Amusements and Meetings To-Night.

BOOTH'S THEATRE—"The Exiles."
BROADWAY THEATRE—"The Exiles."
FIFTH AVENUE HALL—Heller's Wonders.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—"Leah."
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—"Uncle Tom's Cabin."
PARK THEATRE—"Our Aldermen."
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
STANDARD THEATRE—"Little Barefoot."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—"A Celebrated Case."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—"Diplomacy."

AMERICAN INSTITUTE—2 and 8. Barnum's Show.
BROOKLYN TABERNACLE—Lecture. The Rev. Dr. Talmage.
CHICKERING HALL—Prize Eelocution Contest.
GILMORE'S GARDEN—2 and 8: The Great London Show.
KURTZ'S BUILDING—2 and 8: The Phonograph.
NEW-YORK AQUARIUM—Day and Evening.

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AMUSEMENTS—3d Page—6th column.
BANKRUPT NOTICES—6th Page—3d column.
BOARD AND ROOMS—6th Page—3d column.
BUSINESS NOTICES—4th Page—1st column.
CORPORATION NOTICES—7th Page—6th column.
DRY GOODS—3d Page—5th and 6th columns.
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HOUSES AND FARMS WANTED—6th Page—6th column.
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN—7th Page—6th column.

Business Notices.

THINK OF THIS—Eighty choice Norfolk oysters for 20 cents, at any of MALTBY'S Depots. Fresh every day.

DAILY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, $10 per annum.
SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, $3 per an.
WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, $2 per annum.
Terms, cash in advance.

Up-town advertisers can leave their favors for THE TRIBUNE at 1,238 Broadway, cor. 31st-st., or 308 W. 23d-st., cor. 8th-ave.

BRANCH OFFICES OF THE TRIBUNE.
WASHINGTON—No. 1,335 F-st.
LONDON—No. 26 Bedford St., Strand.
PARIS—No. 12 Rue de la Monnaie.
NEW-YORK—No. 1,238 Broadway, corner Thirty-first-st.; No. 308 West Twenty-third-st., corner Eighth-ave.; No. 760 Third-ave., corner Forty-seventh-st.; No. 2,386 Fourth-ave. [Harlem.]

From The Tribune, April 10, 1878.

We have procured from Washington the following table of the number of pounds weight of the various editions of the New-York morning papers, upon which postage was charged by the Post Office Department:

FEBRUARY, 1878.

	Daily.	Semi-W'kly.	Weekly.	Total.
Herald	50,638	.....	15,042	65,680
TRIBUNE	26,946	18,304	25,712	70,962
Times	26,929	6,655	18,363	51,947
World	13,749	4,473	12,681	30,903

MARCH, 1878.

	Daily.	Semi-W'kly.	Weekly.	Total.
Herald	60,028	.....	15,314	75,342
TRIBUNE	28,753	20,396	25,402	74,551
Times	29,665	6,150	18,429	54,344
World	15,190	4,816	12,822	32,828

TOTALS FOR QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 1878.

	Daily.	Semi-W'kly.	Weekly.	Total.
Herald	166,540	.....	47,927	214,467
TRIBUNE	86,774	56,079	81,410	224,163
Times	84,962	20,491	56,327	161,780
World	43,428	14,729	42,620	100,765

The Postmaster here is unwilling that we should verify these figures from his records, as to the other papers, without their consent; but as the figures all reached us from the same source, and as those relating to our own business are correct, we have no doubt that the rest are also. We shall gladly unite, however, with any two of the other eight-page papers in a formal request to Postmaster James for a transcript in detail from his books.

In estimating the significance of these figures, it must be remembered that they represent the weight of seven daily issues of the other papers, against only six of THE TRIBUNE, (since we have no Sunday paper); that the weight of *The Herald* seems unduly great on account of its frequent triple, quadruple and quintuple sheets, and that the weight of *The Times* is also swollen by the heavy wood paper which its Walter presses require.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1878.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—It is reported that Germany has refused to guarantee the neutrality of Austria. ═══ The ultimate effect of Prince Gortschakoff's reply to England is not reassuring. ═══ England is sending torpedoes to the Mediterranean. ═══ The Grand Duke Nicholas has stopped work on the Turkish defenses.

DOMESTIC.—It is reported that the President will not rescind the order concerning officer-holders in politics, if asked to do so. ═══ Congressmen and others held an informal conference at Wormley's, yesterday, with M. Chotteau with reference to a commercial treaty with France. ═══ Professor Hoyt was confirmed by only one vote; thirty Senators were absent at the time. ═══ Interest is felt in Washington in the rumors that England has seized Samoa, and thus deprived the United States of its treaty privileges in that part of the Pacific. ═══ Holt & Bugbee, of Boston, will go into bankruptcy. ═══ E. L. Cronkrite was nominated for State Treasurer, and S. M. Etter for Superintendent of Public Instruction by the Illinois Democratic Convention. ═══ The New-York Assembly passed the Constitutional Amendment providing for biennial sessions of the Legislature, and the General Pipe Line Bill. ═══ Senator Morrisey has had a relapse.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, the Deficiency Bill was amended and passed; Mr. Dennis, (Dem.), of Maryland, presented Montgomery Blair's resolutions and made a sharp speech against them; they were referred to the Judiciary Committee; the bill in regard to colored men in the army was discussed, as also the case of Mr. Noyes, who was kidnapped in Washington. ═══ In the House the Pension Appropriation Bill was discussed at length and passed; the section for abolishing the pension agencies was stricken out.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—A contract between Secretary Sherman and the Syndicate for $50,000,000 of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds was made yesterday. Mr. Sherman said that resumption was thus assured. ═══ Launcelot Fogarty, living in West Forty-second-st., murdered his wife, and then killed himself. There were several other suicides in this city and Brooklyn. ═══ Further interesting testimony was given in the Newell divorce suit. ═══ Bayard Taylor sailed for Germany. ═══ Dr. Waterhouse Hawkins lectured against Darwinism. ═══ Gold, $100\frac{5}{8}$, $100\frac{3}{4}$, $100\frac{5}{8}$. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, $99\frac{4}{10}$ cents. Stocks dull but higher, closing firm.

THE WEATHER.—TRIBUNE local observations indicate clearing, followed by fair weather. Thermometer yesterday, 55°, 55°, 53°.

The fire in Tokio, where four thousand houses have been burned, and the loss amounts to but $200,000, throws some light on the flimsiness of much Japanese architecture. They make good resolutions after being burnt out, in Tokio as well as in Chicago, and we re assured that the district which has been destroyed will be rebuilt in stone.

The Democratic party is doing genuine penance. Its representatives at Albany seem determined that the party shall tax itself to pay the cost of its own corruption and misgovernment. In other words, the Moffett bell-punch bill has been reported favorably to the Assembly, and every one of the four votes against it in Committee was Republican.

It is a fortunate thing that Mr. Dennis and Mr. Blair are on opposite sides of this great question. If they were on the same side, the question and the State of Maryland and the country might tip up. Senator Dennis is a sage who does not desire to see "brothers "weltering in brothers' gore" over Mr. Blair's resolution, and regards the fact that while his son, who lives in California, is asleep, he, in the Senate, is wide awake, or measurably so, as of great political significance; and Mr. Blair—well, we all know what Blair is. It seems to be an even match.

Though amendments to the Constitution are often voted by the Legislature, upon their first passage, in rather a haphazard way, there is considerable significance in the fact that the Assembly approved yesterday, by a vote of 75 to 30, the resolution ordering biennial sessions of the Legislature. The significance of the vote is increased by the fact that the chief advocate of the resolution was Mr. Erastus Brooks, who had been converted from his former opposition to it by his experience during the present session. Mr. Brooks has come to the conclusion that we are governed too much, and those who depend on Albany for their government will agree with him.

Superintendent Pilsbury is doing what he can to make Clinton Prison self-supporting, without waiting for the railroad. He has closed a contract for the employment of 500 convicts at hat-making, at a rate which will yield the State nearly $40,000 a year. As the whole number of convicts in the prison at the close of the last fiscal year was but 566, this contract covers practically the entire working force, unless it is proposed to transfer convicts from Sing Sing with the machinery necessary for this work. The deficiency last year in the prison was nearly $100,000, but in the absence of details as to the extent to which the new work is to succeed the old, it is impossible to say how much the deficit will be reduced.

From a Paris letter on another page, it will be seen that those who go a little late to the Exhibition will still be sure of being early. Many of the more important departments were so far from being finished at the date at which our correspondent wrote, as to make it evident that the opening day will not present even a passably complete exhibition. The United States seem as backward as the slowest of the exhibiting countries; but that was to be expected after the delay of Congress. Nevertheless the Parisians look forward to an exposition that shall not be surpassed by any of its predecessors, in spite of the fact that it will take two weeks after the opening to set the great house in order.

Lord Leitrim has had a funeral of a kind that might have been expected, considering the character of his tenants and their sympathizers, and cannot seem wholly strange, if the reports of the rapacity of the landlord are true. The mob wanted to wreak their drunken rage on the dead body of the old Earl, as if it was not enough that he had been murdered; and when they were disappointed in their charitable desire to throw the corpse into the street, they howled and yelled an accompaniment of brutal hate to the funeral service. It was a disgraceful affair, scarcely possible in any other latitude of the civilized world. It is a cause for satisfaction that hard-fisted noblemen are not shot in Ireland every day, if for no other reason than that the indignity of such outbreaks is so likely to be added to the crime of murder.

Governor Robinson's action upon what is known as the General Pipe-Line Bill will be awaited with interest. This measure, which has now passed both houses, and only needs the concurrence of the Senate in some minor amendments by the Assembly to go to the Governor, is really intended to authorize the building a pipe-line from the oil regions of Pennsylvania into the western part of this State, but is cast in the form of a general act. In it such pipe-line companies as may be formed are granted the right of eminent domain, which has usually been granted only where the authority of the State was necessary to obtain lands for railroads and canals. To bestow this right upon a corporation of this sort will certainly be an innovation upon established practices, and Mr. Alvord has vehemently denounced the bill as unconstitutional. Unless the promoters of the enterprise can show it to be of such a character that the public good demands that private interests should give way before it, Governor Robinson is not likely to approve the measure. But if they can show to his satisfaction that a pipe-line is as necessary, in its way, to the public welfare as a railroad, there seems to be no reason why the company should not receive the right of eminent domain. A tube which transports great quantities of oil can, perhaps, claim to be as much a work of public utility as a railroad which transports great quantities of freight. The Governor's decision may have an important effect upon the future relations of corporations to the State. There seems no limit to the right of the State to grant this privilege, except the test of public utility, but that is a test, on the other hand, which could easily be made too elastic by good-natured Legislatures.

ON TO RESUMPTION.

Resumption is coming, in spite of Ewing, Bland, and the Confederate Congress. Secretary Sherman closed contracts yesterday for the sale of fifty millions of United States $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent bonds, which, with the gold in hand and the amount to be accumulated during the rest of the year, will place at his disposal more coin than he has at any time deemed necessary for specie resumption. The price is of no consequence; the Government could well afford to pay $5,000,000, or even $10,000,000, rather than fail in its undertakings. But the contract made is very favorable to the Government, and it would undoubtedly have been less favorable if the purchases of bonds on home account had not been extraordinarily large. The home demand enables the Syndicate to offer acceptable terms to the Secretary, and their proposal was incomparably better than that of the National banks.

Mr. Sherman has said that he did not fear to undertake resumption with $150,000,000 in coin. He has $80,000,000 now, in excess of all coin demands, and he can issue at least $10,000,000 of coin certificates in excess of coin deposited, and holds at least $10,000,000 for which no demand will be made. With $50,000,000 more, to be paid at the rate of $5,000,000 per month, he will have $145,000,000 by the first of January, even if the Treasury is not able to accumulate coin from its ordinary receipts. But it is not doubted that a large sum may be thus accumulated. During the past year the Secretary has added over $40,000,000 to his stock of specie not covered by coin certificates, and he added over $66,000,000 from April 1 to January 1. The condition of foreign trade promises at least as large a gain this season, unless Mr. Wood's Tariff Bill materially affects the coin revenues, and it is probably reasonable to hope that the Senate will not pass the bill in such shape as greatly to diminish receipts. If the Secretary gains nothing by excess of coin receipts over coin expenditures, he will still have about the sum required for resumption in January next, and the prospect is that he may have $20,000,000 more than he has deemed necessary. The Secretary gives his own view of the important agreement that has been made, in our local columns, and we direct attention to it as showing his firm faith that resumption is now secure.

The work is done, if Congress will only let well enough alone. Fear of resumption, and of great changes in bank credits in connection with resumption, has caused many men to oppose a faithful compliance with public pledges. But the obstacle to be overcome is now insignificant. Little more than one-half of one per cent now separates currency from gold, and this small gap will probably be closed before the exports of produce begin next Fall. The contract now made by the Secretary, it is fair to infer, will lead the largest drawers of sterling exchange to so fix the rate as to prevent shipments of gold as far as they can, and the announcement that they have bought from the Government bonds amounting to $50,000,000 will go far to check the sales by foreign holders. In this respect, Secretary Sherman was wise in preferring the offer made by bankers whose influence in England and Germany is very large. Even if they had not proposed as good a price, it would have been sensible to enlist their co-operation and support, for it is in their power to check very materially the outflow of specie.

Thus specie resumption is made possible. Congress, we hope, will not interfere. The country waits and hungers for some sure foundation in its trade and industry. There are mines by the score, which are silent and empty only because Congress has threatened to disturb all values. There are furnaces and foundries by the hundred, now gloomy and dark, because Congress has made the rewards of industry uncertain. There are mills which ought to keep thousands of hands employed, but they are waiting to know whether the United States dollar is to be worth 90 or 100 cents. Thanks in part to Secretary Sherman, the day of dread and apprehension has passed, and the country hopes for a prosperity based upon honest money. The First National Bank, and its associates, will make money out of the transaction closed yesterday, no doubt, but for every dollar that they can gain, the people of the United States will gain many dollars in activity of industry, confidence of finance, and certainty of commerce.

THE INCOME TAX.

When the tax upon incomes was imposed, in the trying times of the war, the country submitted to it because every one perceived that extraordinary measures were necessary to meet the extraordinary wants of the Government. It is true that it was felt to be an odious and exasperating burden; that it required methods of collection unsuited to the dispositions and habits of a free people; that it was a fruitful source of fraud, corruption, lying, meanness, perjury; that it discriminated against honesty and thrift; that it let loose upon the community a swarm of Government inquisitors whose hateful office was often exercised in a hateful and oppressive way; nay, whose duties had a natural tendency to make them tyrannical and insolent. But the people submitted to it. In the patriotic fervor of the war time they were ready to submit to anything for the sake of the Union. They bore cheerfully with the draft, and provost-marshals, and arbitrary arrests, and the suppression of newspapers, and the interference of the military with the civil power in cities far removed from the theatre of war. All these things, and the income tax with them, were "war measures," necessary for a time, in order to save the Nation. But no one dreamed of permitting their continuance after the return of peace.

Besides, it was often urged in palliation of the income tax—not in its defence; nobody defended it—that it was after all the most equal impost that could be devised for raising an exceptional revenue. It bore upon all classes with about the same severity. The poor man who paid his five dollars felt it as much as the rich man who paid his five thousand; and so each sustained a proportionate share in the cost of the armies which were fighting for the defence of the whole Nation. Such were the arguments which were made for the income tax when it was first imposed. But when the time came for repealing it, long after the close of the war, there was a significant change of tone on one side of Congress. It had been discovered that instead of being an equal tax, the charge on incomes was one of the most unequal imaginable. A very small number, some few tens of thousands of people, in the large cities, paid nearly the whole of it. A score or so of merchants were taxed more under this head than all the other 40,000,000 in the United States put together. Then suddenly the advocates of the tax changed their ground. They recommended it at first, because they said it was an equal tax. They objected now to its repeal, because they found that it was not an equal tax. We have rarely heard more frank avowals of deliberate and high-handed injustice than were made in Congress, when the repeal was under discussion seven years ago. Senator Howell, of Iowa, objected to the repeal because he said the tax "did not fall upon the people;" it was "no "burden whatever to the masses of the people of this country;" it was "confined to some "fifty thousand persons;" and if it was possible to squeeze the whole amount out of a weak minority like that, it would be a popular policy to continue squeezing them. Senator Tipton, of Nebraska, opposed the repeal because he said in his State there were "very "few persons who would ever hear of the "income tax," and they all preferred that somebody else should bear their burdens for them. Senator Warner, of Alabama, was unwilling to give his political opponents an opportunity to say that he voted for the repeal of a tax which pressed only on the rich. One and another took the familiar false ground that government was organized chiefly for the benefit of capitalists, and, therefore, that capitalists alone ought to pay for it.

Thus as early as 1871 we had a demonstration by the communistic spirit which has since asserted itself so violently in the United States. But Congress and the people were not prepared then for the schemes which now find favor; and the income tax was allowed to expire, to the inexpressible gratification of almost the entire community. We suspect that when most of the gentlemen who opposed the repeal got home they found that they had misjudged their constituents, underestimating both their common sense and their love of justice. These virtues, however, seem to be going out of fashion. The attack upon the bondholders under the disguise of a currency bill is naturally followed by a general attack upon capitalists, merchants, all who are moderately prosperous and saving, for the benefit of the majority, who do not save. Those who are poor, improvident and indebted, make common cause with the agricultural communities, which always escape an income tax, in grasping for the property of the commercial and manufacturing communities, which always have to pay. And the same reasons which animated opponents of repeal in 1871 are the reasons which underlie the proposed reimposition of this demoralizing and oppressive war tax now. It is useless to show that it is unjust; precisely because it is unjust, because one small class alone will feel it, because the majority is strong and wilful, the tax is recommended. There are gentlemen in Congress who know perfectly well that the income tax is an iniquity, and who will nevertheless vote for it, because they believe that spoliation of the minority is popular. It is useless to address to them any arguments based on ethics or political economy. But perhaps they may be persuaded that it is prudent to inquire how long a republic can last when the majority, who dine on beef and bread, insist upon throwing all the burdens of government upon the minority, who have beef and pudding.

THE USES OF "THE PAST."

The point upon which the two parties are most definitely at odds seems to be with regard to the disposition of what is described, in the rhetoric of platforms and stump speeches, as "The Past." We have for years accepted the great truth proclaimed by Mr. Webster that "the past at least is secure." It is not now disputed by either party. But there is a wide difference as to what to do with it; what use to put it to in present politics. One party seems exceedingly anxious to bury it out of sight, and the other equally anxious to have it held up to the public gaze constantly, to be pointed at with pride. A few years ago, when a Republican Administration was doing some mighty queer things in one way and another, and giving great dissatisfaction to the people by its management of public affairs, the thing that conventions did with the most persistency, and party organs and orators gave themselves to most devotedly, was pointing to the past with pride. The whole party seemed to be standing with face avert and a far-away look, in rapt admiration of what it had already accomplished, to the total neglect of present issues and responsibilities. They pointed to the past with so much pride, and kept at it so constantly, that THE TRIBUNE felt constrained to expostulate. It grew to be ridiculously, almost painfully monotonous. Through constant repetition the party itself finally wearied of it, and now for two or three years we have scarcely heard the phrase in platforms or stump speeches.

In place of it another party—the Democracy—has set another phrase going which they promise to make as common and even more ludicrous. They too have a Past. But not one that they are pointing at with pride by any means. Anything but that. What they want is to have their Past buried. Yesterday is about as far back as they care to see, and they don't sit up nights to point that far with pride; they jerk their thumbs over their shoulders when historical allusions are made, and say, "Let bygones be bygones." The contrast in the treatment of the past by the two parties is very marked. Formerly, when some such Republican say as Mr. Butler was defending delinquent or overreaching officials, or carrying through some speculative measure or questionable scheme, he disarmed opposition and secured sympathy and support by recalling the events of history, and pointing to the past with pride. Nowadays when Mr. Cox, or some other Democrat, leads up a noble band of patriots to be put on the payrolls of the Doorkeeper's or some other department, and the question is casually asked: "By the way, where were these men during "the war?" the Democratic member answers briskly: "Oh, never mind that. We have "buried the past. Let bygones be bygones." And these gentlemen are as constant and as earnest in their exhortations to bury the past as ever the other people were in pointing at it with pride. Here, then, is one point upon which the two parties are definitely and decidedly at odds; what to do with the past.

We submit that it may as well be treated as history. There's something to be done besides pointing at it with pride; and it may as well be confessed that it can't be buried. No Republican can turn public attention from his present misdoing by pointing to his previous record, and no Democrat, Northern or Southern, engaged now in advancing in the forum the cause lost in the field, can blind the public to his real purpose by considering the past buried, and forbidding all reference to it.

PERMANENT INSURANCE.

Our readers are familiar with the general objections to receiverships. Public opinion is beginning to be unanimous on this subject. An evidence may be found in the recent meetings of the depositors of the Sixpenny Savings Bank. Over almost everything else they wrangled; in not wanting a receiver, they were agreed. Their sentiments on this point were the same as those of the trustees and officers of the bank. The reason of such a view is easily found. Receivers of savings banks are slow in payment, and wind up the broken concerns at a considerable loss. How great the loss is, even in the more favorable instances, may be judged from a comparison of the estimated assets of any of the banks that have failed within a few years, and the percentages actually paid by their receivers. Although interest has accumulated on the unpaid balances in the interval, it will be found that the payments in the most fortunate cases have scarcely exceeded two-thirds of the estimates. The life insurance companies which have gone into receivers' hands have been still more unfortunate. Their assets have melted away under the pressure of many litigations; the prospect of a division of the small remainders seems far off. Worse, if possible, is the condition of the broken fire insurance concerns. At least four years elapsed before any of our companies that failed in the Chicago fire settled with their creditors, and several of them are yet in process of liquidation. This is not, necessarily, because receivers are incapable or dishonest. It is chiefly because of the delays of the law, the receiver being obliged to walk in narrow paths in his settlements, and being usually obstructed by suits or injunctions. As an instance of such difficulties, it is mentioned that assets of one company to the amount of $100,000 had been paid into court, for division among claimants whose policies were not wholly earned by the company when it failed. The Court decided that these demands should only be paid when several of them were presented together, and that the costs of Court, in the event of payment, would be 25 per cent.

In the case of fire insurance companies THE TRIBUNE heartily recommended, two or three years ago, the Safety Fund Law of this State, passed for the express purpose of keeping such concerns from ruin in the event of a very great fire, and of paying promptly the policy-holders who might suffer thereby. Companies are permitted, but not compelled, to adopt the plan; five of them since the law was passed have accepted its provisions. Under it, instead of dividing their annual surplus among their stockholders, they retain half of it, and deposit the other half at Albany. Their stockholders are only allowed 7 per cent interest. This process goes on until the reserved funds equal the original capital, after which the stockholders may do what they please with additional earnings. When a great fire takes place, and the loss of the company exceeds its assets, it will pay out all its capital and the surplus which it has in hand, promptly, so far as that may go to meet the claims against it. But the fund reserved at Albany is to be used only to keep up the organization of the company and meet debts accruing after the great fire. The plan has practically several great advantages. It causes an accumulation of funds that would otherwise be divided among stockholders. In the event of an overwhelming fire, the policy-holders whose property is burned make their settlement with the company instead of a receiver—that is, in sixty or ninety days instead of two or three years or more. Other policy-holders in the company, whose property may burn after the great fire, are still insured. The saving of money by keeping the organization out of bankruptcy, will count with large corporations by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

So far as tried, the act has served well in causing companies to lay aside funds that would otherwise have been dissipated in dividends. It is now proposed, in a bill yesterday reported to the Senate, to amend the law so as to provide for further contingencies. One point is, to have an official examination of the company when it announces that its reserves here and at Albany equal its capital. The most important feature of the proposed amendment is to provide against two great fires following closely one upon the other. For this purpose it is proposed to permit the process of accumulation to be carried on beyond the original limit, and one-half the extra funds thus reserved are to be held at Albany as a nucleus and for additions to provide against a new disaster. So obviously is such a measure the dictate of prudence, and for the interest of policy-holders "burned" or "unburned," that it should scarcely need the defence of argument. It has, however, been attacked by a single opponent of more energy than repute. No new objections are brought forward against the act, or the proposed amendment; the old ones, which were fully answered in THE TRIBUNE three our four years ago, are revamped. Chief among them is that the unburned policy-holders are better provided for under the ordinary law. Theoretically they may be, but practically the process of recovering their pro rata portions of unexpired premiums is so slow, that most of them sell their claims at a heavy discount to the receiver's near friend or brother-in-law. If their property burns after the company fails they cannot recover the insurance. Most people would be delighted in such a case to find that the company had reorganized, and that their risk was still covered. The amendment to the bill is calculated to extend this kind of security. It will also add to the strength and permanence of the companies which have accepted the terms of the law; a result that its one or more opponents do not, probably, desire.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Democratic hopes of a fruitful Republican quarrel are blasted again.

Who wants to give 2, 3 or 4 per cent of his income to help pay a lot of Southern claims?

Senator Edmunds is right. There is not enough of the Administration's Civil Service Reform left to attack.

"We are men of business," says General Butler, speaking to and of the House of Representatives; and he might have added, "of small business, mostly."

Mr. Blair has succeeded in having his "fraud" bill sent into Congress with a kick behind it, for the man who introduced it justly felt called upon to intimate in self defence that he considered it pretty bad rubbish.

Between 600 and 700 Republican citizens of Milwaukee have addressed an open letter to the President expressing regret at Senator Howe's speech, and declaring their warm approval of the course of the Administration.

General Butler is the only man who has derived any glory from the Doorkeeper squabbling. He is receiving dispatches of gratitude from all parts of the country. Good for Butler. It is a real pleasure to find him doing something on which all Republicans can unite in congratulation.

Secretary Evarts says the Cabinet is harmonious and happy, and has not a Presidential aspirant in it. This announcement is a credit to the sagacity of the Cabinet, but it does not remove any stupendous obstacle from the pathway of Presidential candidates.

Springer is a rather indifferent sample of an Abdiel, but he is the best which the Democrats of the House can furnish. It is Springer who will illuminate the History of the Great Crisis in Doorkeeping as the only Democrat who preferred a soldier of the Union to an Egypto-Confederate.

Glover is in trouble again about his experts. When they tried to draw pay on Tuesday, it was discovered that they could get none, because they had not been sworn in. They took the oath in a jiffy, but the missing back pay can only be obtained by special act of Congress. This Glover has already asked for, but Congress is liable to conclude that the experts have received all they have earned.

The Democratic journals are disgusted that such a tremendous pow-wow has been made over so small a matter as a change of Doorkeepers. They think it shows a lack of Republican ammunition. It shows, on the contrary, what a large scandal the Democratic party can make out of the smallest office in its control which has any pap connected with it for distribution. The Republican party had the control of the same office for years, and it was too small for a scandal then.

Senator Lamar has sent a modest letter to the minority in the Mississippi Legislature, who opposed a resolution of censure for his votes against the Silver Bill. He says simply that he found it necessary to exercise independence of judgment and to vote against the views of a majority of his constituents concerning a matter of grave public policy. He doesn't seem to think he is entitled to any glory for his conduct, and merely says of it that he hopes it will help som of those who come after him to do their duty in similar trying emergencies.

There is a disposition on the part of the Assistant-Democratic editor to sneer because the Republican editor is backward about denouncing the arrest of ex-Governor Moses for forgery as a "Confederate outrage," a case of "political persecution," and a breach of the understanding about letting "bygones be bygones." This is based on a misunderstanding. Moses made his last appearance in poltics as a stalwart defender of the fraud war-whoop; he was sure that Tilden carried South Carolina. By that act he passed out of the guardianship of the Republican party and became a "reformer." The reform editor, who turns upon him now in his adversity, and smites him with a sneer, is a cold-blooded ingrate.

The history of the alleged forgery, for which ex-Governor Moses, of South Carolina, was recently arrested in this city, is given in *The Charleston News and Courier*. In brief, it is that Moses purchased in January, 1877, at a jewelry store in Charleston, goods amounting to $316 in value, as presents for his wife on her birthday, giving in payment a note for that sum, indorsed by Josephus Woodruff. When the jeweler went to the indorser for the money, the signature was pronounced a forgery. When confronted with this charge, Moses said that Woodruff authorized him to sign his name, but afterward he confessed that he had no authority, and agreed to give up the goods. He surrendered about $100 worth, and gave an order for the rest of the money. The order was never paid, and none of the rest of the goods were ever returned. It is claimed in South Carolina that there is nothing political in the arrest, as the transaction was purely a commercial one. It seems to have been.

PERSONAL.

Professor Goldwin Smith will shortly return to Canada. He will leave England next Monday.

Senator Thurman is the last public man reported to be extremely fond of Horace—so fond that he reads the Latin poet every evening before retiring.

General Butler is said to be receiving many letters from Irish-American citizens, thanking him for his recent efforts in behalf of General James Shields.

Mr. Tennyson received for his ballad recently published in *The Nineteenth Century* and copied in part by THE TRIBUNE, the very large sum of $1,575. This scale of remuneration is said to be quite in keeping with that which the Laureate is now accustomed to receive from his publishers.

Miss Elizabeth Hoar, daughter of the late Samuel Hoar, of Concord, cousin of Secretary Evarts, and the biographer of Mrs. Ripley, has just died. She was a woman of admirable refinement and learning, knowing Greek and German literature well, and writing vigorously and with grace.

The monument to General John E. Wool and his wife, for which the General left $50,000 in his will, is about to be erected in the cemetery at Troy. It is to be of granite, fashioned into the shape of an immense Egyptian obelisk, on one side of which will appear a brief dedicatory inscription, written by Mr. William Cullen Bryant.

A school-fellow and life-long friend of Sainte-Beuve, says of the French writer that he was certainly a clever, indeed a very clever boy, but he was not what is called a boy of genius; that is, he had not that power of spontaneous and self complacent production, which has often marred the mental growth of those to whom it has been given; but he had instead what deserves to be called, in the language of Bossuet, an "immense desire" of learning, and he had, by nature and study, in a singular degree, the power of turning that learning to account. He had in the way of mind what farmers, in speaking of land, call useful or very useful; that is, he had a mind returning with interest all that was put into it, and he made himself a genius "à force de travail." What that work was for some years after Sainte-Beuve had entered upon his career as a literary man those who know only the habits of English authors and English students would hardly guess, and, perhaps, will with difficulty believe. In the Spring and Summer, at least, Sainte-Beuve's day was thus divided and employed: Work from 6 till 8, then a cup of coffee; then work again till 11; then the very moderate breakfast; then a walk to the public library, where he stayed till 4; then a walk back again to the frugal dinner; then work again till 11; no visitors admitted. On Saturday evening he allowed himself to go out, and on Sunday a friend who called would be admitted.

Mr. Bronson Alcott, talking of Mr. Emerson recently at a reception at Mrs. Cook's, said that Emerson never valued criticism and seldom if ever read his critics. After praising his friend's logic, Mr. Alcott went on to say: "Jeremiah Mason, persuaded by his daughters, went to hear Emerson lecture when the fashion had got fairly set, and being asked how he liked him, said 'he couldn't understand a word of it, but his daughters did.'" One of Emerson's qualities which Alcott strongly dwelt upon was his "gentlemanhood"—he exemplifies in himself, through all social relations of the home, the neighborhood and the town, the rare combination of qualities which are portrayed in his essay on "Manners." Of Hawthorne, Mr. Alcott spoke as being hospitable in his own way, but preferring, whether at home or abroad, when in company to hide himself in a corner, an observer of the "spectacle of conversation" rather than a participant. He was said almost never to have been seen in the streets of Salem; his house at Brook Farm, separated from Alcott's only by a gate, was discreetly defended from callsby a feminine Cerberus, and he called on his neighbor only twice or thrice during four years. He had at Concord a forest for refuge within twenty steps of the rear of his house, and also a high tower for additional security in bad weather, reached by a narrow and winding stair-case, and, they said, with a trap-door that he could sit upon, which latter expedient Mr. Alcott thought an exaggeration.

Of the eccentric Lorenzo Dow, Dr. Wentworth tells in *The Troy Times* these anecdotes: "During one of his long peregrinations a relative of his with whom he had had difficulty died, and the first townsman Dow met on his return gave him the tidings. "Waal," said Dow, "you tell the folks that there'll be a funeral sermon preached in my 'meetin' house' next Sabbath day at 10 o'clock." The appointment flew like wildfire. Dow's "meetin' house" was a piece of woods near his own house with a stump for a pulpit. At the time set the woods were alive with an expectant crowd, and they were not disappointed. He took for his text "And the Lord set a mark upon Cain," and such a tempest of invective and sarcasm never fell upon the memory of a dead man as the deceased offender got as his eulogy that day. My father heard him in Charleston, S. C., sixty years ago, in a Presbyterian church furnished with one of those old-fashioned tall pulpits, fifteen feet in the air. Dow, instead of ascending the stairs, climbed up by one of the supporting posts, and went over the top like a monkey, threw off the cushions, which he held in detestation, and announced his text: "He that entereth not by the door, into the sheep-fold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." The practical illustration fixed the text, and the sermon forever. In Norwich, at one time, he pulled out of his pocket his immense old Dutch pinchbeck, big as a small warming pan, and at the moment of announcing his text flourished it in the air, shrieking "*Watch!* What I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH!"

HAVANA, April 11.—Postmaster-General Key, and the gentlemen accompanying him, arrived here to-day. All are well.

YOKOHAMA, March 23.—United States Minister Bingham's official correspondence, as published in 1877, is received with great satisfaction by the Japanese Government.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 11.—The Emperor of Japan was to have opened the session of Provincial Governors last week. The meeting is held for the purpose of discussing internal improvements and the expediency of local representative parliaments. The Emperor will start on a tour through the Northwestern provinces next June.

GENERAL NOTES.

A splendid cave in the Helderbergs has been discovered by Lewis Winn, guide and trapper, who knows every inch of the ground between the Indian Ladder and Knowersville, N. Y. One day last week he discovered a cleft in the rocks very nearly closed by the accumulations of years. Providing himself with a torch he entered a moderate-sized room completely filled with stone formations of almost every conceivable shape. Passing hastily through this room he entered a second and larger which far eclipsed the beauty of the first. Huge stalactites, glittering like precious gems, hung thickly from the arched roof, while beautiful stalagmites in forms of varied splendor rose from the floor of the cavern to meet them. Awed by the beauty of the scene "Lew" remained spell-bound until warned by the flickering of his rude torch to retrace his steps.

The harrowing sufferings of eight or nine millions of people in the four famine-stricken provinces of Northern China have been intensified by the unusual severity of the weather. The Winter has been the coldest known in nearly twenty years. Even as far south as Shanghai the thermometer has been continually ten and more degrees below freezing point by night, and has several times failed to rise to thirty by day. The lowest point touched in the settlement has been 15°, but the mercury fell to 10° on one extremely bitter night at a villa in the neighborhood. Shooting-parties who had gone up country in house-boats, as is the custom about New Year's, got frozen in the canals, and only effected a return by walking a hundred miles or so, or by laboriously cutting through the ice for greater or less distances, to free the boat. The profusion of ice suggested one fraud essentially Chinese. Attracted by an unusual sputtering, after putting coals on the fire, a gentleman was led to examine one of the lumps, and found it was ice carefully blackleaded.

The Rev. T. Veeragavara Roy, who says he is a converted Brahmin priest, is in trouble in Toronto. He is a young man from India's coral strand, who came over here some time ago in the character of a Christian convert, and as such was taken up and patronized, educated at New-Brunswick College, stayed while he liked it in the Presbyter