To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: To any one tolerably familiar with the political condition of Europe by personal residence, travel, or even from regularly reading foreign newspapers, the pro-Russian letters from the people in your columns of late appear ludierous-not to use a stronger term. In yesherday's issue a writer volunteers a sage morsel of warning. He begs your readers not to accept "English statements of Russian motives and Russian occurrences as either fair or trustworthy," as if all the British press and statesmen were on the anti-Russian or pro-Turkish side. Are not many of the leading English wspapers as decidedly anti-Turkish as others are anti-Russian i What about the utterances of Gladstone, Bright, or Carlyle ! Are the people of this country shut out from all other sources of information in regard to

Russia except the English press i This assumption (together with the writer's allusion to the difficulty of the Russian language as a barrier to news from that country) is very funny, if not very complimentary to the members of the "fourth estate," in the face of the fact that the leading newspapers of Europe face of the fact that the leading newspapers of Lordinary are received and read in this city by hundreds, not including those translating news for the press. Again, all that has been written about the tyranny of the Turk or the fanaticism of his religion is only look true, but that is only half the truth when contrasted with Russia as the champion of the so-called Christians of Bulgaria, &c. To talk about Russian liberty or toleration is the most consummate boss imaginable. Who does not know that To talk about Ressian liberty or tolerations and know that there is not a single Protestant church tolerated in all the Russians that the Jews are crying out under the same. Hiberty and toleration III that 50,000 Mennonites are about to move to this country (as more than twice are about to move to the country (as more than twice that number have already gone to Canada) simply to ease Russian. Hiberty and toleration. What senoolboy does not understand that the Car of Russia is the most nesolute monarch of this or any other age? that freedom of speech, religion, or the press is a myit? that all who sought such small favors as these have had their traveling expenses paid to that palmy Summer resort Elberta!

Stheria?

Did I wish to argue this question here—which I do not—
it might be shown that the Greek religion is more intolcount in its sway in Russia than the Mohammedan is in
Turkey, infamously victors as is the latter; that the
Czar is Pope and Emperor in Church and State, the arbiter of \$0,000,000 human beaugs; also that, as perfidious
as the late sultans of Turkey have been, the Czar has not
been a with better as regards violation of solemn treaties, the treatment of his own subjects, &c. Feared by
neutral and distrusted by friendly nowers, the Czar
stands slone in Europe, while nearly all the nations neutral and distrusted by friendly bowers, stands alone in Europe, while nearly all the sympathize with the cause the Muscovite feigns to the wine research. New York, Feb. 1, 1877.

THE DEBT OF TENNESSEE. A QUESTION WHETHER THE STATE IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO PAY THE INTEREST ON ITS BONDS,

To the Editor of The Iribune. SIR: Efforts have been made of late for the adjustment of the several debts of the defaulting Southern States, but from the meeting just held at the Clearing-house in New-York, it is evident that no proper discrimination is made by the advocates of this scheme between the respective States. That some of them, such as North and South Carolina, Arkansas, Alabama, &c., are, through dishonesty and maladministration of their finances, placed in a condition of deplorable insolvency. there can be no reasonable doubt. But on the other hand it is equally true that such a State as Tennessee, for instance, is fully able to meet all her engagements but does not do so from lack of honor and want of prin-

According to Gov. Porter's recent message, the resources of the State have largely increased since 1870. The State debt amounts to \$22,000,000, and by his own admission a tax levy of from 4 to 5 mills would be amply sufficient to meet all the expenses of the Government, as also fully to provide for the payment of interest on the State debt. But unfortunately for the bondholders who trusted to the honor and good faith of the State, the financial question has been thrown into the political

financial question has been thrown into the political area, and is now bandled about by a set of unprincipled and anscripulous politicians and financial camblers for their own special reasons and benefit.

Sesides, what reliance can be placed on the honest fulfillment of any compromise entered into with a State which passed an act, March 13, 1873, repudiating all interest up to Jan. 1, 1874, on bonds past due, for the payment of which no provision was ever unde, and this without any warning being given to the holders of such bonds. Gov. Brown sanctioned this shameful set of open repudiation, and his name now figures in the list of Vice-Presidents of the Texas and Facilic Railroad, no doubt as an acknowledgment for his eminent financial ability and honesty. Tennessecans are very apt to boast, and very justly to, of the spicnid system of turnpluce, railroads, and other influstrial developments and resources of their State, but as yet they never have been known to have returned or paid back a single dollar of all the money borrowed for the above purposes, and for the repayment of which "the honor and good faith" of the State was most lavishingly pledged. payment or water State was most lavishin As State was most lavishingly pledged.

AN OLD TENNESSEE BONDHOLDER.

Orange, N. J., Jan. 31, 1877.

SEATS FOR THE OPERA. EXPERIENCE AT THE ACADEMY-ANNOYANCES THAT SEEM UNNECESSARY. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: There seems to be room for the exercise of a little of the public opinion which you educate in and to the business management of the Kellogg English Opera Company. On sending to the Academy for seats a reasonable time before the performance, early in the present season, my messenger could find none worth having at the box office, but found very ready accommo-Cation awaiting him (at a premium) on the steps. Twice since then I have selected (at a premium) from a sus, piciously large supply of seats at two different hotels, and late this afternoon found no difficulty in annexing a third seat to my morning's choice at the second hotel.

On reaching the Academy, although there had been no notice in my evening paper of Miss Kellogg's mability to sing, I found a poster announcing it. As I was going for the third time to hear that artist in "The Flying Dutchman," and had been led thereto by the vast superiority of her second performance to her first, I was in no humor for a first performance by an artist of less enumence. Accordingly I inquired at the box-effice what they proposed to do about the tickets. Instead of my money (tess the premium I had been forced to pay), I was off red seats for Frieny, and was told by a somewhat diablously-misded young man that the opera then would be "Mignon"—one which I do not care to hear—and that he could not give me as good seats as I had (at a premium) for to-night.

I took what I could get in the shape of three inferior gents, which I hope some humble people who deserve notice in my evening paper of Miss Kellogg's mability to

Rests, which I hope some handle people who deserve well of me will enjoy. I took the liberty, however, of observing to the young man at the box limit I had been swindled, and it may save somebody else from a similar fate for you to proclaim that fact. Of course Miss Kellogz is not a voluntary party to these proceedings. X. T. C. Kee-Fork, Feb. 7, 1877.

A DEATH TRAP IN STEINWAY HALL. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: May I not, through your paper, call attention to the fearful means of exit from the first gal-lery of Steinway Hall? Last evening was my initial exper ence in that horrible labyrinth, and it shall be the omega. At the concert in behalf of the "Chronic Hospital " I hastened in there, not noticing, in my hurry to secure seats, the details of entrance and egress. But when I arose to leave the house I saw the shameful mantrap in which I had trustingly placed myself. I saw scores and scores of persons whose voices I heard in amazed tones denouncing it. There we were, a solid throng, forced to move slowly between the narrow line throng, forced to move slowly between the same of seats and on the one alsie toward the single door, which door, if I can trust my woman-eye, is not over four or four and a half feet wide, probably less than the latter. That gained, we came upon a steep, sudden pitch of steps, a narrow passage-way, stairs, landing more stairs, landing and turn in and turn, more stairs, landing and turn in an angle made by a jog of the wall, then more stairs—just the places to become obstructed and filled with crushed, writhing, dving persons in case of alarm. Men and women exclaimed, "What an outrage that this thing is showed?" And yet I am watering to see how many will more publicly protest against it. Not wishing to "set down aught in malice," but to extenuate all I cen, I must not omit to say that at the rear of the deep recess in the gallery is a narrower door marked "Exp." It may be a "dumb" door—a delusion and a sare—or it may be real. At all events it was not opened, and it is fair to presume that its accommodations are no better—probably worse—than the main exit, and that it is a piece hay be really a Array and the probably worse—that its accommodations are no better-probably worse—that the main exit, and that it is a piec of policy to keep it closed. I believe that every person in that gallery would approve my words if questioned still, as I am "nothing but a woman," my opinion will be of but little worth to the public, as no alarm occurred and we exceed a managed. New-York, Feb. 1, 1877.

THE NEW-JERSEY CONTROLLERSHIP. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In view of the approaching election of Controller by the Legislature of New-Jersey, I would call the attention of every citizen of the State to the fact that two of the prominent candidates for the office are men notoriously unfit to perform the duties which would devoive upon them if elected. One of these is a man of intemperate habits and has never been able to manage his own property. The other, a decayed remnant of arisdemonstrated a faculty for extravagance which would not be desirable in the State Controller. Either of these men would be a disgrace to the State and to the Legislature who would elect him; and if the citizens who are opposed to the election of such men will at once who are opposed to the election of such men with at ouce protest against it, either in person or by letter to their representative, the discrace may be avorted. There are many men in the State who would honor the office and do credit to themselves, but these are passed by for such worthless reproduces as the candidates above mentioned. The office is as important as that of State Trensurer— in fact more so, for the Controller audits every claim

against the State before its payment by the Treasurer, and a rascally Controller could cassiv defrant the State out of thousands of deliars by anothing frandment challed. How necessary, therefore, that the Controller should be a man of integrity, housesy, and sound judgment! Lively tax-payer should arose himself to a content altimother the result of the election of such non as I have described, and not delay to use much the remessantative in his Garden and post delay to use much the remessantative in his Garden. and not delay to urge upon the representative in his dis-trict the necessity of electing an upract and carable man as Controller of the State of New-Jersey. As the election will be held next week, whatever is done must be done quickly. MACDEFF. Trenton, N. J., Feb. 9, 1877.

MILD FORMS OF INTIMIDATION. EMPLOYMENT REFUSED FOR POLITICAL REASONS-

INSTANCES IN LOUISIANA.
To the Editor of The Tribune SIR: The habit of servility and deference to the superior race, which generations of slavery and sub-mission have impressed upon the negro's character, still asserts its dominion and makes him feel that he is not all free. Though legally a free man, the inexorable conditions of his social existence, his ignorance, his poverty. and his habits assert their control, and still partially enslave him to his more intelligent and more opulent neighbot. His employer or lessor, appreciating his necessities, says to the dependent freedman: "Unless you vote the Democratic ticket I shall employ you no longer, and you can get no further favors from me." "If I hear of your voting the radical ticket you must not come back here." "You had better not let me see you here again. I'll have no radicals on my place, and you must look to your Republican friends for protection. We will not protect you." These and other more violent threats, made for the most part privately, create a strong undercurrent of intimidation permeating the colored ranks everywhere. This is the true reason why 1,433 registered col orea voters in Caddo Parish did not vote at the last election. What is true of Caddo is true in a greater or less degree of many other parishes. And this being true in a parish that was not buildezed, how much more is it tr of parishes where the greatest violence prevailed? In the five bulldezed parishes the figures show as follows: Aggregate of white voiers.
Aggregate of colored voiers.
Total Pennocratic vote cast as per Democratic returns.
Total Republican vote cast as per Democratic returns.
Total namber not voting.
Democratic inajority.

Assuming that an equal percentage of both colors failed to vote there will be east: White votes. 2.758
Colored votes 8,696
Blacks voting Democratic ticket 4,45
Blacks not voting at ail 2,800
This being, however, a general election, in which all

felt the deepest interest, and the whites suffering no restraints upon their right to vote freely, it may be fairly assumed that not more than five per cent of the whites fulled to vote. White Democratic votes. 4.718
Colored Democratic votes. 3.755
Colored voters not voting at all 3.757

Taking this last element, and counting nine-tenths of it as the direct product of intimidation, the colored vote of the five bulldozed parishes will be distributed as follows: Colored voters actually voting the Republican ticket, 3.9-1

Colored voters detained from the polis by fear. The last two items above, aggregating 6,275, may be afely assumed as a much nearer approximation of the exact measure of the product of infinidation in the five exact measure of the product of intinication in the level buildozed parishes. And the correctness of these estimates and calculations is strangely verified by comparing with a them the results of intinication in Caddo as illustrated by an election held since the terror of 1874, and under circumstances comparatively free. It is simply impossible for a stranger, making a casual visit to our State, to comparehent and appreciate the extraordinary condition of our political adiants; and the City of New-Orleans is a very unfavorable point from which to take a iew of the interior. Shreecport, La., Jan. 1, 1877.

ELEMENTS IN A DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN. DIFFERENT FORMS OF THE SAME THING IN LOUIS-IANA-FIGURES TO SHOW THE RESULTS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: Something may be learned of the condition of affairs in Louisiana by the rebound on remov-ing the repressing force of infimidation as in the case of Caddo Parish. Under the influence of a very vigorous application of threats and violence in 1874, much of the Republican vote of this parish was persuaded to support the Democratic ticket, and many more were by the same gentle means induced to stay at home on election day; the result was a Democratic majority of 585. In 1876, the policy of violence was abar dened in this parish, and only such intimidation as could be quietly exercised by the employer and laud-owner over his employes and tenants was operative. The parish was freely and fully canboth parties, and both parties were fully aroused. The result was a Republican insjority of Dil. and a Republican gain of 1,496-the largest majority ever attained.

In such parishes as Claiborne, Vernon, Sabine, Caleasien, and others, where the whites largely preponderate, no radding and no violence have been necessary, and but little or none at all has occurred. In all such parishes quiet remonstrance and warning, tempered with more or less of threats to make the admonition effective as a persuasive, bave thus far proved sufficient to contro as many of the colored minority as were cared for. For instance, in the parish of Sabine, in 1876,

The while yete registered is 9:10
The colored vote registered is 208
The vote, as per Democratic returns is
Democratic 907 Republican 23
In the parisa of Vernen, registered; 81
Voted, as ps. Democratic returns:
Democratic 949 Republican 1
The most vigorous applications of buildowing have in

every instance been in such parishes as Caddo, Nacht-oches, Red River, and Rapides in 1874, and in East Baton Rouge, the two Felicianas, Onnehita, and More-house in 1876, in all of which the Republican element 

White 1.724 | Colored 2.950
Democratic majority 5-55
In 1876 this parish was comparatively quiet and the election more nearly a fair one than any other since the war. The registration in 1876 was:
White 2.164 | Colored 4.068

Voted : Democratic..... Republican majority

MR. O'CONOR AND THE PRESIDENT.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: Mr. O'Conor must have been very much disturbed when, in applogizing to the President, he said that he had no recollection of writing a letter in which such language about the President as he was then in the act of apologizing for was used, and yet he would not assert that he had not done so; and he did wish to say that if he had ever written a letter containing such ex pressions, he had no foundation for the statement; and further, that he never had of his own knowledge, or from hearsay, any information upon which to base such a statement. The man who says he has no recollection of ending a malicious thrust at the President of the United States is scarcely to be thought sincere, although his apology may, as is stated in THE TRIBUNG of the 8th nst., "have been considered by the President as in form and manner worthy of his high character as a gentleman and of his great abilities as a man, and even been re-ceived by the President with a recognition similar in spirit to that in which he understood it to be tendered. That Charles O'Conor intended to do, and did express bimself in some form of language unfavorable to the character of the Chief Magistrate of his country and insulting to the millions of voters by whom he was only elected to that high office, he, in his apology, leaves only elected to that high office, he, in his allology, leaves no room for doubt. Neither is it of any consequence whether or not Mr. O'Conor designed that his letter should become a matter for public netoriety. Charles O'Conor's language, spoken or written, is always strongly impressed with its author's individuality, and I must confess to have believed that he was the author of the offensive sentiments in the article as published in the newspapers. His refusal to make any public denal since the article first appeared, nor until his appearance in Washington as senior counsel in Mr. Tillen's behalf befor the Electoral Commission now silling there, did it appear to him as necessary to go before the Fresidant as an apologizer. And his so-called apology, whether urged upon him by his friends or by his own volition, is made at a time when his chief chent is laboring under most embarrassing positical adventures, and whose unifinate success might seem somewhat to lange upon some pretense of decency toward the outgoing President.

Nyack, N. F., Feb. 9, 1877.

Geo. F. Ellis.

A ONE-MAN POWER AFTER ALL. To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: I have read THE TRIBUNE ever since the Presidential contest began. I have observed the

many schemes and tricks of the Democracy to count in

Tilden, and how successfully the Re-unblicans have met every game down to the introduction of the "flis-copper" strangement for a committee to occide the question of the Presidency. It seems to me that this measure was the only hope of the Democracy for success. I have always considered the measure an unwise one, unconstirubonal, and without precedent in the life of the nation, and that it was a roolise thing on the part of Republicans to marce to such a movement. It has opened

publicans to agree to such a movement. It has opened up a precedent that doubless will open the deer for future confusion, and possibly a double-headed government, as in come of the Southern States.

While this measure was conceived and brought into being by the Democratic party, I shall not be disapounted to see a sceneral departure from the bill on their part, as soon as it shall appear that it is not "heads up for Tilden." Much was said at the introduction of this bill against the one-man power in the Senate by the President thereof opening and country the returns. I would inquire if the Committee of Fifteen relieves the embarrassment, or betters the condition of things! Here are seven partisans arraved against each other on each side, and the fideenth man sitting as umpire. He is the man addressed. He conducts the rules of order, and decides the whole question. Why not as well let him flip the copper alone? When judges disagrace, on whou shall the propie rely for an innest judgment! It is a great mistake, I think, to mix up indiges with politics.

Prainfield, N. J., Feb. 9, 1877.

E. LANPHEAR.

NEWSPAPERS DELAYED IN THE MAILS.

to the Editor of The Tribune. St:: Cannot you and your cotemporaries do something to stir up the Post-Office Department so that we can get our papers regularly and in season! It is very convenient for me to have THE TRIBUNE by mail. I want all the news, and I do not want it in the morning. The Philadelphia evening papers lack interest to my taste, and by taking THE TRIBUNE by mail it reaches m after the strain of my day's work is over, and I am ready to cojoy it. There are about thirty (over that number) in this city who take the New-York morning dailies in the same way. Until the last "fast mail" was put on, they used to come quite regularly, not missing mo once in two months or even longer periods. But latterly they miss two or three times a week, and on one ocea sion I had two papers come together, one two and the other three days behindhand. It does seem to me that this other three days behindhand. It does seem to me that this is the result either of gross carelessness or bad management, and as it it could be remedied as well as not. It is not the fault of the Postmaster here, for he has told me that he has written about it a runnber of times, and I am sure will see that they are delivered promptly. I know that this is not your fault, but it will be your misfortene it a remeay cannot oe found, for co-tainly no man can be expected to pay for a daily paper when it only comes sent or tri-weekly. Will you not bring the power of the press to bear and see if you cannot set the thing right fault with the property of the press to bear and see if you cannot set the thing right fault of the press to be pressed to the pressure of th

[The New-York Post-Office, and Indeed the Post-Office Department, are doing all in their power to remedy the difficulty; but great confusion has ariser out of the awkward attempts to start a fast mail train at an impossible hour. With anything like the encouragement given a year or two ago, we are confident Postmaster Tyner can straighten things out .- / d.]

FAIRNESS IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: For many years the readers of The Nation have admired the spirit of candor and fairness which pervaded its columns, and always confidently exp eted to find in its brief articles under the head of The Week" a correct and impartial summary of eurrent public events. But the best friends of that paper have not failed to notice the marked change which has occurred in the spirit of its editorial comments during the last year, and notably since the beginning of the late

Presidential campaign. It is a pity that so able a paper should not be content even with coming down to the level of elegant scolding, but should take such special pains to make Republicans appear worse than they really are. An illustration of this appears on the first page of The Nation for Feb. 1. In noticing the Texas Pacific Railroad bill, reported to the House by Mr. Lamar a fortnight ago, the editor says: There is a minority report by Mr. Kassen of Iowa, one of the best Republicans in the House, and three Demo erats in the committee refused to support any subsidy whatever." Of course, the readers of The Nation will understand from this that the only opponents of the bill in the committee were three Democrats and one Republi-

One would think that the editor of that journal could have afforded to state the fact that there are eight Democrats a d five Republicans on the Pacific Railroad Committee, and that the minority report against the bill was signed by Messrs. Kasson, Garffeld, Blair, Lynde, and Luttrell-three Republicans and two Democratsand that six Democrats and two Republicans on the committee joined in the majority report in favor of the bill Even party "organs" have been known to treat political opponents more fairly.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2, 1877.

BYRON AND "THE TALE OF TROY." To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: The following entry in a journal kept y Lord Byron while in Italy the last time, which I saw the other day in reading Moore's life of the eccentric port, is so apropos of the discoveries of Dr. Schliemann at Troy that I transcribe it for the benefit of your read-

In reading, I have just chanced upon an expression of In reading, I have just chanced upon an expression of Ton Campbell's; speaking of Collins, he says that "no reader cares any more about the characteristic manners of his Eclogues than about the authenticity of the fale of Troy." It is also we do care about "the authenticity of the fale of Troy." I have stood upon that plain dauge for more than a month in 1810, and it anything dizmisshed my pleasure it was that the blackguard Bryant had impulment its veracity. It is true I read "Homer Travestied" (the first 12 books), because Hobhouse and others hared ne with their learned localities, and I love quizzing. But I still venerated the grand original as the truth of history (in the material facts), and of place. Otherwise it would have given me no delicht. Who will lead not contain a here! its very magnitude proved this. Men do not labor over the ignobie and nexty dead—and why should not the dead be Homer's dead!

The italies throughout are Lord Byron's.

1. 8.

The italies throughout are Lord Byron's. Ithaca, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1877.

LABOR IN THE SOUTH. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The wealthier people of America could asily alleviate the present distress, and at small cost, by urchasing the cheapest healthful Southern districts sufciently contiguous to economical transportation faciliies and supplying them with common soldiers' " rations and mensils, viz-flour, pork, beans, coffee, sugar, pota toes, eamp kettles, knives, forks, spoons, tin caps and plates. Then they should give work at once to all who

are willing, thus preparing the ground for corn, cotton wheat, bay, vegetables, and fruits. If any rich church wheat, may regardence, and trains. It may the control would start such an undertailing it would be more prolifable and more to the purpose now than anything ever tried on this continent. Homest ladustry requires such help. When Americans grant it, their noole country will be the paradise of homest labor.

D. M. Marquis. Faterson, N. J., Feb. 6, 1877.

THE CANCELLATION OF STAMPS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I observe that all efforts at making an effective postal stamp canceler have failed to give satisfaction. Cutting and other processes are set aside because they mutitate letters inclosed in envelopes. No ink has been invented that is able to stand against the washing processes used by experts. Every attempt at rapid, handy, effective cancellation has, for some cause rapid, landy, effective cancellation has, for some cause or other, proved a failure. Now, by way of adding one more to the list of attempts. I would suggest that the postage stamp be printed with lisk that will wash. The take might be peculiar, and be prepared by some secret chemical process and its use restricted by some secret chemical process and its use restricted by statute to stamps, but, at any rate, let it be more soluble than the canceling line.

For 7, 1877.

JOHN W. SKINNER. Yonkers, N. Y., Feb. 7, 1877.

RITUALISM IN ENGLAND.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: Your English correspondent, "G. W. S.," in his communication of the 6th mst., summarily groups as the three plagues of England the "floods, spiritualists, and ritualists," and finally stignantizes the latter as ". parcel of priests who are mad about millinery." As he nows so much of England, might it not savor of some ingering candor if he would give the truth on the other t Or does he know nothing of the wonderful self-ial and corseless labor of these "millhery-mod ritual" in the purhess of London for the redemption of the personal comfort, in the very slums of London, the vile odors of which have never been samed, even from their coach-windows, by the prelates who John with the secular coarts to crush them 1 — A CONSTANT READER. Finited, Conn., Feb. 9, 1877.

MR. FIELD'S BEDFELLOW. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I see by your good paper this morning you say David Dudiey Field sat out all night watening the flag on the Senate wing of the National Capitol. the mag on the Senate wing of the National Capitol. I think you may be mistaken, as part of that night I bear he stept in the same bed with his brother, the Judge, and then the next day made an argument and plea before his brother, one of the Electoral Commissioners. C. C. W. New-York, Feb. 14, 1877.

BITS OF HUMOR IN THE TRIBUNE. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: Please accept the thanks of a close reader for more than 25 years of your splendid paper for the little squibs of fun put into different corners and

places of your paper. They are an excellent relief from low spirits m call times. Keep on!

Key-Haren, Feb. 6, 1877.

SHAKERS ON THE ELECTION. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: As a people, Shakers do not vote. Yet we are deeply interested in the United States Covern-ment. We pray that spirit agencies may be employed to paralyze partisan feelings, still the rising waves o human passion and prejudice, cause the right to prevail over wrong, and truth over falsehood, that the good and the true may be in the ascendant. Divine wisdom is safer than human wisdom. Spirit influence caused David safer than human wisdom. Spirit influence caused David to succeed Saui, and Daniel to become ruler of Babylonia, because it was for the best good of the Jewish people, and all peoples. All modern nations are deeply interested in the President of the United States. I ask God-fearing citizens to unite with us in prayer for the overraling Providence of God to decide the nonnentous issue new pencing in our National councils. On behalf of the Shakers.

Mount Lebanon, N. Y., Feb. 13, 1877.

"RRIBERY LAWS." To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: I wish to take exceptions to your article on bribery laws, in which you base your objections to those and similar enactments on the ground of the difficuity of enforcing them. Can it not be fairly maintained that a proper and wholesome law is better on the statute book, although it may be often violated, and even if pub book, although it may be often violated, and even it pub-lie sentiment is too weak at times to give it support? I think it can. The mass of our people have respect for law; and though tew mave the moral courage to hand down the aggressor, there is little doubt such laws have a great restraining influence. It is true that men who would debauch the franchise might add perjury to the crime, yet instances of detection and publishment would put all such men under the scrutiny and contempt of an our aggregabilities are impert. C. utraged public sentiment.
Albion, N. Y., Feb. 13, 1877.

THE NUISANCE AT THE POST-OFFICE.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: A week ago I called attention through THE TRIBUNE to the disgusting state the Post-Office was n, having for five years been the receptacle of dirt, filth, askes, etc., exhaling odors of the vilest smell, and no doubt adding to the spread of diseases of all descrip tions, to say nothing of the offense to the eye of the nons, to say nothing of the offense to the eye of the passers-by. Will not Postmasier James detail a squad of his men to remove this fifth, and request the Government to pave the sidewalk with stone! By so doing, he would receive the thanks of thousands whose business calls them daily to that locality.

Non-York, Feb. 14, 1877.

D. B. S.

NO GLASS INSTEAD OF BLUE.

To the Editor of The Iribune. SIR: I would like to ask "M. D.," whose communication on "Blue Glass" appeared in to-day TRIBUNE, or any one else who can knowingly answer the question, if it is not just as conducive to health (if not question, if it is not just as concavere to health (if no more so) to have the direct rays of the sun fall upon the body without the intervention of any glass whatever, provided the temperature of the air is suitaine, as to layer it pass through blue glass. INQUIREM. New-York, Feb. 15, 1877.

STATE OF THE SILK TRADE.

CAUSE OF THE RECENT ADVANCE IN PRICES-A "CORNER" IN THE MARKET, AND THE STIMULUS IT HAS GIVEN TO SMUGGLING-PROSPECTS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

The sudden advance which was made in the price of silk last Fall seems likely to be maintained onless the market is affected by some unforescen cause. The present value of silk is fully 25 per cent ahead of the rates last Spring, although a slight decline has taken place since the latter part of the Fall. Those engaged in the trade attribute the remarkable increase in the price of silk goods last year to a want of foresight on the part of silk manufacturers. For a long period previous to the rise prices were less than the actual cost of production At the time of the greatest depression in the market the rate of interest on European exchanges was low, and certain speculators and capitalists, finding the silk trade unprotected, formed a combination to buy up all the raw material to be found. These me nopolists based the success of their scheme upon the shortness of the crop of 1876, and as they obtained control of the entire yield for the year and possess great wealth, it is thought by merchants that the "corner will probably last for a considerable time. When the effect of the combination was felt in this market, pur chasers bought silks freely at an increase of 15 per cent on former prices, and aithough the state of the fereign brands of slik, full prices were only realized on excep-brands of slik, full prices were only realized on excep-

trade warranted a great were only realized on exceptionally fine goods.

The basiness of silk importers last Fall, despite the sudden advance in prices, was very satisfactory. The obbaced value of the goods, however, has acted as an incentive to smuggling, to the great disadvantage of honest traders. It is suspected that already large quantities of contraband silk have found their way into the market. This is shown by the fact that country mercianits can sell at retail the same class of silks as that held by importers much belo—wholesale prices. This irregularity is especially marked on the Canadian border, and New-York merchants have abandened all attempts to sell goods in that locality. Storekeepers who sell silks below market value take the precaution to cut off the brand bearing the maker's name, thus beaffing all search after the source of the original purchase. The precise method of snaugling silks into the country is difficult to detect. Importers assert that when buyers have made their purchases in the European markets, a contract is often made for the delivery of the legal markets, a contract is often made for the delivery of the goods at the merchant's store for a molety of the legal duty added to the Invoice. Much dissuisfaction is expressed with the existing system, which enables nerchants in the interior cities to import silks direct from Europe without appraisement at the Cusam-house here. When the goods arrive at this port they are sent in scaled cars to the consignee, leaving the matter of appraisal to the local or branch customs office at the place of destination. This method, it is elatined, subjects the goods to the risk of erroneous valuation by incompetent or dishonest appraisars. Accurate appraisal demands a thorough knowledge of silks, which traders say the average Custom-house official does not possess. Men who thorough knowledge of silks, which transfers any the average Custom-house official does not possess. Men who have been engaged in the making of, silk the greater part of their lives a user that it is impossible for the most skillful judge to set a valuation on a quantity of silk goods nearer than a margin of 10 or 12 per cent to its genual cost, and that appraisers sometimes insist, in the matter of valuation, on a margin as close as two or three

matter of valuation, on a margin as close as two or three per cent.

The present system of levying duty on silk is also declared unsatisfactory by importers. The duty is 60 per cent ad valorem, and according to tals standard a discount of the present system and according to tals standard a discount of the present system and opportunity for transf. If the owner of the merchandise thinks the appraisal injust, he must ether submit or await the slow process of a second valuation, with the risk of lesing the market for his goods. Merchants think that if silks were taxed acciding to weight, instead of the present system, the opportunity of throwing goods on the quarket below their just value would be removed.

In speaking of the prospects of the Spring silk trade, the principal of one of the largest silk importing houses in the country said recently that the enthole was not altogether discouraging. He thought that if peace should be preserved in Europe and political quiet maintained at home, a fair business would be done and the present prices would continue. But in case of a war in Europe the silk trade would become singmant there; meandacturers would change this market with their goods, and a fall in prices would make business unprofitable. A great deal depended also upon the early settlement of the Presentantal question. If the present uncertainty should be prolonged until after the 4th of March the season would be too tar advanced for busin as to recover iroth stagnation.

THE TAX ON BANKING.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTATION WHICH WAITED UPON

CONGRESS. The proceedings before the Congressional Committee on Ways and Means, with the addresses of the deputation from the banking institutions, boards of trade, and champers of commerce of this and other cities, which took place Peb. 7, in relation to the repeal of the taxes on the banking business of the country, has been printed in pamphlet form for distribution by some of the members of the New-York delegation. The remarks of Mr. Buell, President of the Importers' and Traders' National Bank of this city, cover 20 pages, and the report of proceedings and other speeches occupy

over 20 pages more.

George Schwab, in the course of his remarks before the committee said he, with several other representatives of committee said he, with several other representatives of various interests (B. G. Arnold, the largest coffee importer in the United States; Mr. Lane, representing the grocery and tea trade; Mr. Constable, representing the ery goods trade, and Mr. Huzelaurst, representing one of the largest manufacturing interests in the State of New-York, the New-York Mills of Unica), had been commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce to appear before the committee in support of the petition which, at the instigation of the Chamber of Commerce, had been signed by about 1,400 of the most promanent firms in the city, and was now before the committee. It had been thought advisable that they should come before the committee, lest it might appear as if the question of relief from bank taxation was only a question affecting the banks. The basiness men of New-York wanted to impress noon the committee that the question was by no means confined to banks and savings institutions. He said that ound taxation discriminated very a verely against moorporated banks and in favor of private bankers, and also of foreign bankers. The private bankers, and also of foreign bankers. The private bankers in the City of New-York were largely doing business on foreign capital. For instance, there was not a large bank in Comada that had not its authorized agency in N. w-York, sening exchange, buying and selling gold, and holding very large deposits for Canadian institutions and for Canadian institutions and for Canadian institutions in an for Canadian institutions in an for Canadian institutions in an foreign capital. For instance, there was not a large bank in Canada that had not its authorized agency in N. w-York, sening exchange, buying and selling gold, and holding very large deposits for Canadian institutions and for Canadian institutions in an for Canadian that had not its authorized agency in N. w-York, sening exchange, buying and selling gold, and holding very large deposits for Canadian institutions in an for Canadian institution in the day. It impr various interests [B. G. Arnold, the largest coffee im-

A man in Wisconsin saved a young lady from walking off a bridge, and so far from being grateful for it she married him.

DOMESTIC TOPICS. WHAT SHALL WOMEN DO?

Sin: The letter from "A Woman" in your Saturday's issue comes evidently from the pen of one who has a husband and a home, a household after whose ways it is her sphere and pleasure to look. But she seems to forget that there are thousands and thousands of us who have not and cannot, if statistics be correct, expect to have husbands and households of our own, who must make for ourselves our own place in the world, who must work day by day for our daily brend, and we cannot all be teachers and seamstresses. Teese paths are too crowded already, and what right has she to say we are leaving our sphere if we step over into some less fre-quented avenue, where men have heretofore walked? We grant there are many things which men do that women cannot and ought not to do, and they do not wish to do them; but there are also many things which women can do as fitly and as well, and if we may not do these, what shall we do t

We don't want to "go out of the sphere in which God

what shall we do?

We don't want to "go out of the sphere in which God has piaced us," we want to find what that sphere is; what it is that God has given us to do. But is that sphere to be a burden on some man, father, brother, australiand? For those who are wives and mothers, or only daughters perhaps, those whose sphere is evidently at home, "A Woman" speaks only truth; but for us who, from necessity or choice, instead of husband-hanting or depending upon father or brother for support, go out into the world to find a place and a work for ourselves, what right has any one to say we should do what we can't am obtan "woman's rights" woman, as the term is generally need, but I believe we have the right to do any honest work that we are capable of done, or can make ourselves capable of doing. Those positions for which men are fitted and women are not will be filled by men and not by women; that will regulate itself. But nothing can marrow the sphere of woman to her home when there are so many of us who have no homes or households, and no one has a right to ignore this great army. It is we who are struggline, it is we who must fight for ourselves or go to the wall, and it is a shame that our sisters from the chelter of their homes and their husbands' protection should sheer at us and condenn us.

A WOMAN WITHOUT A HOUSEHOLD.

MOTHERS-IN-LAW NEED NO PLEA.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: Is not "Justice" in her letter to The Third blinder than is necessary when she makes so selemn a point and fails to discover that in the daily paragraphs of witty journalists throughout the country which seemingly impale mothers-in-law, no "abuses are heaped," or intended to be "heaped upon" that sisterhood ! The present crusade sprang from no root of bitterness-a mere h ppen-a chance remark of some journalist was taken up and elaborated by another, enlarged, revised, played upon by another still, until it is now a favorite subject to sharpen wits and scissors. mothers-m-law do not consider themselves aggrieved is evident, since no protests or murmurs proceed from their mouths. They are eminently able if necessary to defend themselves. I am a mother-in-law-in good and regular standing, I fondly trust-and I cannot doubt the sinity of my children's respect, or deem that they do violence to "their gentlemanfy or ladylike instincts" when calling any attention to newspaper paragraps involving "yen, mother!" over which we all laugh in cherus. That home is coid and forbidding where such harmless mirth is excluded. Condole with an unbart child and his wails fill the house. "Justice" may arouse us to a sense of our wrongs and influence the formation of a protective association, bound to repel the assaults of malicious (f) scribbles. Our experience then will be similar to that of the uninjured hero of a slight affray who claimed prodigious damages nevertheless. His feelings in court when the trial neared its close overcame him and he burst into tears. "Why my dear fellow," whispered a friend, "I did not know you were so badly maltreated in that affair." "Nor I neither," sobbed the victim, "till I heard my lawyer a teilin' the jury all about it!"

A MOTHER-IN-LAW. lence to "their gentlemanfy or ladylike instincts" when

Richfield Springs, N. Y., Feb. 3, 1877

A DEFENSE OF SERVANT GIRLS. To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: Having read in THE TRIBUNE the unjust, and, I must say, mean and slanderous attacks against the servant girls of the cities, I think justice and fair play demand that you should give the poor, defenseless girls a chance to vindicate themselves against the untruthful, conspiring correspondents-great reformers as they want to be-in their efforts to cut down the wages of the hard-working girls who carn what they get, and earn it hard, too. How would "Sufferer" and your other correspondents like to change places for a little while with the girls whose services they would be mean enough to want for nothing ! How would they like, I say, to change places and work and toil from morning till night for the miserable wages which they, glorious lovers of humanity and reform, would fix for the services of their domestic slaves? I would ask "Sufferer" what can the girls save, if their wages are reduced, to provide against sickness or the like after clothing themselves! What sickness or the like after clothing themselves! What provision can they make, I ask him, against the cyll day when their health and strength are gone, and they become superannuated in the ungrateful toll and services of suca as "Sufferer." Truly the workingmen and women of America have fallen on evil days. A country that boasts so much of the rights of labor is a nation of pangers, of involuntary idle workingmen and women werse than the most downtrodden in the despotisms of Europe.

In conclusion, I would say to such unkind, ungrateful correspondents as "Sufferer," remember that there are

In conclusion, I would say to such a fining, angular correspondents as "Sufferer," remember that there are girls who told in the kitchen whose feelings are as refused and sensitive as yours, and the cowardity, lying sing minuted in the thievery and extravagance of "Buddy" is an outragoous insult to the nationality whose majority. I believe, is the largest in domestic service, and as swer to the base libeders who are trying to injure the corredepease, virtuous, hard-working servant girls. swer to the base libelers who are trying to injure it poor, defenseless, virtuous, hard-working servant girls. Brooklyn, Feb. 14, 1877. MARY C.

SERVANTS FROM THE SOUTH. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Siz: The many articles in your paper on the servant question seem to fall short of touching the pith of the matter. If housekeepers would not pay the wages, the troubles would cease. I keep three servants-a cook, laundress, and a man as waiter and general helper. I pay to the three \$40 a month. The man and his wife have \$25. They are Southern servants, respectful, honest, and doing my work more satisfactorily than it was ever done by servants whom I paid double the money, who were Irish Catholics, whom I know stole and gave

who were Irish Catholics, whom I know stole and gave away one-third as much as their own wages. I have had this class of servants for five years, and have been deceived only once.

Ladica, the remedy is with yourselves. Much is said of the reduction of men's wages. It is only because they cannot get higher wages. Men use common sense in their business, but a wewan says, "I cannot work," and so pays the wages. If all the ladies who go to the offices on Mondays to get servants would say "I will pay a cook only \$12 a month," it would take only a few weeks to remedy the evil. I went to an office where only Irich servants were to be obtained, and saw a lady ask 10 or 15 servants to go into a family of three to do general housework for \$10 a month. She failed, while, if she had sent South, she would have obtained what she needed.

M. F. Summit, N. J., Feb. 10, 1877.

SIE: On the subject of "Doing away with

THE TROUBLESOME SERVANTS. To the Editor of The Tribune.

servants" "Sufferer" says he "knows a gentleman of means and culture who with his wife and daughter live alone in a four-story brown-stone house, without servants (hiring washerwomen only), and have peace, happiness, freedom, and economy." Supposing now there are added two more children and an aged mother, and where is your cultured gentleman and his peace, happiness, freedom, and economy i Why just where I am-paying an indifferent servant girl \$14 per month, besides giving her food, heat, light, rent, presents of clothing, and opher food, neat, 1230, rent, presents of colonia, many portunities for being benevolent to her poor relations from the store-room, which I estimate at about \$10 per month, but do not feel justified in making a fuss about if she will save me as few things, such as silver spoons, watches, pocket-books, &c. Of course my servant girl only takes such things as she thinks I can share, and might have me indicted for defamation of character if I should accidentally call her a thief. But, Sufferer and market mark time to suffer so long as our richer neighbor is might have me indicted for defamation of engracter if a should accidentally call her a thick. But, Sufferer and I must live to suffer so long as our richer neighbor is willing to pay from \$16 to \$20. But perhaps this is the price of honest girls. Let the rich cut down servants' wages and then there will be no longer a servant oll-garchy in this country.

Englewood, N. J., Feb. 4, 1877.

WOMAN'S WORK. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I have read a great many letters from different women, who write as though all women had nothing to do but fondle their husbands and children. They do not seem to think of those women that have to support their husbands and children. I think fully one quarter of those that are married, either wholly or in part support their families. There is a very large class that have no husbands. What are they to do! Have they no right to do whatever they can to get a living ! I think their place is just where they can do the best for themselves. Men do not hesitate to do women's work if themselves. Men do not hesitate to do women's work if they feel called upon sto do so. There are men dressmakers. Perhaps if your correspondent from Passaie, N. J., nad no money or hasband to do for her she would not look with so much disgust at other women whom she thinks want to get out of the sphere that God placed them in. I don't think God ever made a sphere for women separate from that of men. She seems to think the women of the Bible had nothing to do but take care of their houses. As I read the Bible it is quite different. Poughkeepsie, N. F., Feb. 3, 1877. A WOMAN.

THE RICH MAN'S MILK BILL. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Allow me through the columns of your paper to state a few facts in regard to the "aristocracy" of your city and the way it is kept up. I have often heard criticisms about country people, especially the

farmers, by the city people, in regard to their dress, ale the way in which they conduct their business affurbut they do not stop one moment to consider. Many these very people are using the capital of the farmers keep up their own position in society. How is this ! keep up their own position in society. How is this! In is very plain to me. They will not pay their bill promptly to the dealers in farm produce, especially mike Farmers are made to wait the aristocrats' pleasans. Then the dealers that get their products from the farmers made their products from the farmers made their products from the farmers made their products from the farmers in the farmers made their products from the farmers made in the milk man or grocer sends in his bill they pretend to feel highly insulted. Whose money is harder earned than his farmers' I Then think of these consumers of milk and other products using the farmers' money to help them make a show!

Dutchess County, N. Y., Peb. 5, 1877.

ESTHETICS OF EVERY-DAY LIFE

MR. MITCHELL'S SECOND LECTURE THE BEARING OF ÆSTHETICS ON ARCHITECTUPE -FITNESS, STRENGTH, DURABILITY - WOOD DECORATION-CITY AND COUNTRY HOUSES, PIG. PROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

NEW-HAVEN, Feb. 14.—The audience room

of the Yale Art School was again illed to its utmost

capacity this evening with those who desired to bear

Mr. Donald G. Mitchell's second lecture on the " Esthetics of Every-day Life." Atthough living in their midst, it may be said, the people of New-Haven raiely have an opportunity of hearing Mr. Matchell, and so all who can be accommodated are availing themselves of the privilege of hearing him now. The speaker began by saying that in his first lecture he spoke of the ruings of taste in connection with our dealing with natural surfaces; he would now speak of the rulings of good taste in connection with material shelters against wind and storms. While only an expert can talk of the fullest reach of the laws of design and construction, a proper shelter of our homes and offices concerns everybody, and a man of average cultivation and intelligence may judge of its efficiency and beauty. A painter may reasonably object to wha he calls lay judgment; but in architecture there are some few fundamental characteristics of which one may freely speak. And first among these is fitness. If the shelter is intended for cattie, it should be undoubted shelter; if the structure is designed for public offices, all the needs of a public office-ample space, good light, and every accommodation-should be provided; if for private dwellings, all de-mestic wants should be met. There should be no leakages, no smoky chimneys, no cramping hall ways; and the fulfillment of all these wants should a iar as possible, have expression in outer contour and exterior features. Above all there should be no pretense. Everything should be honest and real. Strength is another necessary feature. The building should be strong, solid, and durable. This does not imply that the material used should be indestructible, but the structure should stand sturdily and firmly upon its foundation. I is possible that by the nature of the material used, or by skill in construction, strength may be obtained which does not appear to the eye. This may be more economical, but asthetically it is not satisfactory. We do not want to infer strength, but to see it. A third point of important in good architectural work is proportion. A tall, gaunt house, or a low, squat one is subject to a condemnator expressed in the terms used to describe them. The laws of proportion are largely dependent upon fitness. Before we can say a building has wholly good proportions we must first know for what it is to be used. A lighthouse is to be a tower-like structure, while a building intends for a farmery in some nook of the hills suggests a mass

These principles are great desiderats in all architecture. They lie-all of them-at the back of that decortive treatment which makes and distinguishes what is called style of architecture. We are apt to lose sight of the fact that style is an exterior rather than an essential element, and that if we build at any particular epoch, aiming at solidity of structure and grace of outline, we me to a style-not necessarily a novel one, but one which shall assimilate with our wants the best teach ings of all styles. The special style of any epoch-as the Greek, the Renaissance, and the Gothic-expresses the culmination of the outfeeling of that epoch; and these various styles we cannot mix any more than one can mix the balladry of Homer with the contemplative spell of Wordsworth. There can be no fitting architecture except it be full of the expression of modern life and need The best of repetitions are mere archæologie curiosities Can anything be done for milway architecture Everything that relates to railway stations demands adaptation to convenience, comfort, and free movement The conditions involved do not admit of any elaboratio

ing of low roofs together.

of conventional rules, but the wants of the position are none the less to be met, and may be met, with such a marshaling of artistic treatment in their courts, corddors, balconies, clock towers, &c., as shall count well for the development of architecture. The lecturer here entered into a consideration of what good decoration should consist in. It should be allied to and emphasize structural features, and especially should this be true of ordinary work. Fair and honest indications of strength and supporting power are themselves an ornament; and the worst of all decoration is that

up of severe and simple wall surface. There is too great

fear of utterly simple wall spaces. The material of the

up of severe and simple wall surface. There is too great fear of utterly simple wall spaces. The material of the ornaments and the main structure should match perfectly. This being the case, they will both grow all together, and the harmony will always be preserved.

The speaker now imagined unimosel taking a walk in the street of any city, and brought before his hearers the unpicture-sque view presented by a row of business boutsos. He does not agree with Mr. Russkun that buildings for trade purposes cannot ever have an architectural and invible character. All buildings for human uses—mat of all those for every-day uses—can be so equipped and designed as to feed our sense of beauty without any serified of their utility. Close city dwellings have the same narrowness, which is only relieved by throwing out an order or a baticony, and thas have a cort of artistle decoration, or foliuse, chiefly in elaboration of the door. It is hard indeed to conceive of mesheauty or grace within or without, as belonging to our American habit of building four or five narrow scaffolings raised one above the other. But there is no excuss for such uniformity. The doors and portees may vary, the windows be grouped and pot-eed and set off singly of humg out in buy and have their varied decorated confets. There is no eccasion for ruining frontaxes by a dozen cell-like apertures, no occasion for the shrinkage of half spaces. Further advantages of presenting such wide views are the free, cheery entrance-way and such deviews are the free, cheery entrance-way and such deviews are the free, cheery entrance-way and such deviews are the free, cheery entrance-way and such exightest reason why our larger towns should entitle the city methods. The best type of a home is found in the suburbs, where room is afforded for the expression of maividurality, and this gives a charming variety. Men's houses should vary just as held faces. And first, is the New-England house, with fisheres, and the control of the control of the control of the control of th ornaments and the main structure should match per-

INTERNATIONAL RIPLE CONTESTS. The Secretary of the National Rifle Association has received communications from the Scotch and Irish teams recommending some changes in the condi-tions upon which the Centennial trophy is to be shot for The Scotch marksmen suggest that the match shall take place triennially instead of annually, and that if possible a range strange to all participating teams sha selected, and that it shall be open for preliminary pres tice for fourteen days previous to the match; that before the beginning of preliminary prac-tice the targets shall be balloted for and held during the practice and the match by the teams

winning the practice and the match by the transit winning them; that the divisions on the targets shall be cut out, and not merely painted. The Irish Ede Assenation recommends that the number composing teams shall be reduced from eight to six. The Association can cluded that it could not send a challenge to an American team as long as the Centennial trophy remained in the country, but an invitation to a team of the Amateur Etche to shoot in Ireland during the Summer was tended.