see their wrongs go unrighted, and their oppressors upheld by law and social favor? Nay!, I must speak. If the press deny me a hearing I will take the platform, and if there is "not a man found in all the city to stand in the breach" and avert the judgments of Heaven, then the women will speak, for they are filled to overflowing with righteous indignation.

Fredonia, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1877. A SUFFERER.

PRISON MANAGEMENT.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In to-day's editorial you say, "Indeed, if the deficiency is running on this year at the rate of last year, the State has already lost something over $50,000." This refers to State Prisons, and seems to indicate that THE TRIBUNE is ignorant of the fact that deficiencies were reduced month by month after the present Board of Inspectors took charge of the prisons. As an instance of this I would refer to Clinton Prison. The present Board of Inspectors put their appointees in charge of that prison on Jan. 25, 1876. The deficiency for February following was $29,000—of course consequent on the previous situation. The next month the deficiency was reduced to $25,000, next month to $18,000, and so on, until in August the deficiency was only $4,000, and in September the deficiency had entirely disappeared.

The reports of the operations of the prison year beginning Oct. 1, 1875, and ending Oct. 1, 1876, have been issue now three weeks, and you should examine them. Now that the amendments have been adopted it is time that indiscriminate abuse of the present Board of Inspectors should cease. FAIR PLAY.

New-York, Feb. 2, 1877.

RUSSIA NOT SINCERE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: History teaches us that the idea of driving the Turks out of Europe and of annexing Constantinople to the Russian Empire originated with the Empress Catharine over 100 years ago; and after carefully studying Russia's recent blustering and diplomatic maneuvering I am inclined to believe that her late policy was to accomplish this long-cherished design. As soon as she saw that she could not carry this policy into effect, even if she subdued Turkey, the oppressed Christians throughout the Turkish provinces are left to their unenviable fate.

If Russian statesmen were half as sincere in the cause of liberty for the oppressed as those gentlemen who met last Tuesday evening at Association Hall, New-York, and were endeavoring with a true Christian spirit to place the downtrodden portion of humanity upon a higher platform of freedom and civilization, they would not only have pursued a different course abroad, but would have begun a good work at home—even if they overlooked the poor Poles, who are, so to speak, bleeding at their feet—where there are millions of human beings who have not in reality emerged from a low condition of serfdom, ignorance, and superstition.

Pittston, Penn., Feb. 1, 1877. W. WILLS.

UNIFORM TIME.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Your excellent article on uniform time, in Saturday's issue, aims at a result very much to be desired, and I trust the subject will be kept on the surface until a reform can be accomplished that will suppress this, one of the little miseries of life. In that article you mention the fact that on shipboard, in the navy, it is never noon until the captain declares it is; and this reminds me that it is never considered sunset, in our town, until the evening gun at Fort Ontario so declares it. But often that gun is long deferred after the sun's disappearance; and then, again, the announcement is made when, to the evidence of our eyes, the sun is still on duty and a long way above the horizon.

The explanation given by the worthy commandant, on his attention having been called to the situation, was that the difference between Dudley Observatory and local time had so confused his sergeant, whose duty it was to milk the cow and fire the gun, that he had concluded his safest course was to be guided in the latter by the time the former should be accomplished. "So," said the Colonel, "when you hear that gun you may not be entirely sure of sundown, but may safely bet that our cow has been milked." L. E. J.

Oswego, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1877.

EXPENSIVE SERVANTS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I have just read, in your "Letters from the People," a sufferer's suggestion in regard to servants, and allow me to say that I fully coincide in his opinions. There are two servants in my family, and it costs more than double to keep only one servant. The waste, destruction, and high wages of the modern servant are enormous. The independence, impudence, and thieving propensities are simply inexpressible.

I was in hopes the hard times would make some difference in their demands, so that one could keep a servant without feeling it to be such a heavy tax. My last girl left me because the presents given her at Christmas were not handsome enough to suit her. The intelligence offices are in a great measure responsible for the exorbitant demands of servants. ANOTHER SUFFERER.

Babylon, N. Y., Feb. 2, 1877.

THE DIGNITY OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Senators Starbuck and Schoonmaker urge that it would be derogatory to the dignity of the office of State Prison Inspector to compel the incumbent to render an account of his expenses. No honest man would object to, but would court a public examination of his every official act, and a detailed account of his expenditures. The people have had quite enough of defalcations and covered-up extravagance resulting from insufficient and loose laws. When official waste has occurred and it is too late for redress it can generally be said the laws are weak and made for rogues. J. H. ROYCE.

Albion, N. Y., Feb. 3, 1877.

CORNELL'S CHALLENGE TO YALE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I notice by your issue of the 6th a slight mistake, which I would thank you to correct. It is stated that, owing to her present indebtedness, Yale does not feel justified in accepting Cornell's conditional challenge. The fact is, our financial condition was not once considered in refusing that challenge.

FRED. W. DAVIS, Pres. Y. N. B. C.

New-Haven, Conn., Feb. 6, 1877.

WAR PRICES FOR SERVANT GIRLS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I have noticed your article on "Hard Times and Economy" and also the letters from correspondents upon the same. Rates of house servants in this vicinity range from $2 to $2 50 and in a few instances $3 per week. These rates have been steadily maintained since the war. That these prices should be continued, considering the state of the times, seems incredible. Day laborers, men, are plentiful, and are glad to get 75 cents per day and board themselves. Many of them have large families to support. Some cannot get work at any price and are receiving help from the town. When one hires a woman by the day to wash or iron she must have 75 cents or $1 per day, and her board of course. Does it not seem as if servant girls are about the best paid of all unskilled laborers, counting their board and washing $3 50 and wages $2 50 per week, say $6, with the privilege of one or two afternoons in the week to be absent on their own business. Last November I was in need of a girl to do general housework, and when it became known, 14 applicants made their appearance within a week, all expecting $2 50, and none willing to engage for less than $2. Two girls, I was told, came here from Chatcaugay, 40 miles distant, with only a little money more than to pay their passage on the cars, very good servants, but not being able to find places at their prices, and no money to pay their fare home on the cars, started for home on foot. I consider the maintenance of high rates to servant girls in these hard times a great injustice to persons of moderate means, who are obliged to have servants. In most cases girls will go home and live on their parents or friends rather than work for less than the usual rates. The girl we have at present has $300 in savings bank that she has prudently laid up from her weekly wages, which shows how little hard times have affected her. Most girls, however, spend all their wages in finery, and, as a general thing, dress better than their mistresses. I hope this subject will not be dropped, as it is one of the reforms that needs agitation. W.

Plattsburg, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1877.

SWINDLES IN RELIGIOUS PAPERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Permit me to call the attention of the pastors of Baptist and Methodist churches to the many swindling advertisements which have crept into the columns of their leading religious journals. They are publishing advertisements which are, on the face of them, bare-faced frauds, and, appearing in a so-called religious paper, are better calculated to entrap the credulous. These very papers are sticklers in all matters relating to creed, but for the sake of the prices which this kind of advertising brings, see in their columns all manner of humbug and deception advertised. It is high time that the Baptist Ministers' Meeting and the New-York Conference took up this matter. I have written to some of the editors upon this subject, and asked them to publish the letter. As some weeks have elapsed, I conclude they dare not attempt a defense, and I therefore appeal to THE TRIBUNE of the people for a hearing.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 5, 1877. SAML. C. ANDERSON.

JERSEY CENTRAL WORKMEN UNPAID.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I read your valuable paper, and generally find it correct in its opinions in regard to corporations, and especially so in regard to statements of the financial standing of the Central Railroad of New-Jersey, in spite of the many assertions of Philadelphia papers and officers of the company, and with promises that employés would be paid the amount due them for work done in November, 1876. The company cares very little about the laboring employés so long as he can raise the necessary funds to keep the price of stock up a dollar or two on a share. There will have to be something done, and that soon. I understand that unless there is some satisfaction given, and that more than promises, on or before the 15th of this month there will be some other inducement used as a persuader. Unfortunately,

White Haven, Penn., Feb. 6, 1877. AN EMPLOYE.

RENTS IN BROOKLYN.

NO GENERAL REDUCTION ANTICIPATED—CONCESSIONS PROBABLE WHERE HIGH RENTS ARE PAID—PRICES MUCH CHEAPER THAN IN THIS CITY—RATES IN DIFFERENT PORTIONS OF THE CITY.

The subject of house rents in Brooklyn is of interest to New-Yorkers who desire to live comfortably on a moderate income. To one who has never lived in Brooklyn the morning and evening crossing in a ferry-boat may seem far more annoying than a ride of an hour or more in a New-York street car, but residents of Brooklyn claim that they find this annoyance of a few minutes' duration more than compensated by the home advantages which residence there affords. The tenement-house system is almost wholly unknown, and the percentage of inhabitants to houses is considerably less than in this city, being in fact about midway between the percentage in New-York and in Philadelphia. Brooklyn is sometimes called the great dormitory of New-York, and the name is not wholly inappropriate. It is emphatically a city of homes, although more usually spoken of as the "City of Churches;" it has few hotels or theaters, and while factories and warehouses border its river front and abound in its suburbs, the greater part of its extensive territory is either built up with residences or cut into city lots, upon which it is expected that houses will some time be erected. The real estate market there, as elsewhere, feels the depression consequent upon the hard times, but the real estate brokers generally are confident that better times are in prospect. Said one prominent broker, whose office is in Montague-st., to a TRIBUNE reporter last week: "I believe that we have reached the lowest point; I certainly expect to do a good business this Spring, although it is a little early to predict how the market will stand. It is a mistake to suppose that good houses can be rented anywhere in Brooklyn at low figures. Now here on the Heights I don't know of any houses to rent, except a few old-fashioned ones perhaps in the lower part of Hicks-st., and there are not many for sale. And so on the Hill. Further out of course there are many vacant houses; people have built houses in anticipation of a rapid growth of the city. For instance, around Prospect Park and in streets like Macon-st. and McDonough-st. and in Putnam-ave. there are houses in abundance, but in the more solid portions of the city not many are to be had in good locations. I don't anticipate any reductions in rents for next year. In a few cases where there are good tenants there may be a small reduction—say of $50 or so—but as a general thing I don't expect rents to be any lower. I believe that if a man puts $100,000 in property here, using care, of course, he will realize a good deal in the next four or five years. With the completion of the bridge there is to be great activity in the real estate market here. A great many people have a prejudice against ferry boats, but when the bridge is finished our City Hall will be as convenient to the New-York City Hall as Canal-st. is, and all the difficulty about crossing the river will be obviated. Then it is expected that Flatbush-ave. will be cut through to the bridge terminus, making that thoroughfare the principal approach to the bridge. Even now property on that avenue commands good prices, and when the bridge is completed people living in Prospect and Park-places, St. Mark's, Sixth, and Seventh-aves. and thereabouts expect that portion of the city to become one of the most fashionable for residences. Rents here are certainly much lower than across the river, and the assessed valuations of property are not so high, and these things lead to induce people to come to Brooklyn. In South Brooklyn rents are low as compared with other parts of the city, but as a general thing a man doesn't like to go there unless he is going simply for low rents. To be sure in First-place and that neighborhood rents are high, but it is not so nearer to the Park and to Greenwood."

Another Montague-st. broker said that houses on the Heights for rental were very scarce; the rents varied from $1,000 to $6,000. The best streets in the city were Pierrepont, Remsen, and Columbia Heights, but houses on them were hard to find. He did not expect any reduction in rents generally. There might be, however, in certain localities a reduction of high rents. Houses which were let at $2,000 might be rented for $1,600, but in lower rents there would be no change. On the Hill rents ranged from $300 to $1,500 and $2,000. For $1,000 a good brown-stone house, with 12 rooms, could be had, about 20 or 25 minutes' ride from the Fulton Ferry. Further out, in New-York-ave. and that neighborhood, rents were much cheaper.

A broker doing a large business in the Eastern District gave it as his opinion that rents in that portion of the city would not be much reduced. He thought that prices had got about as low as possible. Last year reductions were extensively made in order to secure tenants, and in many cases portions of houses were relet to other families. However, he said, there might be a general reduction. The best portion of the Eastern District included the Nineteenth and Thirteenth Wards, and in those limits houses could be rented from $350 and $400 up to $1,500 and $2,000, the latter rents being for four-story brown-stone front houses in the very best localities. In good neighborhoods he had two-story brick houses, with all the modern improvements, at as low a figure as $400 or $420. Flats in or near Bedford-ave. could be obtained for from $25 to $35 a month. This part of Brooklyn was very convenient of access to New-York by means of the Roosevelt Street and Grand Street Ferries; all the best parts of the Eastern District were within 15 or 20 minutes' walking distance from the ferries, and every part was also accessible by the numerous car lines which passed the foot of Broadway or terminated there.

In South Brooklyn the best quarter is not far from the intersection of Fifth-ave. and Ninth-st., through both of which thoroughfares car lines run to the Hamilton, South, Wall Street, Fulton, and Catharine Ferries. From this point the Hamilton Ferry is distant about 15 minutes, and the ride to the Fulton Ferry occupies about half an hour. Here rents are found cheaper than in other parts of the city which are no more easily accessible. Mr. Kinball, a real estate broker, whose office is at Fifth-ave. and Ninth-st., said that he anticipated no reduction in rents for the coming year, although it was too soon to determine whether or not tenants would continue to occupy their houses. Few houses in that part of the city rented for over $800. A new brown-stone front on Ninth-st. was to be let for $600, and three-story brown-stone houses on Third-st. were rented last year for $300. He had recently offered to a gentleman paying a rent of $1,800 in the upper part of New-York a brown-stone house equally good in South Brooklyn for $800. One of the peculiar advantages of this part of the city as a place of residence was its convenience to the numerous car lines running to Coney Island.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS.

VOTES ALONE DECIDE ELECTIONS.

NO OTHER WAY PROVIDED FOR INFLUENCING AN ELECTION—RETURNING BOARDS ENGINES OF DESPOTISM—WHAT THEY MIGHT DO.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: It is surprising to me that, in all the comments I have read upon the action of the returning boards in the so-called "doubtful States," no question has been raised as to the constitutionality of nullifying the record of the ballot-box by the specious plea of "intimidation of voters."

I presume it is generally conceded that the Supreme Court of any State is the highest authority upon the laws of the State; but should any State in the Union pass any law antagonistic to the fundamental principles of the "republican form of government" guaranteed to every State by the Constitution of the United States, this would form an exception to a general rule and undoubtedly be a proper subject for consideration by the Supreme Court of the United States. And those State laws which authorize the use of the plea of intimidation to defeat the record of the ballot-box seem to me to be in such direct antagonism.

Our theory of a republican form of government confers the power and duty of governing upon the party having a majority, as expressed through the ballot-box, and provides no other method by which the political opinions of a person who abstains from voting can exert any legal influence upon the results of an election. Intimidation, used as an influence to set aside the decisions of the ballot-box, transcends all admitted principles of constitutional law by assuming to know and taking cognizance of the political bias of non-voters in determining the result. If this innovation is to remain permanently with us, and be recognized in the future as having any legal bearing upon the decisions of the people by ballot, would it not be infinitely better for us to dispense with elections entirely, and have a simple registration which should be taken as the political expression of the voter?

This republican form of government makes it the duty of the governing party which has received the reins of government by a majority of votes to preserve the peace of the State, punish crime, and protect the citizen in the exercise of his legal rights, including the right of voting, and if intimidation exists to such an extent as to deter any voter from appearing at the polls, it is the duty of the Government to use all its power to give him the required protection; but if, with all the power of the State Government at command and the General Government within hailing distance, and with all the machinery of the elections under its management, it fails to afford the protection it is bound to give, it cannot supplement its failure by the destruction of the ballot-box without undermining the very foundations upon which all republican government rests. In short, if a political party fails as a governing power it has nothing left to do but put up with the consequences of its failure.

Intimidation, as recognized by the statutes of Louisiana and South Carolina, is evidently nothing but a cunning device by which a minority may maintain its power indefinitely. Nor does it matter how small this minority may become; it may be reduced to one man; a dozen henchmen to swear to having been bulldozed, and a pliant returning board would enable him to perpetuate a despotism. Such a power is essentially monarchical, and the means by which it is maintained have nothing whatever in harmony with republicanism. I trust that this adjunct of despotism may in some legitimate manner receive its quietus as a disturbing element in our political arena at the hands of the Supreme Court before another general election. E. W. GANTT.

Lockport, N. Y., Dec. 28, 1876.

CÆSAR THE CHOICE OF THE SENATE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: To say that this country was ever a democracy, after the manner of ancient Athens, is a sad mistake. To all students of history it must be evident that our United States is modeled after the style of ancient Rome. That old Roman Senate was an aristocratic body. They had their fights and never gave way to the plebeians but when forced to succumb. The fight in framing our Constitution was over the rights of States. That State rights doctrine has always been paramount at the South. We compromised—gave each State, large and small, two Senators. Thus they were made equal in the Senate, the aristocratic body. In this Senate the rights of States are concentrated, boiled down. The Senate is for six years, the House for two years—a changing, migratory body. The Senator was thrice times as honorable.

In the Electoral College the same idea of States is carried out. Electors are appointed as the Legislature of each State shall determine. Senators are appointed by the same power. For years South Carolina appointed her electors by the Legislature direct. The people had no choice. All other States appointed by popular vote. Who ever heard of the sovereign State of South Carolina called to account? Our ancestors asserted the State rights doctrine broadly in the Constitution. "Full faith and credit shall be given in each State to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State." That idea of Senatorial dignity is also carried out in the Constitution. The President of the Senate, that honored, dignified body, that concentrated representative of State rights, that true guardian of the States, the true protector of electors' State rights in another form, that President of the Senate "shall alone receive, count, and declare the electoral vote." Our Cæsar, like the Cæsar of ancient Rome, is the choice of the Senate. These ideas may not enhance one's estimate of the House of Representatives, but I consider the above a true interpretation of the ideas of our fathers as embodied in the Constitution. A. W. McDOWELL, M. D.

Pleckemin, N. J., Feb. 6, 1877.

AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I would suggest the following amendment to the Constitution of the United States: "Each State shall choose, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress. If the whole number of electors to be chosen by the States should be an even number, then the District of Columbia shall choose one elector. All the electors shall meet in the Capitol of the United States on the second Tuesday of January next succeeding their election, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President. The person having the greatest number of votes for President shall be the President, if such a number be a majority of the whole number of electors chosen. If on the third Tuesday of January no person has such a majority, then from the persons having the highest number of votes, not exceeding two, the electors shall choose immediately by ballot the President. The Vice-President to be chosen in like manner." JERSEY.

Newark, Jan. 31, 1877.

WHAT DO DEMOCRATS MEAN?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: What does it mean? The Democrats before a compromise was effected and a commission formed threatened to have 100,000 men at Washington, and talked long and loud of revolution if Mr. Hayes was declared elected President. What would they not do, now the country will not let them talk that way? Now it would be of no use; so they talk of their chief, Tilden, going to law, and of having one of the biggest lawsuits ever known if Hayes is declared by the Commission elected President. In everything in this life these Democrats try to get everything and hold everything by threats and force—even intimations, games, and their sweethearts—all and everything they turbaten and try to frighten. FEARLESS.

New-York, Feb. 6, 1877.

A "GOBBLE" TO SAVE THE REPUBLIC.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: History informs us that the "cackle" of a goose once saved Rome. This being so, why should not a "gobble" be equally efficacious in saving the Republic? By all means then let the author of the gobble that was gobbled over the wires to Oregon be brought upon the witness stand and relieve the present embarrassment by stating what he knows about cipher and ciphering. There being a Providence which shapes our ends, it is more than likely that this "gobble" will prove to have been providential. Let no distinction, therefore, be made between a "cackle" and a "gobble" as to their saving power, but let the witness be brought upon the stand and an interpretation made of that mysterious message. "For thereby hangs a tale."

BENJ. H. BALDWIN.

Whitehall, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1877.

HORACE DRESSER AND THE COLORED MAN.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: You notice the death of Horace Dresser. I remember him in connection with days that were darker than these. He was an ever-vigilant friend of the oppressed colored man when the colored man had only a very few friends. He was ever ready to defend him when slavery was rampant all over the land, when the oppressor with power and a domineering air came into New-York and made every colored family feel uneasy lest its members or some of their friends should be seized and dragged from their comfortable fireside into slavery. At that time he, without money or price, without hope of reward, at any hour, day or night, became the willing advocate of the poor colored man. I can do no less than let it be known that at least one colored man cherishes with a grateful heart a fond remembrance of the many generous acts of Horace Dresser in behalf of the oppressed. GEO. T. DOWNING.

Newport, R. I., Feb. 3, 1877.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE MUST BE ENFORCED.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The mission of the Republican party was not merely to resist the extension of slavery, although its first national platform went no further. Lincoln's first duty as President was to save the Union, but he soon found that this could not be done without abolishing slavery. When this was accomplished it was found that the freedman without the ballot in his hands could not maintain his freedom, because he could not protect himself in the law-making power. The ballot was given him, and its protection promised by constitutional amendment. It can only be assured to him, however, by enforcing that amendment. Before the war the white freeman was silenced by the audacity and ruffianly violence of the slaveholder and his tools. Since the war this same class of desperate men attempt to control the colored voters of the South through their fears of starvation and violence. In so doing they have coined a new word, "bulldozing," and have avowed their violation of and resistance to the amendments to the Constitution which guarantee the rights of citizens.

The battle is and has been for freedom and humanity, the Constitution and the laws, the honesty and fairly expressed will of the whole people, uncorrupted by wealth, unaided by violence, unprejudiced by power—the free, manly, courageous expression of every honest citizen, whatever may be his condition or color. Unless republican institutions can effectually furnish this in every State, State institutions are frauds and promise of a republican government in every State a sham and delusion. THOMAS STRITCH.

New-York, Jan. 27, 1877.

NEGRO EQUALITY NOT ACCEPTED.

ROOT OF THE SOUTHERN EVILS—REMARKS OF GOV. M'ENERY—EMPTY PROMISES OF DEMOCRATS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The active cause of the Louisiana troubles is deeper and further back than last June. It is a part and sequence of the great rebellion, which devolved upon the white people of that and other Southern States, the disagreeable necessity of conceding to the emancipated blacks equal political rights. The Democrats or whites of Louisiana have never yet made up their minds in good faith to do this; and by means of the Ku-Klux, White Camellias, White League, Bulldozers, &c., acting on the white line policy all the time, they have attempted by tricks, frauds, intimidation, violence, and murder by the wholesale, to overcome, cheat, defraud, intimidate, and terrorize the colored voters, and thereby to render a white minority superior to a colored majority. The world stood aghast at the crimes of the White League in Louisiana in 1874. Such incidents of the campaign of that year as the Coushatta massacre and the 14th of September in New-Orleans gave a terrible emphasis to the significance of such an organization, spread all over the State and breathing forth threatenings and terror to every Republican within its borders.

The people of the North ought to know that the political disorders in Louisiana in 1876 are only a continuation of the general scheme of violence and intimidation inaugurated by the Democracy in 1868 to defeat reconstruction in this State. At one time the organization is known as Ku-Klux, and again the White Camellias, the White League, Rifle Clubs, Bulldozers, &c. But the change of name does not change the thing itself, and through all changes that policy means the intention to overcome the Republican majority in Louisiana by violence, intimidation, and fraud. It is a mistake to suppose that a new scheme is organized for each successive election. It is all the time the same scheme and the same instrumentality to be used, and we in Louisiana know that instrumentality as well by one name as by another. Mr. John McEnery, sometimes called Gov. McEnery, in a speech delivered at Monroe in June, 1874, said as follows:

There is not a decent thinking man in Louisiana who will deny that race lines of distinction are already sharply drawn, and that as each day passes the breach gapes wider that separates the white from the colored race in this State of ours. Further, that unless this insolent encroachment on the rights, political and social, of the whole people of Louisiana is ended, the day of the irrepressible conflict will come when physical force shall solve the political problems of Louisiana politics. The only means of averting this calamity lies in the union of the white people, representing as they do its virtue, courage, and worth, into one compact and imposing phalanx.

Nor are the promises mentioned anything at all new. The Democrats were as profuse in their promises and pledges of protection, in a public way, two or four years ago as they were in 1876. But the blacks have long since learned that Democratic promises are the cheapest and most worthless things we have in Louisiana—especially just before an election. Reference to the Democratic platform of 1874 will show that the Democracy in the Baton Rouge Convention of that year accepted all the constitutional amendments and pledged the faith of the party to use every effort to secure to the blacks all their rights, and yet at that very convention the leaders organized and adopted the White League as the means of carrying that election. L.

New-Orleans, La., Dec. 29, 1876.

AN IMPROVISED HELM.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: What would be said of that mariner who, when the winds begin to blow and the waves to rise, should forsake his rudder and endeavor to steer his bark into port with a paddle improvised? If our noble ship of State shall drift upon the rocks, will it not be because Congress has abandoned the helm? D. S. E.

New-York, Feb. 1, 1877.

YALE COLLEGE NOTES.

THE JUNIOR PROMENADE CONC