New-York Tribune.

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INCIDENTS IN POLITICS.

A LETTER FROM MR. CORNELL.

HARD WORDS IN THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE—SENATOR LAMAR CONVERTED—TACTICS OF TAMMANY AND TILDEN.

Mr. Cornell has written a letter of acceptance of the nomination for Governor, in response to a letter from Vice-President Wheeler, informing him of the action of the Saratoga Convention. Mr. Cornell approves the Saratoga platform and comments on the questions at issue in this State. A telegram from Washington states that at the recent Democratic Conference there, there was a quarrel between Mr. Miles Ross and Mr. John G. Thompson. Senator Lamar is now said to have resolved to denounce the Yazoo outrage in his coming speech. Tammany is preparing to conduct an active campaign in the interior of this State. The Anti-Tammany men are enlarging their organization in this city.

THE ACCEPTANCE OF MR. CORNELL.

THE NOTIFICATION BY VICE-PRESIDENT WHEELER AND THE LETTER OF MR. CORNELL IN REPLY.

MALONE, N. Y., Sept. 22.—The following correspondence between Vice-President Wheeler, as president of the late Republican State Convention at Saratoga, and its nominee for Governor has just been made public:

I.

MALONE, Sept. 8, 1879.

MY DEAR SIR: The official duty is devolved upon me by resolution of the Republican State Convention, held at Saratoga on the 3d inst., of advising you of your nomination as its candidate for the office of Governor of State of New York. The action of the Convention—unanimous in its result—was an earnest of its purpose to secure the success of yourself and associates upon the ticket at the coming election—a purpose, I fully believe, which inspires the masses of the party. Congratulating you upon the high honor conferred upon you by this nomination, and assuring you that no one shall rival me in its cordial, earnest support, I am very truly yours,

W. A. WHEELER, President of Convention.

The Hon. ALONZO B. CORNELL.

II.

NEW-YORK, Sept. 18, 1879.

The Hon. WILLIAM A. WHEELER, *President of the Republican State Convention.*

MY DEAR SIR: Your esteemed favor of the 8th inst. has been received, apprising me formally of the action of the Republican State Convention recently held at Saratoga. To have been selected as the choice of the Republican party for the chief magistracy of the foremost State of the Union, by a convention so remarkable for the eminent men taking part in its deliberations, and so thoroughly representative in its character, is an honor most gratefully appreciated.

The declaration of principles adopted by the Convention meets my cordial approval, and the character of my associates on the ticket commands my hearty respect. The nomination is accepted with a deep sense of the confidence so generously reposed in me. Should the action of the Convention be confirmed at the election, my best endeavors will be devoted to the conscientious discharge of the trusts which will then await me.

All measures calculated to simplify the methods and promote the stability of State and local administration, or secure efficient and economical discharge of official duty, will receive my earnest support. The resumption of specie payments presents a favorable opportunity for the readjustment of public expenditures, many of which, established during the period of inflation and fixed at rates extravagant now, have become needless burdens upon the taxpayers. It seems appropriate in this connection to speak of the onerous discriminations which unequal tax laws impose upon our citizens. The failure to assess for taxation enormous values of property which should be made to contribute a just proportion to the public revenues, demands prompt consideration.

The canals and public institutions should be conducted with a view solely to their usefulness and frugal maintenance. The recent amendments to the Constitution of the State were adopted to correct evils which had grown out of partisan management, and the spirit as well as the letter of the Constitution should be regarded in administering these important interests. The perversion of such agencies to partisan objects is a flagrant violation of public duty.

Particular attention is due also to growing dissatisfaction among the farmers, merchants and other business men of the State in regard to railroad and other corporate institutions. Corporations created by law exercise within their charters delegated functions, and are subject to the supervision of the power from which they derive their being. Originally endowed for the public benefit, they have no warrant to discriminate against the rights of any class or portion of the people; especially they should not discriminate against the interests of the citizens of New-York, and in favor of those of other States. The unexampled development of our State and of the country beyond its borders, has in many instances vastly increased the value of these franchises, the recipients of which should recognize a just accountability to the sovereignty which endowed them with such great and valuable privileges. Legislation adapted to the preservation of the rights of all classes, and to maintaining the commercial primacy of the State of New-York, seems to me manifestly just.

After a long period of depression and derangement in business affairs, produced by an expanded currency, unmistakable evidences of improvement are everywhere apparent. Agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests have already begun to feel the effect of returning prosperity. Although labor is yet meagrely compensated, idle hands are gradually finding employment, and the condition of the industrial classes is constantly improving. Profitable occupation of the laboring population is the true source of the growth and prosperity of every State, and all measures for lightening the burdens and aiding the interests of labor deserve support and encouragement.

Congratulating you upon the harmonious action of the Convention, which so happily illustrates the unity of the Republican party, and thanking you for the courteous terms which you have been pleased to employ, believe me, dear sir, yours very respectfully, ALONZO B. CORNELL.

MILES ROSS IN HIS WRATH.

HE INFORMS JOHN G. THOMPSON OF THE OUTSIDE OPINION ABOUT THINGS IN OHIO.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—It has just become known that a lively tilt took place on Thursday last at the meeting of the National Democratic Committee in this city between Congressman Miles Ross, of New-Jersey, and Sergeant-at-Arms John G. Thompson. The latter was assuring the committee that Ohio would certainly give a Democratic majority on the legislative ticket, and so secure Mr. Thurman's reflection. He went so far as to insinuate that after all General Ewing's election would be a matter of minor importance compared with insuring the return of Mr. Thurman to the Senate.

At this point Mr. Ross broke in with violent language, informing Mr. Thompson that the Democratic party cared little about that feature of the case; its chief interest was in electing the Governor and the State ticket; this is desired for National effect; the Senatorial question was local only. He next informed Thompson that if the Thurman men were playing that game they would find that Ewing's friends could trade as fast and as successfully. This led to high words; and finally it became necessary for Mr. Barnum and Mr. Ransom to interfere and command peace.

A CAMPAIGN OPENING IN THE SOUTH.

A REPUBLICAN LEADER IN SOUTH CAROLINA SHOT—DISCREET SILENCE IN THE STATE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

CHARLESTON, S. C., Sept. 22.—Last Tuesday Frederick Nix, the postmaster at Blackville, Barnwell County, was shot while in his office distributing the mail. Nix is a colored man, and had recently been appointed. He is chairman of the Republican party of Barnwell County, and the most active and influential Republican in that county. The shot was aimed to kill him, but did not; it pierced his arm and passed across his breast. The press of the State have failed to mention the occurrence.

MR. POLK EXHIBITS SPIRIT.

HE COMMENTS PRETTY PLAINLY ON THE MEN WHO VOTED TO TURN HIM OUT OF OFFICE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—Ex-Doorkeeper Polk has recently written a letter on the soldier question, from which the following is an extract:

I was anxious to carry out the law, which said there should be fourteen "Union soldiers" on the Doorkeeper's roll, which was interpreted to mean fourteen disabled Union soldiers, as provided for in the law passed by a Republican Congress; but I could not get the Democratic members, to whom the right to select, under a rule of fair apportionment, had been accorded, to name enough to keep that soldiers' roll full. That fact shows the interest they took in the poor crippled patriots. When the howl was raised there were enough cowards to make a scapegoat and sacrifice. Among them were Carter Harrison, Stenger, and Sam Cox, three Northern Democratic members, who had spurned disabled Union soldiers. They wanted local politicians appointed, and they, with many others, clamored and promised until they got them appointed, and then voted to turn me out because I had obliged them.

LAMAR HAS A CHANGE OF HEART.

HE NOW PROPOSES TO DENOUNCE THE WICKED ASSASSINATION IN YAZOO—WILL HE DARE?

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—When the correspondent of an Ohio Democratic newspaper called upon Senator Lamar a month ago for an expression of his opinion in regard to the Yazoo affair, the Senator is reported to have talked with great freedom, but to have expressed sentiments exactly the reverse of those which were expected of him. In fact he approved the course taken by Barksdale. He made this so apparent that the correspondent reported to his chief that the opinions expressed by the Senator ought not to be published in Ohio.

Senator Lamar is now reported to have made up his mind that the assassination of Dixon ought to be denounced. It is said that a few days ago he told a Democratic friend that in a political speech which he was expecting to make at Yazoo City he should censure the Yazoo plan in very strong terms; that he had declined to do so until he should come face to face with its authors. He has evidently become convinced by the unanimous expression of disapproval in the Northern press that it will be good policy for him to denounce the Yazoo assassination.

A Mississippian, who has been hand in glove with the Yazoo Democracy since 1875, says that Senator Lamar will never dare to say what he has expressed an intention of saying publicy in Yazoo County.

TAMMANY'S STRENGTH IN THE DISTRICTS.

SIGNING THE PLEDGE IN GREAT NUMBERS—NOT A TEMPERANCE PLEDGE, HOWEVER, BUT AN AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT JOHN KELLY.

The Tammany Committee on Organization yesterday afternoon received reports from the Assembly Districts. All these reports were very favorable. John Kelly Clubs have been started in every Assembly District of the city, and in one Assembly District in every one of its election districts. In the XXIId Assembly District there is a club composed of 1,050 persons.

William P. Kirk, of the IId Assembly District, said that there had been three desertions from the General Committee of that district. Alderman Shiels said that the pledge to support Mr. Kelly had been signed by 300 members of the District Committee of the IVth District, and ex-County Clerk Gumbleton said that in the Vth Assembly District, out of thirty-two members of the General Committee and 605 members of the District Committee, only one man had refused to sign the pledge. Civil Justice Campbell, of the VIth Assembly District, said: "I don't think there will be a break in our ranks." Alderman Roberts, of the VIIth Assembly District, said: "We passed resolutions repudiating Robinson as an emanation of Tildenism. Out of forty members of our General Committee, thirty-nine are solid for John Kelly." Edward D. Gale, of the VIIIth Assembly District, said that 306 persons had signed the pledge in that district. Alderman Guntzer, of the Xth Assembly District, said: "Ours is one of the worst Tammany districts in the city. Our roll has been signed by 292 persons." Coroner Woltman, of the XIIth Assembly District, said: "Out of our entire General Committee perhaps five are not solid." Ex-Senator Creamer, of the XIVth Assembly District, said: "All the Anti-Tammany privates are joining us. All that the people want us to do now is to put up a good county ticket. Let us nominate a man who shall take a vote from John Kelly." P. H. Sullivan, of the XVIth Assembly District, said: "I shouldn't wonder if the vote for Robinson in this county is put under the head of 'scattering.' We shall give Mr. Kelly 15,000 more votes than we gave Mr. Seneil." Thomas O'Callaghan, of the XIXth Assembly District, said mournfully: "Every one of our General Committee except Thomas Dunlap, the Commissioner of Jurors [laughter], signed the pledge to support Mr. Kelly. He's among the Antis." Frederick Smyth, of the XXIst Assembly District, said: "All our members signed except James S. Spencer, who was elected a Judge of the Supreme Court by Tammany Hall, received a second nomination for the place from Tammany Hall and suffered defeat, and was consoled by being given patronage equal in money value to the judgeship. That man has refused to sign. I believe that the action of such men should be reported, and I believe also in sticking by your friends under all circumstances."

John Kelly announced that David Dudley Field, the chairman of the Shakespeare Hall Convention, had appointed a committee of fifteen to conduct the campaign in the interior of the State, and that the committee had selected the St. Nicholas Hotel as its headquarters and would begin work there the latter part of the week. An address to the voters of the State would be issued. The following resolution was then adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Chair for the purpose of taking such action as may be proper to insure the appointment of the regular Democratic inspectors of election who have been recommended by this organization, and if necessary to employ counsel for that purpose.

C. Van Wyck, Civil Justice Campbell, William H. Seeor, George F. Lauchlin and Deane Quinn were made the committee. Aaron J. Vanderpoel has already been engaged as counsel. It is said he will apply for a mandamus against the Board of Police to-morrow. In relation to the resolution Mr. Kelly said:

"It is evident that the Board of Police does not intend to appoint our inspectors. Steps have been taken already to apply to the courts to secure our rights. In relation to the campaign, let me say that the people of New-York do understand the question at issue. They will understand it better by and by. Everything indicates that our vote will be larger than in any year since we voted for a President. Let us show our opponents that we can poll more than the 5,000 votes they allowed to us. I think they have already changed their opinion about that matter; for it is very perceptible and certain that we shall be successful at the coming election."

Edward D. Gale, who is a member of the Democratic State Committee, invited his colleagues belonging to the Tammany Hall organization to accompany him to the meeting of the committee at the St. James Hotel to-day. After giving this invitation Mr. Gale said defiantly, "They got us out of the convention at Syracuse. We propose to see if they can keep us out of the meeting of the State Committee."

ANTI-TAMMANY TRYING TO SWELL.

ATTEMPTING TO ENLARGE ITSELF TO TAMMANY PROPORTIONS.

The Executive Committee of the Anti-Tammany organization met in secret session last evening, and for two hours discussed plans for enlarging the organization. Peter Rowe presided. Many motions and amendments were offered, discussed and laid aside. To give the multitude of deserters expected from Tammany Hall a fair representation in their organization they decided to raise the General Committee from 1,200 to 1,800 members, and to increase the number of delegates from each Assembly District to the Executive Committee from eight to twelve. Next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings the officers of the district associations are to be at the association headquarters to make enrolments of new members who will vote for Lucius Robinson. On Saturday evening primaries will be held, and the new delegates to the General Committee and Executive Committee elected from the new members.

A committee of twenty-four was appointed to wait upon the Democratic State Committee to-day and ask it to postpone filling any vacancies in the State Committee from this city until the Anti-Tammany organization is fully effected.

APPROVING ROBINSON'S NOMINATION.

About seventy-five members of the Young Men's Democratic Club met in Municipal Hall last evening, to pass upon a resolution offered at a previous meeting, approving the nomination of Lucius Robinson for Governor. Several members insisted that a substitute offered by General MacMahon should be first voted upon, to the effect that it was not in conformity with the object of the society to ratify any nominations. This brought a dozen or more members on the floor at one time raising points of order, and the president, Townsend Cox, was unable to maintain any order for the greater part of the evening. In the confusion it was almost impossible to tell what was before the house. Finally order was partially restored, and the nomination of Governor Robinson was approved by a vote of 65 to 7.

REPUBLICAN INTEREST IN THE SECOND DISTRICT.

The Republicans of the IId Assembly District held an interesting meeting last evening at No. 466 Pearl-st. The principal address was made by J. L. Hunt. He called especial attention to the course of Governor Robinson in interfering with the regular action of the courts. He said that this conduct would go far toward convincing intelligent and thinking persons that Governor Robinson was not a fit man to continue in office. William Freeman, an intelligent colored man, spoke from the point of view of the Southern negro. His father was a slave, he said, and he had seen the oppressions of negroes in the South, and knew that the statements in regard to them had not been exaggerated. "I am a poor man," said the speaker with feeling, "but the Republican party has made me a man."

YOUNG REPUBLICANS IN THE TENTH DISTRICT.

A meeting of the Young Men's Republican Association of the Xth Assembly District was held last night at No. 165 East Fourth-st. Louis Fambach, the president, was in the chair, and F. Luke acted as secretary. The meeting was largely attended, and was enthusiastic throughout. Resolutions approving the State ticket nominated at Saratoga, and calling upon the young men in the district to give it their warmest support, were adopted with cheers. The meeting was addressed by ex-Alderman Koch, C. O. Baese, Julius Harburger and Jacob M. Patterson, Jr.

A CONVENTION OF FREE-THINKERS.

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE, N. Y., Sept. 22.—The Free-Thinkers' Convention closed a five days' session yesterday, with an attendance of 5,000 people. The principal speakers were George Jacob Holyoke, Colonel R. G. Ingersoll, Elizur Wright, A. B. Bradford, Judge McCormick, Dr. A. B. Spinney, Miss Colby, of St. Louis; Professor Tobey, of Boston; Professor Bell, of Massachusetts, and twenty others.

ANTI-ROBINSON NOMINATIONS.

ALBANY, Sept. 22.—The anti-Robinson Democrats to-day nominated the following gentlemen for Assemblymen: 1st District, Michael Cassidy; IId District, Francis Marshall; IIId District, George W. Miller; IVth District, James Hayden.

ENTERTAINING GENERAL GRANT.

A WEEK OF GREAT GAYETY.

BALLS, RECEPTIONS, DINNERS, DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES AND REUNIONS IN VIEW—INCIDENTS OF YESTERDAY.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22.—During General Grant's stay in his apartments yesterday he received calls from a number of distinguished gentlemen, among whom were George Hazleton, M. C., of Wisconsin; J. F. Jorgensen, M. C., of Virginia; Senator Voorhees, of Indiana; H. F. Page, of California; J. H. Williamson, Commissioner of the General Land Office; and Judge Field, of the United States Supreme Court.

General and Mrs. Grant in conversation expressed their appreciation of the handsome reception accorded them, and were particularly impressed with the order and good conduct of the people throughout the demonstration, and the entire absence of anything like rude crowding from the thousands who were gathered to welcome them.

A special committee, consisting of J. Henly Smith, chairman, General James Coey, Mayor Bryant and M. D. Boruck, have arranged a programme for the week as follows:

On Monday, in the evening, General Grant and party will visit the California Theatre, to witness a performance of the military spectacle "The Color Guard," after which a grand serenade will be given by the band of the Second Brigade of National Guards, in the court of the Palace Hotel.

On Tuesday, at 11 a. m., they will attend the special session of the Methodist Conference at the Palace Hotel. At 1 p. m., escorted by Mayor Bryant, the Supervisors and the Executive Committee, they will proceed to the Mayor's office at the new City Hall, where they will hold a grand general reception during the entire afternoon. In the evening they will attend a grand ball at the Mechanics' Pavilion, given in aid of the fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased members of the Police Department.

On Wednesday they will be entertained by General McDowell at Black Point, and in the evening they will witness for the first time a performance of "Pinafore" at Baldwin's Theatre.

On Thursday they will leave by the 11:15 a. m boat for Oakland, where they will be entertained during the day, returning at 6 p. m. In the evening they will attend the grand carnival ball in the pavilion.

On Friday they will take a special train at noon for San José, to attend the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Exhibition. They will be attended by the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and the Executive Committee, returning in the evening.

On Saturday morning they will visit the San Francisco Stock Exchange, and in the evening will attend a grand camp-fire of Union and Confederate veterans at the pavilion.

This forenoon General Grant, by special request, reviewed the Stockton Guard in the court of the Palace Hotel. Shortly before noon, accompanied by Mrs. Grant, Mayor Bryant and Mrs. Bryant, he visited Tabor's photograph gallery, on Montgomery-st., near Market, and had some pictures taken. His departure from the hotel was made by a side entrance and was unobserved. The party walked to the gallery, the General being recognized by only four persons, and then only by a passing glance.

This afternoon a party consisting of the General and Mrs. Grant and suite, Mayor Bryant, Supervisors Dalforth, Gibbs and Talbot, and Generals Coey and Miller, will drive to the Cliff, where they will lunch. At the California Theatre great preparations are being made for the production of "The Color Guard" and the reception of General Grant's party this evening, the boxes being arranged and ornamented for their reception. The 1st Regiment Band will assist on the stage, and the orchestra will play an army quadrille, composed for the occasion by the conductor, Professor Withers, and dedicated to General Grant. At 9 o'clock this morning a line was formed at the box office, and it is likely there will be a tremendous crush this evening.

The General has accepted an invitation to visit Virginia City about October 20, on his way East. He will time his visit to Oregon so that it will take place during the State Fair, the first week in October.

A FAILURE IN THE GRAIN TRADE.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 22.—The grain house of Smith, Howell & Co. failed to-day with liabilities placed at $200,000. The failure is owing to the increase in the price of grain during the past few days. S. Jenks Smith, the head of the concern, is president of the Commercial Exchange.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES—BY TELEGRAPH.

DEAD AT HIS POST OF DUTY.

NEW-ORLEANS, Sept. 22.—S. F. Parmalee, foreman of a fire company, dropped dead of heart disease while attending a fire this morning.

A COLLISION AT NORFOLK.

NORFOLK, Va., Sept. 22.—The steamer Cheswick and the bark Lottie Stewart were in collision off the capes early yesterday morning. Both vessels were slightly damaged.

AN EXUBERANT POLITICAL DISCUSSION.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Sept. 22.—During a political discussion in a saloon on the Island late last night a sailor belonging to the schooner Mohawk, named James McKay, stabbed the proprietor, John O'Connell—it is thought fatally.

MANIFESTLY INSANE.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Sept. 22.—A young man attempted to throw himself under the wheels of an incoming Boston train to-day, but was rescued. He gave the name of Patrick Mahar, and his residence as 127 Ninetieth-st. Harlem, N. Y. He is manifestly insane.

EVERY MAN KILLED EXCEPTING ONE.

CHICAGO, Sept. 22.—While towing the schooner S. A. Wood to Evanston to-day, the boiler of the tug C. W. Parker exploded, killing Robert Lakey, the captain; John Callaghan, the engineer; Peter Rogers, the fireman, and William Burton, the cook.

AN ESCAPE FROM A VERMONT JAIL.

ST. JOHNSBURY, Vt., Sept. 22.—Three prisoners have escaped from the jail here. They are Frank Dean, the McIntosh depot burglar; Malloy, the Island Pond horse thief; and Geo. Sherwood, the circus employe, who was arrested for theft.

RATHER HARD ON THE SPECTATORS.

NEW-ORLEANS, Sept. 22.—At Bayou Chicot, during an election on Saturday, a shooting affray occurred between Messrs. Fort and Dossman. Neither of these men were hurt; but two bystanders were shot—Edward W. Grimm being instantly killed and Richard Nash dangerously wounded.

A NEGLECT TO REGISTER DRINKS.

PETERSBURG, Va., Sept. 22.—Forty-two liquor-dealers, nearly the entire number in this city, were before Judge Mann to-day to show cause why their licenses should not be revoked for failing to make the proper Moffett Register returns. The cases were continued until January.

A DEPUTY MARSHAL SHOT.

SPARTANBURG, S. C., Sept. 22.—United States Deputy Marshal A. J. Davis was shot this afternoon by J. B. Panther while serving a bench warrant issued in North Carolina, but which had been made serviceable in this district by Judge Bryan. Panther was shot in the leg by a negro, and is now in jail at Spartanburg. Davis's thigh bone was badly broken.

THE MAN WHO MURDERED A SLEEPING KEEPER.

ROCKLAND, Me., Sept. 22.—The trial of Samuel D. Haines for the murder of James R. Robbins, began this morning. Near midnight on the 11th of last June, Haines, who was a prisoner in the police lock-up, struck Robbins, his keeper, who was asleep, a blow on the head with an iron stove wrench, causing his death. Haines claims that he did not intend to kill the deceased.

NOT AN ACCIDENTAL FALL BY ANY MEANS.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 22.—George Truman, jr., clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, was found lying on the pavement, at Eighth and Arch-sts., Tuesday morning last. It was reported that he had fallen accidentally and fractured a leg. It now appears that he was assaulted by A. A. Shiesler, a clerk in the Naval Office, with whom he had been having a game of cards. Mr. Truman lies in a critical condition. Shiesler has been committed without bail.

RAG FAIR.

SUNDAY IN PETTICOAT LANE.

THE LONDON OLD CLOTHES EXCHANGE—THE JEWISH QUARTER OF HOUNDSDITCH—SECOND-HAND SHIRTS.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Aug. 25.—Going out of St. Mary Axe into Houndsditch, you will find, almost directly opposite, on the east side of the latter thoroughfare, a shallow flagged court, much wider than such places usually are at this crowded end of London. It was a fine, bright Sunday when I made my visit to this famous locality. The solemn quiet of the business quarter through which I had passed began to be disturbed as I approached Houndsditch—once a trench into which they cast dead dogs, and now a region of very-much-alive Hebrew shopkeepers—by street cries, and the babble of many voices, and the bustle of a moving crowd. The whole population was abroad. Young men with prominent features and conspicuous satin cravats were letting themselves out of the closed warehouses and hurrying off to suburban paradises on the Thames for a day's outing. Corpulent dames in loose calico wrappers and with hair carefully plastered, were gossipping on the sidewalk. Young women, of the florid style, displayed their charms for the benefit of casual clerks from Bishopsgate and loungers from Whitechapel. At the corners of the court I have mentioned there was a brilliant display of cheap carpeting disposed like banners, chairs and sofas, hung high in air, hearthrugs fluttering in the breeze, and red cotton pockethandkerchiefs spanning the roadway like a particularly successful aurora borealis. The movement of the crowd tended toward this spot, and I soon found myself swept into the current.

At the bottom of the court appeared a flight of three or four stone steps, leading up to a wide, low and dingy structure, looking like a cross between a cheap market-house and a country railway station. Across the front was the inscription, "Phil's Buildings; Clothes and General Mart"; and at one side was a sign-board intimating that the public could find rest and refreshment at the neighboring "Montefiore Arms." It is through Phil's Buildings that you enter one of the strangest places in London.

It is said that on a bright Sunday you may see here, in a network of houses, lanes, and alleys, no less than three miles of old clothes. I dare say that is true; but although I spent a great deal of time in Rag Fair I confess that I never had the courage to go to the end of it. I found the first building fitted up with rough counters, shelves, racks and trays for the accommodation of various classes of dealers. Thousands of calico dresses dangled from aloft, at first sight giving the impression that about an acre of the loveliest of Houndsditch had simultaneously committed suicide. Men's coats and trousers were heaped upon planks laid across trestles. A mountain of old hats rose in one corner; and in another a voluble young Hebrew, with a brush and a bottle of blacking, was working, as if for dear life, to give a presentable appearance to a load of dreadful old shoes, snatched, one would say, from the gutters and dust bins. Here, however, was only the beginning of the Fair. The building has several faces, opening into courts and alleys, all crammed with cast-off apparel, and these communicate with other sheds like the first. Over their fronts is painted in large letters, "Entrance to the Exhibition: Clothes Exchange." One quarter of the mart is devoted to a somewhat fresher class of wares; for here are cheap trinkets, the poorest sort of imitation jewelry, the most gorgeous of colored handkerchiefs, and so many pairs of suspenders that it would seem to be a habit in Houndsditch to have all pantaloons made too big in the waist. The articles displayed in this quarter being, so to speak, new, and consequently rateable at some certain commercial value, were not in great request, for the frequenters of Rag Fair love the excitement of desperate and protracted bargaining—an intellectual exercise only to be enjoyed in its perfection when there are no means of determining what the goods in dispute are worth, or whether they are worth anything at all. The advent of a possible customer threw the whole shed into commotion. A young lady with very heavy eyebrows and red cheeks, who stood in a bower of prismatic handkerchiefs, addressed me in the tone of Jenny Wren addressing Fascination Fledgeby. "Good morning, this morning, young man," she said; then, as I did not yield to soft persuasion, two muscular mothers in Israel tried sterner means, and seizing me, one by the coat-tail, be other by the arm, began to pull with all their might. I owed my escape, after a short but severe struggle, to the lucky accident of divided counsels among the adversary, for while one tried to drag me into shilling cravats, the other put forth her strength on behalf of red stockings, and between them I got away, and fell into the arms of a male dealer in suspenders. "Buy 'em," shouted the man, fiercely, shaking a bundle of them in my face; "why don't you buy 'em? You aren't frightened of 'em, are you?" A shirt, a military jacket, a pair of red plush small clothes, and a whole row of gowns, were in turn commended to my attention, as the very things I appeared to need.

The most remarkable part of Rag Fair, however, is not the "Clothes Exchange" proper, which is held under roofs, but the much more extensive, crowded and bewildering mart in the adjoining streets and lanes. Petticoat-lane, which gives its name to the whole Fair, is called Middlesex-st. on recent official maps, but it retains its old designation in common use. This is the centre of the Sunday traffic. Gravel-court, Sandys-row, Tripe-yard, Frymgpan-alley, Partridge-court, are some of the other passages, foul and narrow, which are given up to this curious business. Nearly all the transactions are conducted in the dirty open street; but there are many small shops besides, incredibly black and vile, in whose dark recesses commodities of some bearable sort are kept for sale—I certainly cannot say are exhibited. Wherever the court is wide enough you will find an untidy Jewess seated on the ground amidst heaps of goods. A piece of sailcloth, or a fragment of an old awning, being spread upon the muddy cobble-stones, becomes the sole substitute for shop and counter. One dame I saw surrounded by odd stockings, which she was clamorously offering to the public at the rate of "Two pair the bob." Another was displaying on the cloth around her a variety of much-worn dresses, of coarse quality but showy pattern, which may have done duty in a music hall of the lowest class. A third was debating with possible purchasers the value of sundry second-hand chemises; and a fourth had barricaded herself within a double circle of shoes and gaiters, mostly cracked at the sides, trodden at the heels, leaky at the soles and infirm as to fastenings, but all newly polished. In the piles of men's clothing there were scarlet uniform coats (shed perhaps by deserters), and livery suits, and flowered cretonne waistcoats worn by negro minstrels. Purchasers were not lacking, and I had not long to wait before witnessing the full operation of the system of "Clothes Exchange." Workingmen, after animated negotiation, took off ragged and dirty coats, and put on others a little better. A cripple rested on his crutches and effected an exchange of one old shoe.

Underclothing as a rule seemed to have been submitted to a rude sort of "doing-up"; a heap of shirts, offered at eight pence apiece, had perhaps been through a mangle, though it was long since they had seen a wash-tub; but there was about a barrel full of soiled and crumpled collars just as they had come from the necks of the last wearers. I do not think the buyers were particular. They were exclusively the very poor, but by no means exclusively Israelites. Toward noon the alleys became so closely packed, from house-wall to house-wall, that movement was at times almost impossible, and the matrons encamped in the roadway were in immediate danger of being trampled upon. Here was to be seen the traditional old clothes man of novels and picture books, a grim person, with long skirts and gray beard, and a bag on his back. Here were to be seen dealers not only in old clothes, but in every variety of article which, having been used once, might possibly still serve another turn. A basket was filled with second-hand sponges—which can hardly have been nice. On walls and fences hung the most amazing collections of old leather straps, relics of abandoned trunks and fragments of rotten harness. There were scraps of leather; there were millions of rusty keys; there were stray door-knobs, and odd furniture casters, and broken hammer-heads, and all the litter of brass and iron rubbish which is usually found in the bottoms of tool-boxes. There were trays full of old spectacle cases. There was a clothes basket containing four or five pecks of ancient kid and leather gloves, mostly not mated. A young man devoted himself entirely to the sale of ends of twine, done up in hanks at a half-penny a bunch. Artisans' tools of all kinds, in every stage of dilapidation, were great articles of trade; and workmen who had secured a job for Monday morning came here to supply themselves with such poor implements as they had the pence to buy.

With the noise of bargaining and disputing mingled the uproar of the venders of drinks and delicacies and nostrums and scores of useless conveniences. "Now then, gents," shouted a seller of sarsaparilla wine, "this is the true elixir of life, recommended by the entire medical faculty of Great Britain without exception." "Penny a pot! penny a pot," screamed a parrot-like young Hebrew with a basket of nuts. "Hokey-pokey, a penny!" roared a very large man, taking from an ice-cream freezer a little square of something which looked like a slice of white castile soap. "I'm the only party breathing that's got these goods," exclaimed a dealer in something utterly undesirable; I have forgotten now what it was. A young man in the uniform of the French infantry of the line, mounted a chair and announced himself, by means of a placard, as "the Parisian Electric Light Company," his stock in trade being cigar-lights and penny needle-cases. A lively person who was endeavoring to dispose of a barrow full of hammers at two pence each, drove a purely imaginary but tremendous trade with speechless and invisible buyers: "You take this one at tuppence; thank you, sir. Here you are. Now, then, gents, who's for the next at tuppence, only two pence? They're a-going fast!" He never took in any money, and he always held up the same hammer; and I rather thought that the nonchalance with which he omitted to pretend to believe that anybody believed in his little fiction was the drollest thing in the Fair. There was another young man who stood on a table with a vial of water in his hand. "I will now proceed," said he, "to fill a bottle and distribute its contents among you"; whereupon he poured the water from one vial into another, and calmly went on with an irrelevant harangue. I was his only auditor, and he fortunately did not consider it worth while to distribute the contents of his bottle among me; but later he collected a crowd, and when I passed that way again he was hard at work with his vial of water and sundry essences, manufacturing spurious ponies of rum and brandy. More varieties of mussels and other unpleasant-looking shell-fish were exposed for sale than I imagined the whole world contained; and the quantity of these viands consumed in Rag Fair seemed to be beyond all computation. Whole alleys were full of them, displayed on costermongers' barrows. The shell being previously removed, the flabby edible and its juice were generally kept in a washbasin, whence the vender ladled out penny-worths with his hand, and served them on small earthenware plates or bits of broken china. What with dripping shell-fish and bouncing ginger-beer, the alleys were everywhere slippery.

The uproar was at its height when I turned into a comparatively quiet court to escape the unpleasant spectacle. It was one of a series of connected yards, just on the margin of the Fair, shut in by tall and squalid tenements, and communicating with Houndsditch by narrow and crooked passages. Children were swarming about the horrible pools, mingled overflow of the kitchen and washtub, which festered in the hollows of the pavement, and a few feeble women sat listless in the doorways, "keeping house" while the able-bodied members of the family were busy at the Fair. These and such as these were the homes of the merchants of Petticoat Lane—only a few yards from the Bank of England; and yet when I came out into the Sunday stillness and decorous solidity of Leadenhall-st. I felt as if I had just got back from a very particularly dirty and degraded foreign country.

J. R. G. H.

THE PESTILENCE AT MEMPHIS.

SIXTEEN NEW CASES—A STRONG FIGHT AGAINST THE EMBARGO ON COTTON—THE HANGING IN EFFIGY.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 22.—Sixteen cases of yellow fever—twelve white and four colored—were reported at the Board of Health to-day. There were six deaths. The donations to the Howards to-day amounted in the aggregate to $576. They assigned twenty nurses to duty to-day.

The following notice was served this afternoon on the Board of Health, the Superintendent of Quarantine, the State Board of Health, and the Fire and Police Committee of the city:

GENTLEMEN: Please take notice that at 10 a. m., on Wednesday, the 24th day of September, 1879, before the Hon. Jacob S. Galloway, Special Circuit Judge of Shelby County, I apply for an injunction restraining your bodies, each and every one of you, your officers, agents and attorneys, from further interference with the entry of cotton into the City of Memphis, no matter how it may come, whether loose or baled, or also seed cotton. You can attend and take whatever steps in reference to said motion you deem proper.

N. W. SPERR, JR.

By WM. S. FLIPPIN, solicitor.

At a meeting of citizens held this afternoon at the Cotton Exchange, resolutions were adopted praying a modification of the rules which prohibit loose cotton from being brought into the city.

The thermometer has ranged from 60° to 82° to-day.

Two new cases of fever have developed near Buntyn Station, four miles east of this city.

The hanging of Dr. Plunkett in effigy last night is generally condemned. The police promptly cut the figure down, and are searching for the perpetrators.

The steamer Natchez passed the city going South this morning at 11 o'clock, and drew fully 1,000 people to the Bluffs by the repeated blowing of her whistle, which was responded to by tugs at the wharf.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

THE ANGLO-CANADIAN CATTLE TRADE.

MONTREAL, Sept. 22.—There were shipped from this port to England last week 1,119 head of cattle, 3,714 of sheep and 32 of horses.

CANADA AND AMERICAN CATTLE.

OTTAWA, Sept. 22.—The text of the order prohibiting until October 6 the importation of American cattle into the Dominion gives as the reason that, "a contagious disease affecting cattle prevails in certain parts of the United States."

FURNITURE FACTORIES ON STRIKE.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Sept. 22.—The controversy which has been going on for two weeks between the cabinet manufacturers and their workmen, regarding a 15 per cent advance of wages, culminated to-day by a general strike of all the men, over 800 in number.

A RAILROAD SOLD UNDER FORECLOSURE.

SELMA, Ala., Sept. 22.—The Selma and Gulf Railroad was sold under foreclosure to-day. The bidding was spirited. The Mobile and Montgomery Railroad's bid of $120,000, was raised $100 by Charles Williams, of Atlanta, for D. F. Sullivan, President and owner of the Peninsula Railroad, who became the purchaser.

THE SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Sept. 22.—The local authorities of Yorktown are making extensive preparations for properly celebrating the anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis on the 19th of October. The troops at this post, five companies of artillery, and the naval fleet now daily expected here, are expected to join in the festivities.

THE CREDITORS OF THE BROWNS OF CONCORD.

CONCORD, N. H., Sept. 22.—The creditors of H. Brown & Sons and D. Arthur Brown & Co., at Fisherville, N. H., held a meeting Saturday last and decided to run both establishments under the same management for nine months from October 1.

A SON OF GENERAL LEE ON VIRGINIA'S DEBT.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Sept. 22.—A large and enthusiastic meeting, at the Orange Court House to-day, was addressed by Senator Brooke and General W. H. F. Lee, son of General Robert E. Lee, in support of the McCullough settlement of the State debt. An earnest canvass is going on throughout the State, with indications that the McCullough bill is accepted as a finality.

BISMARCK AT VIENNA.

AN AUSTRO-GERMAN ALLIANCE PLANNED. THE GERMAN CHANC