Amusements To-Night.

ABBEY'S PARK THEATRE—"Divorcons."
BIJOU OPERA HOUSE—"The Pirates of Penzance."
BOOTH'S THEATRE—"The Pirates of Penzance."
DALY'S THEATRE—"Odette."
HAVERLY'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—"Hamlet."
HAVERLY'S 14TH STREET THEATRE—Minstrels.
HAVERLY'S NIBLO'S GARDEN—"Sam'l of Posen."
HAVERLY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE—"Fun on the Bristol."
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
STANDARD THEATRE—"Claude Duval."
THALIA THEATRE—"The Merry War."
THEATRE COMIQUE—2 and 8—"Squatter Sovereignty."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—2—"Article 47." 8—"The Lights o' London."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—"Youth."
WINDSOR THEATRE—"The Galley Slave."

AMERICAN ART GALLERY—Exhibition.
BROOKLYN ART ROOMS—Exhibition.
BUNNELL'S MUSEUM.
CHICKERING HALL—11 and 8—Lectures.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2 and 8—Circus.

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FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1882.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The rules of Parliamentary proceedings were discussed in the House of Commons last night. ═══ Several outrages have been committed recently in Ireland. ═══ The verdict found some time ago in the Scott-Sampson libel case in London has been affirmed. ═══ Troubles are reported between the soldiers and some people at Ravenna who were celebrating the anniversary of the Paris Commune; one soldier was killed. ═══ Expeditions are to be sent out to punish marauding bands of Arabs in Tunis. ═══ The coronation of the Czar, it is reported, has been fixed for August. ═══ The Rev. H. J. Grassett, Dean of Toronto, died yesterday.

CONGRESS—In the Senate yesterday the bill for the admission of Dakota was reported from the Committee on Territories. ═══ Considerable opposition was shown to the bill to promote the efficiency of the Life Saving Service. ═══ Mr. Beck spoke on the Tariff Commission bill. ═══ In the House several bills of interest were introduced. ═══ Shortly before the usual time for adjournment the Democrats began to filibuster, and the House was soon without a quorum; a quorum was secured about 10 o'clock, and at a late hour the House was still in session.

DOMESTIC.—Chief-Engineer Melville's official report of his search for the missing members of the Jeannette expedition is published; nothing has been heard from De Long's party since October 9, 1881, when the men were in a deplorable condition. ═══ The striking miners in the Alleghany coal district yesterday threatened violence if new men are brought into the district to fill their places. ═══ Harriet E. Sprague, a young widow of Cherryfield, Mass., was murdered by Chester S. Cunningham, her lover, on account of jealousy. ═══ Both branches of the State Legislature passed resolutions asking the President to commute the sentence of Sergeant Mason. ═══ The strike at Lawrence, Mass., is increasing in importance. ═══ The water in the valley of the Mississippi was never known to be so high as at present. The parish of Tensas is completely flooded.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—A conference in reference to Loan Relief for the poor was held yesterday. ═══ The footbridge across the East River was taken down. ═══ Professor John K. Rees lectured on "Photography Applied to Astronomy." ═══ More depositions were read in the Hinman-Hare suit. ═══ A jury was not secured in the case of Alderman Jones, of Brooklyn. ═══ An Aldermen's Committee heard arguments concerning a reduction of ferriage on the Thirty-fourth Street Line. ═══ Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½ grains), 87.21 cents. ═══ Stocks were active and generally higher, but with irregular fluctuations, and closed quiet and steady.

THE WEATHER.—TRIBUNE local observations indicate cooler and cloudy weather, with rain, possibly followed by clearing weather late in the day. Thermometer yesterday: Highest, 54°; lowest, 44°; average, 49°.

The people in Boston showed a cultured self-possession last night which is truly commendable. The curtain in the hall where Madame Patti was to sing took fire and the audience was about to indulge in a panic; but when two newspaper men called out "Sit down," it obeyed and enjoyed the rest of the performance.

The foolish falsehood of the Democrats about the alleged expenditure of one million dollars by the business Republicans of this city to buy votes in the canvass of 1880 is met by a plump denial from the members of the committee. The story really called for no contradiction.

The people of Lancaster, Penn., owe it to themselves to rise immediately and explain why an old man who was once a United States Minister abroad, and one of three surviving members of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention of 1837, was allowed to die in the almshouse.

The senseless filibustering by the Democrats yesterday in the House is another argument in favor of amended rules, and may impel the Republicans to a strenuous effort in that direction. The Democratic Representatives asserted with their usual assurance that while they were anxious to facilitate business, yet they were opposed to the consideration of "this particular measure."

The benevolent people who are organizing an association to investigate the worthiness of those persons who apply for charity in this city are in need of about $10,000 to put their scheme into operation. Their plan is most deserving, and has the approval of all practical almsgivers. We sincerely trust the money may be forthcoming to place the society on its feet, when it will certainly become one of the most powerful auxiliaries of all charitable organizations in the metropolis.

Here are more schemes to erect monuments at the graves of the worthy dead at public expense. The last ones suggested are to mark the resting places of the writer of "The Star Spangled Banner" and Thomas Jefferson. Memorial slabs in different spots are also urged. If anything artistic is attempted, we hope the matter in each case will be in the hands of persons of acknowledged taste. We do not want any more sculptured monstrosities in this country.

The President has nominated Henry S. Pierce to be Collector of Internal Revenue for the XXVIIIth District of New-York, in place of Burt Van Horn. The comment which this action invites is that no reason save a political reason can be given for making the change, and that the quality of the political reason appears in the statement that Mr. Van Horn is an earnest Garfield Republican, while Mr. Pierce is an earnest Stalwart, and was a strong supporter of the third term movement.

The House bill to promote the efficiency of the Life-Saving Service was discussed in the Senate yesterday, and objection was made to those features of it which would involve additional expense. It is trite to say it, but the Life-Saving Service is most admirable and should be extended and more efficiently sustained. The pay of the men should be increased and made more certain. The compensation of the superintendents ought to be more, because such officers to make them most useful need that seafaring experience which would command good wages elsewhere. The pay of the surfmen will probably be fairly adjusted under the provisions of the bill as it stands. The objection to pensioning disabled men, that it would be difficult to decide when the extent of the injuries would entitle them to this consideration, does not seem a strong one, although there may be other reasons against establishing anything like a civil pension list in this country.

One of the most interesting subjects discussed yesterday at the meeting of the State Charities Aid Association was loan relief. This system of benevolence has been most fully developed in this city in the Sixteenth Ward, but it is so sensible that it commends itself immediately to all those who are interested in practical charity, and it will doubtless soon become widespread. The method is to lend money to the poor who need it, taking from them security, generally indorsed by the employers. Payment is received in money or work. In this way the worthy, self-respecting poor are helped, and in the relief there is no tendency toward making paupers. It is a good detector of fraud too, for the wants of many applicants disappear when an equivalent is asked and the borrower is required to sign his name. The small loss which the association in this city has sustained is encouraging. In London the loss upon loans is 3 per cent. Here it is not so large.

Engineer Melville's official report of the landing of two of the boats' crews of the ill-fated Jeannette and his subsequent search for Lieutenant De Long is a thrilling narrative of heart-rending suffering and persistent pluck. It is a complete vindication of his own course. Before the boats were separated by the gale, orders had been given in view of the emergency for each party to make its way to the nearest settlement before waiting for anybody. Engineer Melville would not have been justified in instituting a search for his companions immediately after he landed, even if he had known where to look for them in that wide-reaching delta. When he did receive tidings of the terrible plight of De Long's party he seems to have done all that he could to render aid, and to have made a protracted search until the desertion of the natives and the exhaustion of his supplies left him helpless with no alternative except retreat to the settlement. The Engineer is a brave man who has done his duty, and his heroism, grit and sagacity have been conspicuous. The details of the landing and search are in accord with the general outline which we published a few days ago. The party in the whaleboat landed further south and received aid from the natives more promptly than we had supposed. De Long's record makes the latitude of the wreck 77° 15′—not 76° 15′ as *The Herald* has erroneously stated—and the longitude 155°, the previous dispatches having given it as 157°.

CONTRACTION BY THE SILVER ACT.

The substitution of silver certificates for bank notes, which has been going on for some time, is really contraction. Yet there are many in Congress who passionately desire this change, and gloat over it as it advances, and they are the very persons who have been most zealous opponents of contraction and advocates of inflation. This curiously illustrates the fact that few members of Congress know what they are doing, when they attempt to deal with financial questions.

Bank notes employ public credit as a substitute for money. Not a dollar's worth of gold or silver is locked up or wasted in maintaining a circulation of $360,000,000. The credit of the Government is so good that notes secured by its bonds are as good as gold in every part of the land. The bonds could not be advantageously exported; we cannot as well afford to pay $16,000,000 a year to foreigners as to our own citizens. If the bonds are to remain here, somebody must own them, and it is to the public advantage to have them owned and utilized by men who deposit them as security for an issue of well-guarded and always redeemable notes. These notes serve all the purpose of money in domestic trade, and are in two particulars more desirable than gold itself. They can be carried about more conveniently, and they tend to return always to the point of issue, thus supplying for the rural districts a currency which does not continually gravitate to the great commercial centres and stick there.

Silver certificates are issued against silver dollars deposited in the Treasury. For every dollar of such certificates issued, a dollar of specie is lying idle. It is true, the silver is not serviceable as money, but the men who own it have paid for it just as much as for gold, coined dollar for coined dollar, and could have had the gold instead for the asking. Had they exported the silver, instead of selling it to the Treasury, and taken gold coin instead of silver notes, they would have had for use in circulation exactly as much money as they have now, and the value of $60,000,000 in silver bullion would have gone abroad, to return to us in the form of imported gold. For Europe has to pay gold for its surplus of purchases from us over sales to us. If it had bought $60,000,000 in silver, it would have been obliged to pay as much more in goods or gold, and, as we have taken all the goods we have wanted, it would have been obliged to pay in gold. The use of silver certificates to the extent of $60,000,000, therefore, keeps $60,000,000 in gold out of the country, which might have been had for the asking to use in place of the notes issued and the silver lying idle.

But the use of the silver notes also shuts out of use a corresponding amount of bank notes. Statistics have been heretofore presented, which show that the expansion of the bank circulation has been prevented by the use of the silver notes, and probably to the extent of dollar for dollar. The silver notes are not as useful as the bank notes, for they will not pass everywhere nor for all purposes. But, once forced into circulation, they fill a place into which notes would otherwise have been sent by the banks to supply a public want.

The net result, then, is that we have in use $60,000,000 less money than we should have had if the silver certificates had never been issued. We should have had $60,000,000 in gold, in place of silver exported, and $60,000,000 of bank notes supported by public credit. As it is, we have $60,000,000 of silver notes in use, a like amount of silver locked up in idleness, and have prevented the issue of the bank notes. We are just $60,000,000 poorer by the operation, and have not a dollar more of money in use. Yet this is done and defended by men who were not long ago violently hostile to contraction of every sort. The believers in a sound currency have opposed the issue of silver certificates, not because they wanted less money in circulation, but because they wanted more and better money—$60,000,000 of gold, partly in the Treasury, and $60,000,000 of bank notes in use, instead of $60,000,000 of silver notes and a like amount of useless and unsalable silver coin in Treasury vaults.

If anybody can give a good reason for the substitution, he has the floor. The change goes on constantly. Last week $719,500 in bonds held to secure circulation were withdrawn, and the bank issues will be contracted to that extent, while the silver notes, when issued, tend directly back to the Treasury in payment of duties. This is not an intelligent mode of supplying the monetary wants of a great nation. When we can have the very best currency possible for the asking, it is sheer folly to insist upon forcing a worse form of currency into use at great cost to ourselves. But for this folly Congress is responsible, so long as it neglects to suspend the coinage of silver.

LOCAL INVESTIGATIONS.

After all, the squabbles of the local Democracy have their advantages; and for the sake of the general public we are always happy to encourage their frequent political brawls. We do this not precisely in the belief in the old adage that "when rogues fall out honest men get their dues," but because it has been our uniform experience that while the Democratic factions are quarrelling with and investigating each other they have not time to do much else. Sinecurists scatter—for the time being. Favorite contractors employ the time and occasion in trips abroad. Consideration and even polite attention prevail in official circles and places where before the simple-minded citizen who pays taxes and refuses to pay political assessments was held in contemptuous disregard. Furthermore, we have noticed that it adds to one's satisfaction in viewing a real Kilkenny fight to know that it is his disagreeable neighbor's cats who are doing the scratching and caterwauling, and not his own favorite and docile tabby.

For these reasons alone, by all means let the proposed investigations proceed without delay. The minority party does not happen to be responsible for all the mischief going on, and it can afford, with its record, to see any rascals that have crept into office under the broad cloak of its respectability kicked out of place along with representatives of either of the factions. Do not hesitate or delay to investigate, and by no means let there be any curtailment of powers to investigate anybody or anything that comes up. We have two rival committees with roving commissions after the receivers and referees of railway and insurance companies and corporations. Why not start out other hunting parties in the great jungle of the city departments? There's game enough—if anybody really is looking for game. Let Tammany have its tilt at the Public Works and Street-Cleaning and every other department which it conceives is under the control of its "one-day" Mayor whom it so earnestly helped to make. Let Anti-Tammany insist on including the Police Department—for that is about the only Board in which Tammany has any patronage left. Let both the factions unite in a thorough overhauling of the Sheriff's office, which we believe is the sole support of Irving Hall. And by all means let all three factions employ the Grand Jury as a sort of sub-investigating committee—for then it may turn out that for once an investigation will result in something.

But Democratic investigations have not as a rule resulted in much. They have led at times to the substitution in local power of one faction for the other—notably, that of Tilden for Tweed. They usually proceed just to the point at which everybody is about to be exposed when they are adjourned, and reconciliation follows. The legislative committees sent out by the Democrats have usually proved to be special committees to bring concord out of discord—just about election time. They are a means of compelling union against the common enemy, and the truce they arrange generally lasts only till after election. There is really no permanent reform or harmony brought about, only a new distribution of the spoils. Still, by all means let the investigations proceed.

WHAT ARE DEMOCRACY'S PRINCIPLES?

The party pretends to have principles. Its stump speakers, its newspapers, its representatives at Andrew Jackson dinners, as occasion offers, direct special attention to them. The Cincinnati platform of 1880 pledged those for whom it was prepared to "the constitutional doctrines and traditions of the Democratic party as illustrated by the teachings and examples of a long line of Democratic statesmen and patriots." But the trouble with all these exponents of Democracy is that they resolutely decline to go into particulars. They shun detail. They point with pride to Democratic principles, but signally fail to specify what those principles are. The result is that the student of our politics who fain would learn from Democratic leaders what the principles of their party really are, is no better off than the listener at a scientific gathering who hears a paper in which he is particularly interested read—"by title." Artemus Ward was accustomed to inform his audience, in the course of one of his lectures, "I've got gifts of eloquence, but I don't happen to have them about me this evening." The general public, rendered sceptical by the course of Democracy during the last quarter of a century, is inclined to conclude that if that party still is the proprietor of principles it never happens to have them about itself these days.

This truth is enforced by a reference to the late gathering of Democrats in Chicago at the Iroquois dinner. It was meant to be a high party occasion. The carefully prepared advance notices stated that it was to possess "considerable political significance." It inspired letters or speeches from a number of the best known and most influential Democrats in the country. And, nevertheless, one can go through the post-prandial proceedings with a drag-net and not catch a distinctive Democratic principle. There was a good deal of nebulous talk about "centralization," which was nothing if not cheap and meaningless buncombe; Mr. Watterson blew his bugle for "a tariff for revenue only," with no other purpose than to remind everybody that the Democratic party is split on the tariff issue; while somebody else protested against monopolies in face of the significant fact that the Democrats in the chief State of the Union who call themselves "Anti-Monopolists" are savagely denounced by the "regular" organization. Such were the salient features of the Iroquois dinner—features without a distinctive Democratic principle. The rest of the eloquence was absolutely without political significance. It goes without saying that the dinner was dull. It was Macaulay's praise of Bunyan that he succeeded in giving to the abstract the interest of the concrete. But most men are not equal to such a feat. The Iroquois Democrats certainly were not. They discoursed of Democratic principles in the abstract, and failed to impress the country. That they would have discoursed of them in the concrete if it had occurred to them what they were in the concrete there can be little doubt.

And still one can scarcely blame the Democratic party for declining to do much in the principle line. For the fact is that it has been its principles that have brought it so often to grief since 1860. Its principles touching slavery, touching the war, touching the draft, touching emancipation, touching the formation of the National Bank system, touching the issue of greenbacks, touching reconstruction, touching the amendments to the Federal Constitution, touching resumption—its principles on all these great matters it has been compelled to renounce. Little wonder, then, that it has become convinced that principles are exceedingly embarrassing, and that to-day it is endeavoring to get along without such luggage.

THE HEART OF THE CONTINENT.

Montana, the largest of all the Territories, has hitherto developed very slowly on account of its isolation from rail transportation facilities. Until lately it could only be reached by a stage journey of many days and nights, or a voyage on the Upper Missouri that consumed more time than to go to Liverpool and back. Rich deposits of precious metals attracted a small and shifting population of miners, and a few men found farming in the fertile valleys of the streams which form the Missouri more profitable than digging for gold and silver, and told astonishing tales of the productiveness of the soil. Agriculture was limited, however, to supplying the demands of the home market, for there was no outlet to the cities of the East for surplus products. The population, which was 20,000 in 1870, had increased to 39,000 in 1880, a scanty showing for a region larger than all New-England, gifted by nature with a great variety of wealth-producing resources.

The situation of this huge Territory is now entirely changed by the opening of two lines of railroads connecting with the civilization, capital, energy and migrating movements of the country at large. The Utah Northern Railroad, a branch of the Union Pacific, is running its trains to Butte City and will soon be opened to Helena. The Northern Pacific has got into the magnificent valley of the Yellowstone, is in operation as far as the mouth of the Little Rosebud, and will complete two hundred more miles of track this season. Thus the Territory has at last a fair chance for securing its share of the tidal flow of population which sets westward every spring and is fast filling up the vacant spaces in the centre of the continent. Its advantages become a matter of interest at this time to thousands of young men who have the Western fever (a healthful complaint, by the way, for any stout-hearted, ambitious young fellow who does not see the way open to gaining a sure foothold in the business of the community where he lives) and are casting about for information to guide them in the choice of a new home.

Foreseeing that the time was close at hand when Montana would be thrown open by railway communication to rapid development, THE TRIBUNE two years ago sent one of its most experienced correspondents there to study its resources. His letters told of a large and increasing output of the precious metals, of wide areas of promising mining territory scarcely explored and wholly undeveloped, of extensive deposits of coal and iron, of crops of wheat, oats and barley of almost fabulous size produced upon the valley lands, and of fine stock ranges of practically limitless extent covered with the nutritious bunch grass, which cures itself and affords abundant winter fodder to cattle and sheep without the labor of cutting and storing. The descriptions of later travellers have confirmed the reports of our correspondent. Of the vast field still open to settlement in the Far West, there can be no doubt that Montana is one of the most attractive sections. Leaving out of account its mineral wealth, its agricultural resources, scarcely touched as yet, are sufficient to support a large population. In the valleys of the Madison, Jefferson, Gallatin and Missoula Rivers, and the smaller streams tributary to them, sixty bushels of oats to the acre, or forty of wheat, are not an extraordinary yield, and the local papers frequently mention fields of wheat producing seventy bushels to the acre, and of oats threshing out the enormous quantity of 100 bushels. The average wheat yield to the acre sown in the entire Territory last year is given as thirty bushels. Formerly the bottom lands only were thought worth cultivating, but now excellent crops are raised upon the "bench" or first plateau lands along the Yellowstone. The area of grazing land is said to be almost coextensive with that portion of the Territory lying east of the Rocky Mountain system. As a rule, cattle are left to shift for themselves the year round, and except in very severe winters do not suffer much. Prudent stockmen, however, provide sheds and a supply of hay as a precaution against heavy snowfalls and severe cold. With the shipping facilities now afforded by the new railroads, the profits of raising grain and cattle, and of wool-growing, will be much larger than heretofore, and there appears to be room for an indefinite expansion of these industries.

The extent of Montana will be understood by Eastern readers not familiar with the Western country when we say that the distance across it from east to west is equal to that from New-York City to Cincinnati, and that its width from north to south is nearly twice that of Pennsylvania. Four States as large as Ohio could be carved out of it and still there would be a considerable remnant left. The western half of its surface is mountainous, and only the valleys are available for settlement. The eastern portion consists chiefly of rolling grassy plains, and there is much poor land on the high plateaus between the water-courses. With a very moderate estimate of the agricultural and mining resources of the Territory, however, there is good reason for expecting that its present population, estimated at 50,000, will have increased to a million during the next twenty or thirty years.

The climate of Montana, we may add, in conclusion, is peculiar. Its mean winter temperature is that of Northern New-York, while its mean summer temperature corresponds closely to that of Southern Ohio. A dry bracing atmosphere, somewhat rarefied by the elevation of the country above the sea level, and swift streams carrying off the surface water and insuring freedom from malarial influences, afford the conditions for good health, which are an important consideration for an emigrant seeking a Western home to take into account.

That illustrious robber of banks and breaker of jails, popularly known as "Billy the Kid," once more is in the hands of justice. The Kid lately escaped from the jail at Albany under circumstances which did more credit to the zeal and pluck of his friends than to the skill and fidelity of the officers of that institution. One bright afternoon the Kid walked out of his narrow cell into the boundless air of liberty, and had he been content to rest from his professional labors and remain in retirement he might have been free to-day. But finding himself in Minneapolis, the desire to see the workings of the banking system of that part of the great Northwest proved too much for him. The result of his investigation was an introduction to the Chief of Police of Minneapolis, who paid him marked attentions, and cordially invited him to sit for his photograph. The Kid respectfully but firmly declined to have his picture taken, and his persistence in his declination led the Chief of Police to form the shrewd conclusion that a gentleman who was so desirous to escape fame must be a distinguished character. The scruples of the Kid were overcome, his identity was established, and the Sheriff of Albany County promptly telegraphed to. It is to be hoped that arrangements will now be made to keep the Kid in private life for a long term of years.

No one can blame those Nihilists for leaving Siberia. The arrangements for removing snow in that quarter of the globe are even worse than they are in New-York. Besides, the March weather of Siberia is flagrantly disagreeable.

"There is a past," says an eminent divine, "which is gone forever, but there is a future which is still our own." The Democratic party cannot do better than to cut this out and paste it in its hat. But if the future is to be extended long enough to enable it to atone for the past, then the assertion of the Millerites that the world is to come to an end in 1993 can be set down as without foundation.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Millaie's election as foreign associate of the French Academy of Fine Arts was assured by twenty-one votes. The Abbe Liszt, who was one of the candidates named by the committee, got only one vote.

The Rev. Robert Collyer is an industrious worker in his library. He usually has a box of cigars near at hand when writing. Recently he said that his old way of getting up sermons at the anvil was the best, as during physical exercise thoughts came without seeking for them.

Carolus Duran is described by a writer in *The Boston Courier* as the possessor of a masculine beauty like that of the feudal chevaliers; with abundant black hair and crisp beard; with brilliant and violent black eyes; a figure that should wear a Spanish mantle and carry a rapier. He sings, dances and fences to admiration, and in his velvet coat with lace ruffles at his wrist he looks all artist.

Victor Hugo has published a protest against Russian despotism, in which he says of the Russian Government: "It has nothing to fear from a free nation, from an army, from a legal State, from a correct Power, from a political force. It has everything to fear from the first comer, from a passer-by, from a voice, be that voice what it may. A voice is no one, it is everyone, it is the anonymous immensity. This voice will be heard. It will say mercy. Very mercy in the shade. Mercy below is mercy above. I ask the Emperor to spare the people. If he does not spare them, I ask God to spare the Emperor."

The Hon. Lyulph Ogilvy and wife and Viscount March arrived here yesterday on the White Star steamer Celtic. They intend taking a tour of pleasure to Niagara Falls, to Chicago and New-Orleans and other cities West and South, and thence to San Francisco. Deer hunting, buffalo hunting and fishing will also form a part of their plans.—Another visitor by the Celtic was Baltazzi Effendi, formerly secretary of the Turkish Legation at Washington, and recently promoted to be Consul General from Turkey to Marseilles. Madame Baltazzi, a daughter of Mr. Warren, of this city, who remained here while her husband went to Turkey, will accompany him to France.

A tall, spare and erect person in a long black cloak is often seen of late upon the Boston streets, and never fails of recognition as "Mr. Whittier." He is entertained a good deal in that literary town, and always accepts hospitality in the simplest and most genial manner. A correspondent of *The Providence Press* who met the poet at a conventional dinner party describes him as suspiciously eyeing a dish of spinach daintily served in French fashion, and presently asking his hostess: "What do you call that herb?" "It seemed," adds the correspondent, "like a sudden opening of the door into another room—another atmosphere, where, to do as everybody else does, and to know everything that everybody else knows, was not necessary to human life and enjoyment, but rather the reverse. How many people, simply bred to plain country life, would dare to show the simple ignorance that Whittier did?"

The case of Dr. Gray, of the Utica Asylum, who was shot by an insane man, is still serious, but the physicians say that their patient is doing well. He lost a large amount of blood at the time, and soon afterward his face became so swollen that the features were almost undistinguishable. A private dispatch received yesterday by a medical friend in this city says that the Doctor had suffered great pain from this swelling, but was kept very still, was sustained on broth and stimulants, and the swollen parts were kept covered with broken ice and cloths soaked in ice water. The temperature never rose above 99½°, or the pulse above 90°. The swelling is now subsiding, the pulse standing at 74° and the temperature at 99.2°. The ball entered the left cheek, on a line with the outer angle of the left eye, an inch below it, passed diagonally through the face for five and a half inches, and came out in the middle of the right cheek, an inch and a half lower than it entered.

GENERAL NOTES.

A young man who was ploughing with a pair of mules near Gonzales, Texas, not long ago observed in the morning that the off mule was suffering from a swollen jaw. On the principle that mules have no rights which their owners are bound to respect, he paid no further attention to the matter until evening, when he noticed that the near mule was drawing away as far as possible from its mate. A closer inspection revealed the head of a rattlesnake sticking out from the straw collar of the afflicted beast, in which snug quarters it had probably passed the winter.

The six Zuni chiefs who have been brought to the Atlantic seaboard by Mr. Cushing are to be the exclusive possession of Massachusetts during the present week. In accordance with the programme which has been arranged for their entertainment they are to begin and sanctify their explorations by a public reception at the Old South Church. This delicate recognition of the proprieties will conciliate the best feeling of Boston, and insure a cordial welcome throughout the State. Toward the end of the week it is expected that they will have become so chastened and elevated as not to be unworthy of beholding the sea from Plymouth Rock. In this the interest of their long journey culminates.

In the year 1764 John Penn conveyed to certain persons a tract of land, now known as "The Circle," in the borough of Easton, Penn. The original deed, which has just been discovered, contained the condition that the land should be used for the erection thereon of a court house and for no other purpose whatever, and until twenty years ago this condition was observed. At that time the court house was removed, and since then "The Circle" has been preserved as an ornamental open space in the centre of the town. Recent researches and inquiries into this matter are supposed to have been directed by the heirs of John Penn, who may shortly appear as the owners, by reversion, of a piece of property which Easton would be sorry to lose.

The Boston Transcript has discovered that the eating of beans on Mid-Lent Sunday has a special significance. "Several centuries back," says *The Transcript*, "this Sunday was known as 'Carl Sunday,' for beans, called 'carlings,' were eaten on that day, and in an old translation of the 'Quadragesimale Spirituale' of 1565 is this passage: 'We eat fried beans, by which we understand confession.' 'When we would have beanes wilt sooden, we lay them in steepe, for otherwise they will never seeth kindly. Therefore, if we purpose to mend our faults, it is not sufficient barely to confess them at all adventure, but we must let our confession lie in steepe in the water of meditation.' Now, the good people of Boston have immortalized beans as a national dish, and, while they cling to the toothsome mass as a precious relic of Plymouth Rock, it proves after all to be a relic of centuries gone, very much mixed up with penance and Popish customs."

Mr. C. J. Jenner, of Brockport, thinks that he is entitled to the original conception of a ship railway by which vessels of any size might be transported with their freight from one body of water to another, and asserts that on January 29 and February 5, 1848, he printed a description and illustration of his plans in two successive numbers of *The Scientific Mechanic*, then published at New-York and Washington. Mr. Jenner quotes the following paragraph from *The Scientific Mechanic* of February 5, 1848: "In our last number we presented the plan of a ship car with thirty-two wheels calculated to run on four parallel rails. We here present a representation of a section embracing the terminus or end of a ship railroad with a ship-car in the act of receiving a ship preparatory to elevating and transporting it overland, but without detaching it from its proper element. The car body in which the ship is represented afloat and is to continue to float, may by way of distinction be termed a car dock. It is constructed with swinging gates at each end similar to the gates of a canal lock, but so nicely constructed as to be perfectly water tight. The ship being floated into the dock as shown in the engraving, the ocean gates are closed and secured, and the car with the ship afloat is drawn forward by a steam windlass till it has reached the level at the head of the inclined plane. The vertical curve of the road must be so gradual as to allow each wheel to sustain its due share of the load in approaching the level. The huge car is thence to be drawn by four or more locomotive engines at any required speed till the train arrives at its destination—or to the head of a descending inclined plane by which the ship is to be launched upon another ocean or lake. The car is then restricted to a moderate motion in its descent into the water, and when it has reached its proper level the forward gates of the car dock are opened and the ship passes out under the influence of her sails. During this land voyage the ship's crew may remain on board, and if the wind favors a part of the sails may remain in sailing order."

POLITICAL NEWS.

Politics will be lively this year, as two-thirds of the States will elect Governors, and every State in the Union will choose a Legislature in whole or in part.

The statement is made in several Southern newspapers that Senator Butler, of South Carolina, will not be a candidate for reelection. One Senatorial term is said to have satisfied his ambition for public life.

The first bill which has been vetoed in Iowa in ten years was returned to the Legislature by Governor Sherman last week. It was a legalizing act, and was vetoed on the ground that it was too sweeping and would only tend to increase litigation.

The attempt to restore capital punishment in Wisconsin has undoubtedly failed with this Legislature. The bill passed the Senate, but the Assembly refused to order it to a third reading by six majority. Great interest was shown in the project, and large crowds were present during its discussion in the two houses of the Legislature.

The canal system of Ohio has not proved a very profitable investment, and the Legislature has before it a proposition authorizing the abandonment of a part or all of them to the railroads. But the Board of Public Works has made an elaborate report against the scheme on the ground that they hold the railroads in check as to freight rates.

Some of the Connecticut papers claim that the giving of free passes to members of the Legislature interferes with the work of the session, as it allows the members to visit their homes so often that they neglect their duties. There is a bill before the Legislature now granting mileage to the members out of the State Treasury. A similar law is in force in Massachusetts, but does not prevent the acceptance of passes.

General Weaver, late candidate for President on the Greenback ticket, is making a thorough canvass of Iowa. He proposes to speak in every county in the State, and thinks that the Greenbackers will be more thoroughly organized than any other party in the State. One of the papers supporting him says that he has already raised a State campaign fund of $10,000. This leads *The Des Moines Register* to say that so large a sum can only be used as a corruption fund, as no party in Iowa can use more than half of it honestly in a campaign.

The old jealousy between the several counties composing the XXVIIth Congressional District of Pennsylvania is in danger of breaking out again. The most trustworthy Republican county in the District is Erie County; but in the last twenty years it has been given only one term in Congress, and the Republicans feel that they have not been treated fairly. This failure to secure the Congressional nomination, however, has been due largely to factional quarrels. Many of the most influential Republicans in the county are tired of these continual bickerings, and are working for a harmonious delegation to the District Convention. Colonel Watson, of Venango County, the present Representative, desires a reelection, but he is said to have given a written pledge not to be a candidate again. Several other aspirants are in the field.

PUBLIC OPINION.

DISTRUSTING MR. WATTERSON.

From The St. Louis Republican (Dem.)

Mr. Watterson is a very brilliant editor, but he can neither project nor direct a campaign which would triumph in the United States. His speech was a mixture of toadyism to Republicans and of political opinions which Jackson spent his life in combating.

OVERWORKING THE INTERROGATION POINT.

From The Cincinnati Enquirer (Dem.)

Who will lead the Democratic hosts? Who will lead the Democratic party between the Republican wings to victory? What are the Democratic leaders doing? Or, rather, what are the men who ought to be the Democratic leaders doing? Are they yelling for Jackson at 8th of January banquets, and the like? Are they rending the air with their lamentations over the loss of the fruits of victory in 1876? Are they cursing Kelly for disintegrating the party in New-York? Are they harboring harrowing reminiscences of the Ohio campaign of 1881? Is anybody who has influence and power in the party doing anything to put it on a firm basis for the future? Is anybody taking a vantage of the trouble in the Republican rank and file?

TOO MUCH OF THE PRODIGAL SON BUSINESS.

From The Springfield Union (Rep.)

The Republican party always has more or less of the prodigal son and fatted calf business on hand, but there are limits to that sort of thing in politics if not in grace. And it strikes us that the New-York City Republicans have decidedly overdone the matter in electing Joseph Hart, one of the principal agents in the publication of the infamous Morey letter, which did so much to injure General Garfield in his candidacy for President, a member of their Republican Central Committee. The Republican party has not become so feeble in New-York or any where else that it must needs take men who have done their utmost by the basest possible methods to destroy that party, and place them in positions of trust and emolument. Such fellows had better be put on probation a while before they are given offices.

DISCOURAGED BUT CALM.

From The Atlanta Constitution (Dem.)

We are anxious—and our anxiety in this regard has grown gray, since the Democrats refused, when in power in Congress, to set the ball in motion—to see the tariff issue made on the broad ground of a just and reasonable reduction of duties, but a campaign made on the issue of "a tariff for revenue only" is doomed from the start, for the sufficient reason that the "slogan" is neither clear nor expressive. But all this is beating the wind. It may be said now that neither *The Constitution* nor any other Southern Democratic paper will be consulted when the statesmen who have so often led the party to defeat meet together to arrange the programme; but we wish them well.

FOR REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN TO CONSIDER.

From The St. Louis Globe-Democrat (Rep.)

The Republican Congressmen next fall will be called upon to give an account of how they have disposed of business that lay before them, and if they do not change their tactics very quickly and materially, they will find themselves wonderfully embarrassed for want of an available reply. The Democrats at Washington are reported to be in high glee with the manner in which things are being