LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

THE BARCLAY STREET MYSTERY.

EXPLOSIVE GASES LIBERATED FROM OVER-HEATED SUGAR.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The fire in the Barclay-st. confectionery has again called attention to a phenomenon attending the burning of places devoted to processes of sugar manufacture. I allude to the instant diffusion of flame throughout the building, however large, as well as the intense energy of the conflagration. Considerable experience in the refining of sugar has lead me to make observations on its inflammable nature.

Under certain conditions, sugar would not be considered as peculiarly inflammable, that is, we cannot ignite a pile of sugar by the application of a lighted match; yet under other conditions it may develop all the conditions for energetic combustion. That this may be understood, it should be known that sugar is composed of about 44 per cent of carbon and 56 per cent of oxygen and hydrogen. In this state it is a safe commodity; but when conditions favor the decomposition of sugar into its elements, then it becomes dangerously inflammable. Thus: At 400° F., sugar parts with its water of crystallization and is converted into caramel. Any increase of temperature above this point tends to the decomposition alluded to, and with any considerable increase, say to 500° F., or 600° F., the mass is rapidly decomposed, and an immense volume of highly inflammable gas is liberated, whilst the carbon remains to sustain the fire. Bearing in mind that such powerful elements of destruction may be liberated by so slight an increase of temperature, and considering the large amount of sugar that is in process of manufacture in a refinery, need we be surprised at the certainty and thoroughness of destruction awaiting the works in which a fire may raise the heat of the surrounding air to the point at which sugar is decomposed? So far as I can recollect, in no instance have such works been saved from total loss. And I hold, in the nature of things, that the most perfect system of extinguishing fires will fail to save a refinery wherein an accidental fire has raised the temperature of any room containing sugar to the point of 600° F., and the resultant gases have become ignited. These gases, the one combustible, the other a supporter of combustion, once fired, pass with almost lightning rapidity through the building, finding fresh food from the increasing decomposition of the sugar on the various floors with the increasing heat, until the fury of the conflagration defies human effort to subdue it. And in the intensity of the heat woodwork is as flax fibre, iron girders and columns fuse like lead, and great structures melt in the conflagration in a few moments.

It may throw some light on the Barclay-st. mystery to remember that only a small percentage of inflammable gas being mixed with atmospheric air, an explosive compound of the utmost energy is formed. Is it not possible that in some part of the confectionery a quantity of sugar was exposed to a decomposing heat, and the resultant gases mixed with air became the cause of the explosion?

W. M. DAVIS.

Philadelphia, Jan. 7, 1878.

A NEW BURDEN OF INTEREST.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: THE TRIBUNE of to-day, as in days past, calls attention to the loss the people are suffering because of the inability of the Government to fund the 6 per cent bonds into 4 per cent bonds. All will readily agree to the importance of reducing the enormous amount of interest money the country is burdened with paying. Permit me to call your attention to a burden of interest quite recently fixed upon the people, seemingly without any good reason or excuse, which I have not seen noticed in THE TRIBUNE. I refer to the change of fractional currency to silver tokens. The former, when made of a good quality of paper, as the earlier issues were, was neat and clean, wearing well, and surely gave general satisfaction as a most convenient change. It was paid out to the people for value received by the Government, as the greenbacks were, and like them was free of interest. The later issues of fractional currency were made for some reason out of extremely poor paper, soon becoming soiled and ragged, and much less tasteful in appearance. Then the suggestion was made to replace this dirty paper currency with silver change. Without much thought or discretion the people permitted the change to be effected. To do this, gold-interest bonds had to be sold to buy silver bullion to be coined into change. We had, in round numbers, say, $50,000,000 of fractional paper currency. Supposing the whole amount to have been called in as intended, and the $50,000,000 in bonds sold, the annual interest, all expenses added, would amount to about $3,000,000 per year. The bonds, as I understand, are to run thirty years. At the end of this period we shall have paid $90,000,000 in interest. Then the bonds—$50,000,000—are to be paid, making $140,000,000. We should also add at least $1,000,000 per year of loss and destruction in various ways of the paper currency—a loss to individuals, but a saving to the people at large, namely, the Government—making a difference in taxation of $170,000,000 in thirty years. If the interest was compounded, the tax on account of this change will be $341,000,000, being $41,000,000 more than the President claims in his annual message would be saved by funding the 6 per cents into 4 per cent bonds. And wherein are the people benefitted by the change? The paper currency cost no interest. It helped trade, especially in New-York City, because so readily inclosed in letters for all purposes, helping publishers of books and newspapers particularly. The silver cannot be so used, or certainly is not, and it is heavy, bungling and cumbersome, causing very general complaint, especially of late, while so much of it is being forced upon the people.

E. O. BALL.

New-York, Jan. 22, 1878.

THE NEW-CANAAN LIQUOR TROUBLES.

A REPLY TO ANTHONY COMSTOCK'S LETTER.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I wish to take exception to some of the so-called facts given by Anthony Comstock, in a letter of to-day to THE TRIBUNE, which is characteristic, to say the least, if not true.

New-Canaan is a very quiet country village of less than 3,000 inhabitants, and with a much less proportion of the rough element of humanity than most towns have. There has been considerable excitement since the arrest of the violators of the license law, caused by the attendance of interested persons from the neighboring towns of Norwalk and Stamford at the trials in this town. I cannot see how even the inflamed zeal of Mr. Comstock can be an excuse for his conduct at the trial to which he refers in his letter. The picture which he draws of Justice Bliss leaving his court in session, and his witnesses in peril of violence at the hands of a mob, and fleeing, is a fitting companion picture to that which he presents of himself, when he writes: "I sprang upon the platform between the officer and prisoner, and ordered the mob back." Neither picture is true to the facts.

Justice Bliss held his court with decorum and ruled with impartiality, although a member of the organization conducting the initiation of the prosecution. He adjourned his court, after the Prosecuting Attorney had said they would go no farther that day, with the words, "We will stop here till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock." The audience then moved toward the door. At this time, Britton was arrested by Officer Lee for conspiracy. Mr. Comstock, with a loud voice, cried out, "You cannot arrest him. He has a right to go to his home before he can be arrested. Will you allow your witness to be arrested?" He was gesticulating like a madman, and was in effect resisting the officer. It seems probable that the mortification of his false position has warped his judgment or memory, and caused his attack on Justice Bliss. There was no "mob." What he is pleased to call a mob was the successful effort of the citizens to sustain the officer.

I hope the readers of THE TRIBUNE will not believe that justice is administered in New-Canaan as Mr. Comstock represents it, or that he is needed to protect either the witnesses or the morals of the town, for our quiet town is not only a peaceful, orderly, well-officered place, but it is also entirely capable of taking care of its courts and attendants. Your reporter gave a very fair report of the proceedings, and your paper has the largest circulation in town and is always read with interest. Mr. Comstock should not be allowed to traduce an honorable and fair justice of the peace to cover his own misconduct.

CITIZEN OF NEW-CANAAN.

New-Canaan, Conn., Jan. 21, 1878.

LAMBETH AND BENNETT FAIENCE.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR: In a recent article in your paper on "Art Pottery and Porcelain," it is said that "Messrs. Davis Collamore & Co. make a special display of Lambeth faience, decorated in this city by John Bennett, late of the Doulton establishment." Will you allow me to correct a statement which gives a wrong impression to the public, and which does injustice to my ware? Faience is decorated and glazed ware; and until glazed it is simply biscuit or paste. The Lambeth faience is quite different in its manufacture from my own, which is much stronger, and in producing which I have endeavored to follow the advice given me by the well-known expert, Frank Leighton, esq., of London, "Avoid the mustard appearance, and try to produce the effect of old ivory." This difference is apparent when the two manufactures are compared.

Will you allow me to state that I originally introduced faience at Doulton's, in Lambeth, and that I have already begun to make vases and other articles with American clay, and mean to produce faience of a high order without the assistance of imported forms. To distinguish my work from the Lambeth ware, and at the suggestion of many persons here, I adopt the designation, which I do not consider a boastful one, of "Bennett faience." Yours respectfully,

JOHN BENNETT.

New-York, Jan. 22, 1878.

THE STREET CAR NUISANCE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Through your columns do the aggrieved and annoyed seek redress, and still another complainant applies for comfort, trusting you will give her question a moment's consideration. Can nothing be done, no rules be made, to keep men from spitting on the floors of the street cars? They are forbidden to smoke, which is not so disgusting or obnoxious a habit as spitting. It is not pleasant to sit opposite a man so engaged, not knowing how to avoid each stream that seems aimed at one's feet. Neither is it pleasant for a lady to pass over the tobacco lakes on the floor at the risk of her dress coming in contact with them. Can no rule be made by the companies to free ladies from being subjected to such disgusting annoyances, or must we stop riding in the cars?

E. M. J.

New-York, Jan. 16, 1878.

A TEN-DOLLAR BOND FOR POOR PEOPLE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Can't some one suggest a proper way to remonetize copper? To rid the country of nickels and three-cent pieces should be the ambition of some Western member of Congress. Sir, I am a Western man myself, and I think that could we remonetize copper, as well as silver, and pay off the Government bonds in copper coin, especially those held by foreigners, it would be about the cleverest piece of financial legerdemain that any country could boast of. But all pleasantries aside, and looking at the remonetization question in its proper light, I would suggest that, at this critical juncture in the financial affairs of our country, the Treasury Department be urged at once to recruit an army of volunteers against this horde of inflationists. I am a Democrat, sir, and an ex-member of the Confederate Army, but now a Southern man sojourning for a few weeks in New-York; and I believe this remonetization question to be one of the most retrograde movements ever undertaken in this country; and that the laboring man will be one of the first to feel the disastrous consequences which will result from the passage of the Silver Bill. In fact, it does not seem to me that the question needs discussion; it is so plain that any one can see the evils which will result to every individual by an impairment of the credit of the country. But to return to my proposition to recruit an army against the inflationists. That proposition is for the Government to issue 4 per cent bonds of $10 each—you have a precedent in the fifty-francs rentes of France. It will be readily suggested to your mind how gladly this will be accepted by the millions of workingmen, and women and even children, who have heretofore used the savings banks for their earnings. They would readily put the dollars in a safe savings bank, or a Government bond, but they can't accumulate and keep together as much as $50 or more with which to buy the lowest denomination of Government bond. Their savings of $5, $10 or $20 lie locked in a trunk, hid in some recess or in a bureau drawer and always ready to be spent.

W.

New-York, Jan. 21, 1878.

TOBACCO DEALERS ALARMED.

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED REDUCTION OF THE TAX —A PETITION IN CIRCULATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: One, and the most important, of the causes of failures, is the depreciation in the value of property. Tobacco now pays a tax of 24 cents a pound, and cigars pay a tax of $6 a 1,000. There are a number of bills now before Congress, to reduce these taxes one-half, thereby causing a depreciation of one-fourth in the value of every dealer's stock. In case any of these bills are passed without a drawback, it will cause distress and failure among the many thousand dealers (320,141 licensed) in the United States, whose influence or effect among other branches of trade cannot be told. Please investigate and ventilate for the benefit of the public, whose interests you always carefully preserve. The following petition, passed at a meeting of dealers on January 22, is being signed:

Whereas, Dealers in manufactured tobacco and cigars, for the purposes of their business are oblized to keep a stock of manufactured goods sufficient for the current wants of their trade upon which there has, in good faith, been paid a tax to the United States Government; and

Whereas, It is anticipated that during the present session of Congress, an act will be passed reducing the tax on manufactured tobacco and cigars, thereby impairing the value of all tax-paid goods held by dealers at the time such bill or act is passed; therefore

Resolved, That we respectfully ask that if such an act be passed suitable provision be made by which said dealers shall be paid a drawback by the Government equal to the amount that their property is depreciated by such a reduction in the tax. It is further resolved that whatever action be taken on the subject ought to be taken at once, as one of the most important branches of trade is, for the time being, almost wholly paralyzed, and great pecuniary loss is sustained by every day's delay.

ALLEN & CO.

New-York, Jan. 24, 1878.

HELP FOR THE WELSH COLLIERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I was astonished and pained to see in your semi-weekly issue of the 18th inst. a statement by an eye-witness of the terribly distressed condition of a certain Welsh colliery community. I can only account for their being left in such circumstances on the supposition that their situation is not known to the good people of Great Britain, and I suppose relief must have been afforded them before this time. I am satisfied that farmers of this our county of Ohio would contribute grain and provisions enough to load a ship or two to send to these worthy starving men, women, and children if an opportunity were afforded. It seems shameful that, while we are overflowing with plenty, our industrious fellow-men anywhere should be allowed to starve. Inclosed I send a draft for $100, which you would oblige me by making available as soon as practicable to the best advantage, for the relief of these people.

EDWARD STURGIS, sr.

Mansfield, Rockland Co., Ohio, Jan. 22, 1878.

[The moving picture of suffering among the Welsh coal-miners to which our generous Ohio correspondent refers, was copied from *The London Daily News*. We shall forward his $100 to the editor of that journal, requesting him to see that it reaches the sufferers described.—*Ed.*]

WHICH WILL DO THE WAGGING?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The question was once asked, "Why does a dog wag his tail?" The reply was, "Because the dog is larger than the tail, otherwise the tail would wag the dog." Mr. Thurlow Weed, in his article on the silver question, published in your issue of the 10th inst., bases his argument on the assumption that the demonetization of silver by Congress has reduced its value. I quote the following: "Silver maintained its standard value until 1874, when it was wrongfully demonetized. The wrong must now be righted." Now, we all know that the value of silver has changed correspondingly throughout the world. Consequently, according to Mr. Weed, this entire fluctuation was caused by one act of legislation in the United States. If this is true, if the United States is the dog, and the rest of the world the tail, his argument is right and conclusive; but isn't it just possible that, if the Bland bill should become a law, we might find to our sorrow that the wagging would be much more lively in this country than in the combined outside world?

P. B. LEWIS.

Asheville, N. C., Jan. 17, 1878.

PROCLAIMED A LIAR.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In strolling along the Boulevard, to-day, just east of St. Ann's-ave., I saw a boy standing on the front portico of a house squarely facing the Boulevard, and over his chest a placard with the word "Liar." A woman, supposed to be the child's mother, said that he was "eight years old, and such a liar that they had decided to make a public display of him." In appearance he was more than ordinarily bright and intelligent, for a boy of that age. Now, suppose you draw somewhat upon THE TRIBUNE'S philosophical resources, and state to the public what benefit, in THE TRIBUNE'S view, is likely to accrue to the child from the above treatment.

J. B. FARLEY.

Mott Haven, Jan. 20, 1878.

[*Answer.*—We should think that probably the child might grow up to have quite as much delicacy of feeling as its mother.—*Ed.*]

A CITY'S THANKS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The City of Fernandina, by its sanitary committee, begs leave to return to you, and through you to the kind donors, sincere thanks for the generous assistance it received by your aid during the recent affliction of yellow-fever. The contributions sent relieved many unfortunate sufferers, and the knowledge of such sympathy and helping hands as yours, brightened the darkest days of our despair. With grateful hearts, we are sincerely yours.

SAMUEL F. MAYOR, Mayor and Chairman.
M. SINCLAIR BIRD, Secretary Sanitary Committee.

Fernandina, Fla., Dec. 1, 1877.

HOLDING UP MR. BROOKS' HANDS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I am glad to notice that Mr. Brooks of the Assembly proposes to resist our Mr. Alvord's attempt to create two unnecessary offices to be filled at the expense of the tax-payers. Mr. Brooks may be assured that the good people of Onondaga County are with him in this matter; and they trust that he will attend to Mr. Alvord's case thoroughly. They know he is competent to do so. Our people wish governmental expenses to be reduced, not increased.

B.

Syracuse, Jan. 11, 1878.

NO ASSIGNMENT BY THE NATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: God bless THE TRIBUNE that it is not willing our Nation should make an assignment just now, and offer 90 cents on the dollar to its creditors. That our bonds are sought at 4 per cent does not indicate any such need. Yours truly,

JUSTICE.

Homesdale, Penn., Jan. 24, 1878.

CAN'T GET THE NEWSPAPERS THEY WANT.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Is there not some way by which TRIBUNES may be obtained by passengers coming from Washington, on meeting early trains from New-York at Wilmington, Havre-de-Grace, or other points on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad? I have frequently found that, though the other New-York dailies are in full supply, from some cause or another TRIBUNES cannot be had, although earnestly sought for by passengers. The latest case occurred on Monday last. Some of us are getting pretty mad about it. Who is it who stands behind these boys and venders and encourages their indifference to passengers' needs? Are the managers of that road inimical to THE TRIBUNE?

ONE OF MANY.

New-York, Jan. 23, 1878.

[We think not. The difficulty must result from some oversight on the part of a news agent or news company, which we shall try to have corrected.—*Ed.*]

THE BEST WAY TO INFLUENCE ELECTIONS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In a former letter I gave my opinion as to the value of your paper and the premium. I wish I could whisper in the ear of every Republican in this country, I would say that if THE TRIBUNE were in every family in the United States, there would be no trouble about our elections. Two-thirds of the voters would vote all right after reading THE TRIBUNE six months, and, probably, a larger proportion.

Yours truly, GEO. BUCHANAN.

Washington, Penn., Jan. 22, 1878.

A FOURTH STATE PRISON.

WHY THE PLAN IS FAVORED.

CLAIMS OF SULLIVAN COUNTY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE SELECTION OF A SITE—OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFITABLE EMPLOYMENT OF CONVICT LABOR—THE NECESSARY OUTLAY FOR BUILDINGS NOT GREAT—ARGUMENTS ADVANCED FOR A NEW PRISON.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

MONTICELLO, Sullivan Co., N. Y., Jan. 23.—If New-York State is to build a fourth State prison, Sullivan County will be liberal enough to offer an excellent site. Superintendent Pilsbury is known to favor the erection of a fourth prison somewhere in the lower tier of counties, but refrains from making the suggestion to the Legislature on the ground that his experience in his present position is not yet sufficiently long. It is understood, however, that he has signified a willingness to support such a suggestion, and Mr. Pilsbury has so far earned the thanks and confidence of the people of the State that they will doubtless give him as many prisons as the State can fill and can make self-supporting.

It is her ability to assist in accomplishing that desirable object—making a prison meet its own expenses—which makes Sullivan County so willing to secure another institution for the State and a qualified benefit for herself. The county is practically a rugged wilderness. Monticello, the county seat, numbering 1,400 inhabitants, is so old-fashioned and so sleepy in the Winter, when it hibernates, that it is not fully awake to its opportunities. This is the first matter of any public moment which has risen above its horizon since the railway came from Port Jervis, twenty-five miles away, and stopped here. On the day when James Fisk, jr., was killed, this little line of railway was to have been saddled on the Erie Railway. Left to itself it went to ruin at railway speed. Then L. A. Milbank was made superintendent, and by economical management repaired the road, and has made it self-supporting. Two trips to Port Jervis are made daily, which altogether constitute a run of 100 miles. On my trip up to Monticello the engineer offered me a seat in the cab of the engine, and allayed all fears by the proud statement that $9 90 sufficed for the locomotive's entire daily expenses; for surely on that pittance a locomotive, on such steep grades, could not acquire enough surplus vigor to blow up or to jump the track. Mr. Milbank has brought the yearly expenses of the road within $22,000. And it was mainly due to him that it was discovered that the Bushkill Valley could advantageously supply unskilled convict labor with a plenty of profitable work to do. Of course it would secure the future of the little railway to have a great State prison for a way station. All that has been done, thus far, to advance the project, has been affected openly, and those most interested assert that Sullivan County, if chosen for the site of a State prison, will be selected solely because it has superior advantages, for it has no money to spend in lobbying. It is called a hopeful sign that at Albany political parties and factions appear to be equally friendly toward Sullivan County.

General A. C. Niven, now seventy-three years of age, lives at Monticello. He was a State Prison Commissioner with Sinclair Tousey and Superintendent Pilsbury. He believes with the latter that another State prison would be a good investment for the State, and has prepared a bill which will be brought before the Legislature probably within two weeks. If the bill should become a law, he says Sullivan County must stand or fall on her merits, when a Commissioner is appointed to select a site. Superintendent Pilsbury has said if such a bill passes he shall abstain from having anything to do with the construction of the buildings if a political commission is appointed. He will not risk being in anyway connected with State prison jobbery.

The arguments advanced to show that another State prison is needed, are based mainly on what Superintendent Pilsbury has done towards prison reform and what he has said might be done. The three State prisons now in use are over crowded. At Sing Sing there are 1,600 convicts, where the proper number is 1,200, and at Auburn 1,200, with an ordinary capacity for 1,000. Then also there are about 1,600 convicts in different county prisons and reformatories, in various parts of the State, who are being supported in idleness at an average cost of $3 per head a week. Superintendent Pilsbury thinks that if these were brought together in another prison, in an advantageous place, their labor could be utilized and made to pay for their support, and possibly leave a profit. The Dannemora prison in Clinton County, is so far away from trade centres, that Mr. Pilsbury says it is practicably impossible to make contracts for the convict labor of the prison, and cheaper to keep the prisoners in idleness. Last year each convict at Dannemora cost the State about $400; at Auburn, $142; and at Sing Sing, $84. Sheriff Morrise was on the point, to-day, of starting from Monticello with three convicts, one for Dannemora, and two for Auburn, and said the expense to the State would be about $220. If a new prison were built, easy of access from trade centers, and from the western and lower tier of counties, there would be a large annual saving to the State for transportation.

The wild picturesqueness and ruggedness of this region can scarcely be exaggerated. For twelve miles out of Port Jervis the railway follows the Neversink, which waters a beautiful valley. Mount Zion is the first station on the way, and Paradise the second. Here there are abundant beds of bright clay on the hill sides, and a brick-kiln. At Oakland, where there are said to be almost inexhaustible beds of potters' clay, the railway bends at the confluence of the Bushkill and the Neversink, and follows the latter three miles to Hartwood. Somewhere in these three miles it is thought the new prison ought to be built. The Bushkill, in that distance, has a fall of 635 feet, and is a rushing and foaming river for the entire distance, with the railway sometimes 150 or 200 feet above its bed. The banks are steep and in places rocky, and are almost perpendicular. There is always water enough in the river to turn turbine wheels at intervals of 20 or 300 feet for the whole three miles. The first station in the Bushkill Valley is Eden, and the next noticeable spot is "The Gulf," a hollow basin with a meadow, an admirable site for prison dormitories. Then comes Hartwood, where there are saw mills. Monticello is ten miles beyond, and if the valley of the Bushkill is chosen as a prison site the railway will be continued to the Midland Railway, six miles distant. This would give the Bushkill Valley easy and direct communication by railway with every part of the State. The prison would be 88 miles from New-York and 126 miles from Binghamton. It might be added that there are tanneries at Gilman's, four miles above Hartwood. The country for miles on both sides of the Bushkill is a wild forest of maple, beech, birch, ash, chestnut, oak, tamarack, spruce and cherry trees. It is proposed to secure to the State 5,000 acres of the best timber and brick and potters' clay lands at the nominal price of $2 or $3 per acre. This, with the water-power, would afford an inexhaustible wealth of material for the most lucrative kinds of convict labor.

Even more valuable than these resources, however, are the quarries of blue flagstone. The hills on both banks of the Bushkill are almost solid masses of blue flagstone, of the best quality, and practically unlimited in quantity. Several quarries are now worked with profit and supply in part New-York and large Eastern cities with flagstones. Superintendent Pilsbury is quoted as saying that the flagstone would make good copings for brick prison buildings and shops, and that the work could be arranged so as to have convicts make the brick, break the ground, and build the edifices. The advantages of the location would reduce the first expense to a remarkably small amount.

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS.

Register Dayton has received a voluntary petition in bankruptcy by H. W. Metcalf & Co., dealers in shoe stock, at No. 58 Warren-st. The liabilities amount to $47,000, in addition to which H. W. Metcalf owes individually $9,300. The greater part of the indebtedness is held in Boston and Lynn, Mass. The assets are nominally valued at $8,000.

Application was made to Register Fitch, yesterday, by Robert D. Evans, formerly of the firm of Bogert & Evans, paper dealers in William-st., who have been in bankruptcy since 1869, for his discharge. It was opposed by Edwards & Co., creditors, who allege that Bogert & Evans sold goods which they had sent to them on commission, at a great sacrifice for cash, collected the money and then failed; that knowing themselves to be insolvent they obtained credit and goods with the intent to defraud, and that they committed other illegal acts.

"Does this razor go easy?" asked a barber of a victim who was writhing under a clumsy instrument, whose chief recommendation was a strong handle. "Well," replied the poor fellow, "that depends upon what you call the operation. If you are shaving me, it goes tolerably easy, but if you're shaving, it goes rather hard."

The Chicago Times announces that two "fiends of hell" have been roaming along a populous street of that city, swearing that they will kill the first passer by. But why be so niggardly specific? Chicago has millions of them.—[Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

XLVth CONGRESS---IId SESSION.

REGULAR REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

MR. MATTHEWS'S SILVER RESOLUTION DEBATED AND PASSED IN THE SENATE—THE BILL REVISING THE STEAMBOAT LAWS PASSED IN THE HOUSE—THE BONDED WHISKEY BILL DEBATED.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 1878.

In the Senate to-day a large number of petitions remonstrating against any change in the tariff laws and the restoration of the duty on tea and coffee were presented and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERNAN (Dem., N. Y.) presented petitions of citizens of Schuyler, Wyoming, Rochester, Alleghany, Albany, Cayuga, Fulton, Otsego, Orange and other counties of New-York in favor of the remonetization of silver and the repeal of the Specie Resumption Act.

Mr. MORRIL (Rep., Vt.) called up the Senate bill to remit taxes on insolvent banks.

Mr. Rollins (Rep., N. H.) submitted the following as an additional section:

That in making further collections of internal revenue taxes on bank deposits no savings bank recognized as such by the laws of its State, and having no capital stock, shall, on account of mercantile or business deposits heretofore received, upon which no interest has been allowed to the parties making such deposits be denied the exemptions allowed to savings banks having no capital stock and doing no other business than receiving deposits to be loaned or invested for the sole benefit of parties making such deposits, without profit or compensation to the banks, if such banks have paid the lawful tax upon the entire average amount of such business or mercantile deposits. Nothing in this section shall be construed as extending said exemption to deposits hereafter made, or in any way to effect the liability of such deposits to taxation.

Mr. WALLACE (Dem., Penn.) said he understood this amendment would relieve the deposits in all banks from taxation, and he thought the matter should be well considered.

Mr. ROLLINS, in explanation of his amendment, said the Government would suffer no loss whatever. The bill had been prepared at the Internal Revenue Office, and sent to him.

After some further discussion the bill and pending amendment were laid over until to-morrow.

Mr. DAWES (Rep., Mass.), from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds reported adversely on the Senate bill authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Treasury to cause the Custom House at Memphis, Tenn., to be constructed of Tennessee marble.

Several Southern members advocated the passage of the bill, and spoke of the beauty and durability of the Tennessee marble. The bill was then passed, notwithstanding the adverse report of the committee.

Mr. HOWE (Rep., Wis.) presented the annual report of the Librarian of Congress. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BLAINE (Rep., Me.) said a few days since he introduced a bill for the remonetization of silver. He had purposely left the number of grains in the dollar blank because he had not felt willing to vote for the dollar of 412½ grains. He would move to fill the blank a future day. Meanwhile, by some blunder, he had been credited with the brilliant conception of leaving the number of grains in the dollar to be determined by the Director of the Mint and the Secretary of the Treasury. What he had left to those officers was the right and power to publicly fix the price of silver bullion per standard ounce, as nearly as possible at the market rate, and this he conceived to be the best regulation on that subject. He moved that the bill be reprinted, that its provisions in this respect be correctly stated. So ordered.

Mr. CONKING (Rep., N. Y.) presented resolutions of the Maritime Association of the Port of New-York, remonstrating against the remonetization of silver. He also presented a large number of petitions from laboring men, agriculturalists and others employing laborers in various counties of New-York, favoring the remonetization of silver, and the repeal of the Specie Resumption Act.

VOTING ON SILVER.

The morning hour having expired the Senate resumed consideration of the resolution of Mr. Matthews (Rep. Ohio), declaring the right of the Government to pay the bonds in silver. The pending question was on the amendment of Mr. Conkling to make the resolution a joint instead of concurrent one. The amendment was rejected. Yeas, 23; nays, 39, as follows: [Republicans in Roman, Democrats in *Italics* and Independents in SMALL CAPITALS.]

YEAS.

Anthony,	Christiancy,	*Kernan*,	*Randolph*,
Barnum,	Conkling,	*Lamar*,	Rollins,
Bogard,	Dawes,	*McPherson*,	Sargent,
Blaine,	*Eaton*,	Mitchell,	Wadleigh,
Burnside,	Edmunds,	Merrill,	Windom—23.
Chaffee,	Hamlin,	Paddock,	

NAYS.

Allison,	*Davis*(W. Va.),	*Jones* (Fla.),	Plumb.
Armstrong,	*Dennis*,	Kirkwood,	*Ransom*,
Bailey,	Dorsey,	*McCreery*,	*Saulsbury*,
Beck,	*Eustis*,	*McDonald*,	Saunders,
Booth,	Ferry,	McMillan,	Spencer,
Bruce,	*Gordon*,	Matthews,	Teller,
Cameron (Pa.)	*Groome*,	*Maxey*,	*Thurman*,
Cameron (Wis.)	*Grover*,	*Merrimon*,	*Voorhees*,
Coke,	*Hereford*,	*Morgan*,	*Wallace*,
Conover,	Howe,	Oglesby,	*Withers*—39.
Davis (Ill.),	*Johnston*,		

Messrs. Hoar (Rep. Mass.), Butler (Dem. S. C.), Hill (Dem. Ga.), and Whyte (Dem. Md.), who would have voted the affirmative, were paired with Messrs Harris (Dem. Tenn.), Patterson (Rep. S. C.), Garland (Dem. Ark.) and Cockrell (Dem. Mo.), who would have voted in the negative.

Mr. PLUMB (Rep. Kas.) announced that his colleague (Mr. Ingalls Rep.), was detained from the Senate on account of sickness in his family.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. Morrill (Rep. Vt.), submitted January 15, but he withdrew it for the present, that the question might be taken on the amendment submitted by his colleague (Mr. Edmunds) on the 14th, with the understanding that his (Mr. Morrill's) amendment should be next in order.

MR. EDMUNDS'S AMENDMENT.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Rep., Vt.) said the interesting thing about this whole business was that the Senate had last declared that it was not fit to make this a joint resolution as it now stood. The Senate, one of the coordinate branches of Congress, thought it might have an opinion in case the House of Representatives said it could have such opinion. That was an admirable commentary on this whole proceeding. He congratulated the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Matthews) upon the masterly strategy by which he had put the Senate into this extraordinary situation. He had always thought the Senate might have opinion without asking the House of Representatives. In opening his argument, Mr. Edmunds said he would refer at some length to the state of the law, and it he happened to be a little prosy he hoped the Senate would pardon him. From 1792, when the first Coinage Act was passed, to 1834, the double standard existed in this country on the theory of exact equalities. He then referred to the Coinage Act of 1834, and, after quoting from the debates in Congress upon that act, said those were hard times as well as these. The separation of the two metals, gold and silver, had been steadily growing. They had been steadily drawing apart in their relative value since. He argued that the simple declaration of a statute would not equalize the value of gold and silver. Congress might as well say that a bushel of potatoes should be equal in value to a bushel of corn. The legislators of 1837 had discovered that no amount of law making would give any value to silver at all. He begged the Senate to bear in mind that the laws of the United States forty years ago ceased to impute value to either silver or gold. The legislators then found out that the word value related to the operations of men, of society, and of commerce, and that a statute could not add one bit to the value of anything. He next spoke of the Act of 1849, authorizing the coinage of the gold dollar, and said there was a necessity for coining that dollar because there were no silver dollars in circulation. He next referred to the Coinage Act of 1853, and said when the Act of 1834 was passed there was only a trifling difference between gold and silver, that difference had continued until the gold coin overruled silver and drove it away from the people. The House of Representatives then deliberately declared in favor of gold coin and rejected silver as the measure of value. Gold was then as it had been years before, the only real, true operating standard of value in the United States, and yet Senators argued now that it was proper to go back and upset history and legislation. The Act of 1869, under which the bonds were issued, provided that they should be paid in coin; but it was understood that such coin should be gold. The word coin imputed not silver dollars; it imputed half-dollars, quarters, copper and nickle; and if the nation was going to stand upon the letter of the law, why not give notice that it intended to pay bonds in copper, which was a coin of the United States.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Rep., Ohio) said that no coin but gold and silver was a legal-tender above $5.

Mr. EDMUNDS replied that this was not a legal-tender act; it was an act pledging the good faith of the Government. If he should draw the Act of 1869 now, with his present opinion, he would use the terms gold and silver just as they were used in that act. There was a part of the debt of the United States which, according to the letter of the law, could be paid in silver; every interest coupon less than $5 might be paid in silver; every dollar-note could be redeemed in silver coin; that coin could be used for all small debts.

Mr. BLAINE (Rep., Me.) said a very large portion of the public debt was held in $100 pieces of scrip, on which the interest was $2 50 payable semi-annually, and he understand the Senator (Mr. Edmunds) to say that this interest was payable in silver half-dollars, while the man who held a registered bond of $1,000 must have gold.?

Mr. EDMUNDS replied that the letter of the law was one thing and the spirit of it another. The Nation would be in a bad condition to resort to the literal construction of its statutes, against which none could have redress, except by appealing to the conscience of such Nation. The honest import of the pledge of public faith was that the bonds were payable in gold. It would be a violation of National honor to pay small bondholders in silver, unless such silver should be equal in value to gold.

Mr. BLAINE spoke of the bondholders of the country, and said he still wanted it made specific whether there was any more color for paying the small coupons in silver than there was for paying the large ones. The people of the country wanted to know it.

Mr. EDMUNDS said he was not like the distinguished Senator from Maine, talking to the country; he was talking to the Senate.

Mr. BLAINE—But the bondholders live in the country.

The question being on the amendment of Mr. Edmunds to the resolution of Mr. Matthews so as to provide for payment of the bonds "in gold coin or its equivalent, and that any other payment without the consent of the creditor would be in violation of the public faith and in derogation of its rights," it was rejected. Yeas, 18; nays, 44; as follows [Republicans in roman, Democrats in *italics*, Independents in SMALL CAPITALS.]

YEAS.

Anthony,	Conkling,	*Kernan*,	*Randolph*,
Barnum,	Davis,	*Lamar*,	Rollins,
Bogard,	*Eaton*,	Mitchell,	Sargent, and
Burnside,	Edmunds,	Merrill,	Wadleigh.—18
Christiancy,	Hamlin,		

NAYS.

Allison,	Davis (Ill.),	*Johnston*,	Oglesby,
Armstrong,	*Dennis*, (W.Va.),	*Jones* (Fla.),	Paddock,
Bailey,	Dorsey,	Jones (Nev.)	Plumb,
Beck,	*Eustis*,	Kirkwood,	Saunders,
Booth,	Ferry,	*McCreery*,	Spencer,
Bruce,	*Gordon*,	*McDonald*,	Teller,
Cameron (Pa.),	*Groome*,	McMillan,	*Thurman*,
Cameron (Wis.)	*Grover*,	Matthews,	*Voorhees*,
Chaffee,	*Hereford*,	*Maxey*,	*Wallace*,
Coke,	*Hill*,	*Merrimon*,	Windom,
Conover,	Howe,	*Morgan*,	*Withers*—44.

OTHER AMENDMENTS.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. Morrill (Rep., Vt.), submitted January 15, to the effect that it would be detrimental to the economical interests of the Government and people to pay the bonds in silver.

Mr. MORRILL said it would be proper, should the Senate give an opinion as to what the laws were, that the preamble should include all laws on that subject. It was unfair to call out an extract from a law here and there, in order to obtain an opinion, which would not be given were all the acts cited. Not only acts of Congress, but parts of sections had been excluded from the preamble of the resolution of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Matthews.) To give an opinion upon such a recital would be as grossly unjust as it would be for a judge to decide after hearing only one side of a case. He argued that since the passage of the Act of 1873 the laws of the United States did not provide for the coinage of silver dollars, and it was illogical, it was not true, to say that the bonds could be paid in silver. They could not be so paid unless the Silver Bill shall be passed and become the law of the land. He reserved to himself the right to consider the subject when the Silver Bill shall come before the Senate.

The amendment of Mr. Morrill was rejected—yeas, 14; nays, 41.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. Chaffee (Rep., Col.), submitted on the 12th of December.

Mr. CHAF