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DALY'S THEATRE—2 and 8:15—"Our English Friend."
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"ALDERNEY BRAND"
BUYALWAYS CONDENSED MILK

BRANCH OFFICES OF THE TRIBUNE.
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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1882.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The condition of M. Gambetta is reported to be unimproved. ═ Mme. Albani will sail from Liverpool for New-York to-day. ═ The National Assembly of France has been prorogued. ═ The floods along the valleys of the Rhine and the Danube are doing much damage. ═ A Montreal Judge has decided that labor unions organized for certain purposes are illegal. ═ It is reported that a plan for the division of Zululand is being entertained.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday the bill appropriating $10,000 for a monument to Baron DeKalb in Annapolis, Md., was passed; the bill to regulate the Presidential succession was discussed; Mr. Logan addressed the Senate on the bill for the relief of Fitz John Porter.

DOMESTIC.—General Porter has written a letter in reply to one congratulating him on the recent action of the President in his case. ═ Herr Most in a speech in Chicago advocated murder and robbery until the Socialists gain their point. ═ The suit against Colonel Cockerill by the widow of Colonel Slayback for damages for the killing of her husband, in St. Louis, has been withdrawn. ═ Two boys have confessed that they placed a tie on the railway track near Wallingford, Conn., on Tuesday last, to wreck a New-York train. ═ Mrs. Paye has been arrested in Fishkill Landing charged with poisoning her husband. ═ *The Commercial* and *The Gazette*, of Cincinnati, are to be consolidated.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Judge Arnoux yesterday withdrew the permission given to the Attorney-General to begin an action to vacate the charter of the Mutual Union Telegraph Company. ═ Some of the witnesses before the Committee on "Corners" refused to answer questions. ═ The Board of Apportionment completed the estimates for 1883. ═ John F. Crotty was fined $50 for violating the Plumbing law. ═ Print works at Lodi, N. J., were burned, the loss being over $200,000. ═ Mayor Grace refused to grant a license for the production of the "Passion Play." ═ Democratic primaries were held. ═ A dinner was given to Congressman-elect Darwin R. James. ═ The funeral of A. B. Herrick took place. ═ Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½ grains), 83.89 cents. ═ Stocks were active in spots; they were higher, but finally declined and closed weak.

THE WEATHER.—TRIBUNE local observations indicate fair and clear weather, with slight changes in temperature, possibly followed late in the day by increasing cloudiness and chances of rain. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 39°; lowest, 24°; average, 30⅝°.

The exact increase in the budget of city expenses for 1883 over that of 1882 is $1,180,704 23. Unless the Legislature adds to the amount appropriated, the tax rate next year will exceed $2 30 as compared with $2 25 for the present year. This may be called Democratic reform in the concrete.

When Senator Logan gets talking about the Fitz John Porter case he is heard at his best, or at least at his most vigorous and incisive. He took the floor on that case yesterday, and it is evident from what our Washington correspondent telegraphs that he made a strong impression.

District Attorney Woodford's letter to Attorney-General Brewster, which we publish this morning, is moderate in tone and forcible in statement. Mr. Brewster may be correct in pronouncing the *argumentum ad hominem* which it contains and which gives it its sting "not deferential," but deferential or not, it hits the mark right on the bullseye.

A dispatch from Washington contains some interesting information in relation to the progress that is making in the great work of tariff revision. It will be noticed that the president of the Tariff Commission expresses the opinion that the Ways and Means Committee will be ready to report the revision to the House in the course of two weeks. The sooner the better for the business interests of the country.

The determination of the State Treasurer of Tennessee not to pay the January interest on the funded debt is a glaring piece of penny wisdom and pound foolishness. The outrage upon those bondholders who have taken the new bonds, great as it is, is less than the injury to Tennessee herself. Presumably the State, in common with all her sisters of the Union, desires to grow and to prosper. But growth and prosperity are not conserved by breaking faith with one's creditors.

A dispatch from Chicago reveals Herr Johann Most in his true colors. They are not attractive colors. His recipe for bringing in the millennium is composed of equal parts of gore and plunder. He yearns to have "the people" turn robbers and assassins, and believes that the heinous crime of being successful in business ought to be punished by setting all convicted of it at work on the public streets. Most is to be regarded as the consummate flower of advanced socialism.

Theologians and other people who believe that the human race is born totally depraved, will presumably find in the news which we publish this morning from Meriden, Conn., another proof that what they hold is uncontrovertible truth. And certainly to read of two urchins, one eleven and the other eight years old, confessing that because a railroad employe drove them off the track they went to work to wreck a passenger train, is to get a view of childish nature that makes the doctrine of total depravity seem uncommonly plausible.

It is generally conceded that minorities have rights as well as majorities. Fortified by this reflection some Tammany statesmen who found themselves in a minority last evening at one of the primaries, entered a vigorous protest against the result achieved at the ballot-box by the majority Tammanyites. The protest was in the form of powder or dynamite, and was potent enough to blow out the plate-glass windows of the temple of Bacchus in which the primary was held. Perhaps it would be well for John Kelly to instruct his followers that there are some rights that minorities do not have, and that the right to blow up the majority, save with tongue or pen, is one of the chief of these.

Mayor Grace decides against the application for a license for Morse's Hall, at which it was proposed to produce the "Passion Play." For this relief much thanks. It will at least serve to postpone a performance revolting to public sentiment. The Mayor denies the application expressly on the ground that he is satisfied of the impropriety of licensing a place to be used for such a purpose. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Morse will renew his application to Mayor Grace's successor, and whether in case he should again fail—as it is earnestly to be hoped he may—he will ask the courts for permission to produce the play. Whatever may be the ultimate result, the gratifying fact may be said to have been anew demonstrated that the metropolis which is so often spoken of as being given over to worldliness has a deep and unaffected reverence for sacred things, and therefore is sternly opposed to seeing them made common, not to say comical and grotesque.

The first case under the new plumbing act was disposed of yesterday. A plumber who confessed to having been dishonest and mean enough deliberately to endanger the lives of the occupants of a row of houses by performing a job of plumbing in wilful disregard of the specifications approved by the Board of Health was fined $50. The punishment was ludicrously light considering the nature of the offence, but the fact that the culprit confessed his crime and was bringing forth fruits meet for repentance by doing the bogus plumbing over again, and doing it well, induced the Court to deal leniently with him. It is to be added for the sake of the rest of the tribe of reckless plumbers who disgrace the trade that the Court clearly intimated that all future offenders of this nature would be sent to the Penitentiary. The public is unanimous in believing that the Penitentiary is the proper place for them, and in demanding that upon conviction they be sent there.

THE NEXT QUESTION.

Within the first month of its session the Senate has acted upon one of the great questions to which the people have called the attention of Congress. The promptness of the Senate is commendable, and the bill passed, though by no means perfect, will be recognized by the country as a sincere and earnest effort to remove abuses in the Civil Service. Now, if the Senate will act with equal promptness on the tariff and internal revenue, it will receive hearty approbation.

There are many reasons for supposing that the Senate may be more ready than the House to act upon the question of taxation. At the last session, the House having passed an internal revenue bill, the Republican Senators in conference decided to support amendments making important changes in the tariff, notwithstanding the objection that it would be wiser to wait for the report of the Tariff Commission. Of the changes then proposed some of the most important are embraced in some form in the bill reported by the Commission. The discussion in the Senate at the last session, though it resulted in no final action, went far enough to show the opinions of many Senators who had been considering the subject, and attracted to it the attention of other Senators who are for that reason in some degree better prepared to act. The Senate Committee on Finance, which embraces such veterans as Messrs. Morrill and Sherman, and at least four other members who have given the tariff question especial attention, was able before the holidays to prepare its report upon the bill recommended by the Commission, and it is not unlikely that the members of the Senate may be found equally ready to act upon the measure without delay. If so, the House may have before it from the Senate a complete revision of the tax laws before it has ceased to debate the subject in Committee of the Whole. As the measure would, in that case, come before the House as an amended bill already passed by that body, it would have some important parliamentary advantages.

According to brief reports thus far sent, the Senate Committee has proposed to adopt the bill of the Tariff Commission, with fewer changes than have been already made in the House Committee. Some of the most important departures of the House Committee from the plan of the Commission have not been proposed, it seems, by the Committee of the Senate, which is led by very experienced and earnest defenders of the protective policy. This at least seems certain, that a bill which adheres quite closely to the plan of the Commission is more likely to meet with public favor than one which departs widely from that plan. It was the duty of the Commission to arrange a harmonious adjustment with due regard to all the great interests affected. This duty, it is the prevailing opinion, the Commission has performed with conspicuous ability and fairness. A very large proportion of the people, if we may judge from expressions in journals of widely different opinions, and published in different parts of the country, has accepted the report of the Commission as in the main a very judicious compromise.

This favorable impression has been strengthened by the intense earnestness and persistency of the extreme Free Traders in their attacks upon the measure. Mr. Moore, for instance, appears in public two or three times a day to belabor the measure from a Free Trade point of view, and prominent journals of similar opinions find themselves quite unable to express their feelings toward the bill without resort to abusive epithets and unwarranted imputations. On the other hand, the angry dissent of not a few manufacturers has been heard, though each class of these, it may be noticed, generally commend the report as a wise adjustment in the main, while objecting strongly to the features that threaten reduction of duties in which they are especially interested. Thus *The Bulletin of the American Iron and Steel Association*, while it "congratulates Mr. Oliver upon his success in the performance of a difficult task," and warmly commends the improved classification proposed by the Commission, its adjustment of duties "to changes which have taken place in manufacturing processes," its "correction in the "proposed bill of many glaring misconstructions of the present law by the Treasury Department and the courts," and many other details, nevertheless argues at length that so great a reduction was not wise, and that the popular objection to the present duty on steel rails is "due to persistent misrepresentation of facts—to a sort of unreasoning frenzy which must run its course." Thus the very attacks upon the bill, from such opposite quarters, go to strengthen the public belief that it is a reasonable compromise.

"Why compromise at all? Why not stick to the precise tariff that we have?" some ask. *The Bulletin* already quoted gives one reason: "Possibly any reasonable settlement of the "tariff question that promises to be permanent "is better than continued uncertainty and apprehension. Possibly it may be better now "to accept the bill of the Commission than to "run the risk of having something worse offered "to us a year hence." It ought not to be forgotten that it is not exactly a mere risk, but almost a certainty, that the defenders of American industry, if the pending bill should fail, would be obliged to put forth their utmost efforts next year to resist a measure in every respect far more objectionable. There *are* some features of the tariff which the people do want changed; particularly those which cause vexations and complicated litigation. It is a mistake to suppose that the demand for a change could be easily defeated, so long as these features remain, with all the inconsistencies, the obsolete or excessive duties, and the ambiguities of the present tariff. If the task of correcting these faults is to be left to a Democratic House, we may be sure that it will not be particularly careful or wise in guarding our industries.

CIVIL SERVICE.

To be kicked into virtue is not pleasant. The Democrats of the Senate, who have helped to pass the Civil Service bill because they did not dare to vote against it, understand the matter. It would have pleased them, no doubt, had the Republican Senators suffered the bill to be defeated by the many amendments offered. The Democratic members present almost unitedly supported the bill, when they were forced to vote yea or nay on it, but there are many of them who would have been glad if they could have dismissed the whole matter as "a Republican dodge." Against their wishes they were compelled to vote for the pending bill, and yet the Republicans get the credit for it, if it becomes a law.

Some of the Democratic amendments were merely silly. Some were plausible, but were designed to defeat the working of the law. The object of Democratic Senators was to frame a bill which Republicans could not support. But the result, after all, is that most of the Democrats were compelled to support the bill reported by the committee. They do not like it, but they dare not vote against it.

Mr. Pendleton has gained some reputation in connection with this bill, which was passed at last, not by the votes of his party associates, but by the votes of Republicans. At the moment he has to bear much ill-natured criticism from his party friends. But it was not possible to pass any bill of value, and least of all any bill providing for a fixed tenure of office, which would not have been regarded by a great majority of Democrats as a species of treason to the party. Mr. Pendleton knows the unruly elements with which he has to deal. Doubtless he has measured the force of the opposition more closely than any Republican can. His party friends will abuse him vigorously, but when they want a man to transform their minority into a majority, they will look for him.

This is an especially favorable time for the passage of such a measure. The Republican politicians consider that they have but little chance of holding control of the patronage after the next election. The Democratic politicians do not overlook the fact that some pretence of virtue is required of them, if they wish to succeed, and they remember also that the power to make the bill practically inoperative will rest with a Democratic President, if one should be elected in 1884. Hence it suits them to make a bid for popular approval; indeed, they would not dare to vote against any measure, however stringent, that Republicans would support. But the fact remains that most of the Democrats would like to defeat the bill if they could without exposing themselves too much. Great care and earnestness will, therefore, be needed to secure its passage in the House, and the responsibility will rest chiefly with Republican members.

CONNECTICUT'S BLACK BALLOTS.

There is a curious situation of affairs in Connecticut which may end in serious confusion unless wise counsels prevail. Chief Justice Park of the Superior Court has decided that the ballots cast for the Democratic municipal candidates in New-Haven at the November elections were illegal and cannot be counted. As the rejected ballots were similar to those cast for the Democratic State ticket there is talk of bringing the matter before the Legislature when it meets next week and makes the official canvass of the vote. If the Legislature adopts Judge Park's ruling, the Democratic majority will be destroyed. The possibility of such a course has greatly alarmed the Democrats and they are raising a great uproar about a "Republican conspiracy to steal the State." It seems to us that they are unduly alarmed, and that they are crying before they are hurt. A careful examination of the case will show this.

Judge Park decided that the ballots violated the statute and were "clearly, palpably unlawful." The statute provides that all ballots "shall be on plain white paper with the name "of the candidate and office written or printed "thereon." The Democratic ballots were entirely black with the names and offices in white. It would be difficult to invent a more direct violation of the law than this. The Democratic managers say they were printed in that way to defeat the scheme of a traitorous element in their own party for counterfeiting the ticket. It was hardly necessary to put so much black on them to accomplish that end. The real object undoubtedly was to make the ticket distinguishable for the double purpose of keeping a tally and of seeing how doubtful men voted. The provisions of the law, like similar laws in all other States, were enacted for the express purpose of preventing this kind of espionage, making the ballot absolutely free and untrammelled. The Democrats deliberately violated both the spirit and the letter of the law. Of this there can be no doubt, and the Judge's decision seems unassailable. The Democrats can not plead ignorance of the law. They put in a defence that the black ballot was not a violation because it was printed from a block on plain white paper. That is, the paper was white before it was made black. The same defence could be made of a green or a red ballot, and is simply childish. The meaning of the statute is plain enough.

Judge Park's decision rules out of office the Democratic candidates in New-Haven, but we are unable to see how it lets the Republicans in, either on moral or legal grounds. Their ballots, while not so flagrant a violation of the law, were none the less a violation. They were surrounded with a black border, which was clearly a distinguishing mark. The moment that border was put on the ballot ceased to be upon "plain white paper." Their offence differs from the Democrats' only in degree. The erroneous inference is drawn that Judge Park has declared the Republican ballots to be legal while condemning the Democratic. There is nothing in his decision, as printed in the New-Haven papers, to indicate this. He did not pass judgment on the Republican ballots, simply because their legality was not questioned till after his decision was rendered. After he had given his opinion the Democratic counsel shifted their ground and raised the point that if their ballots were illegal the Republican ballots must be also. This was an exhibition of characteristic Democratic hindsight. If the case is appealed to the Supreme Court, as we hope it will be, both ballots can be considered. The Republicans had doubts about the legality of their ballots before election, and in Guilford, on advice of ex-Speaker Harrison, of the Legislature, the black border was cut off before the ballots were distributed. The Republican candidate for Governor confesses that the question was raised when he says: "We took counsel before the ballots were printed and we are satisfied they will hold." The Democrats also had warning that they were making a dangerous experiment, but they refused to profit by it. From these facts it is sufficiently evident that both parties were trying to evade the law in order to keep track of the vote. It would serve both right if they were made to suffer for it.

But what will be the outcome? The Legislature meets next Wednesday and one of its first duties is to canvass the vote and formally declare a Governor elected. Unless the character of the ballots is brought to their attention by petition they will pay no heed to it but will declare Mr. Waller to be Governor, as he was undoubtedly elected to be by the people. If a petition is presented, citing the facts of Judge Park's decision, the Legislature can go into the subject and can throw out the Democratic votes, without considering the legality of the Republican ballots. The Republican managers declare a determination to have such a petition presented, and intimate their belief that the end will be the inauguration of a Republican State Government. We hesitate to believe that they will adopt a course so unwise as this. There can be no doubt about the intent of the people. By a plurality of over 4,000 they decided in favor of giving control of the State to the Democrats. The party which undertakes to reverse that decision will commit a great political blunder, if not a political crime. If the Democratic ballots are rejected the Republican ballots should also be thrown out. The control of the State would then fall into the hands of the Prohibitionists, who polled only about 1,000 votes. The Republicans would gain nothing but would lose their only Congressman, Mr. Wait, and the only State officer they elected, Controller Sloat. They would lose also their own self-respect and would bring confusion and possible anarchy upon the State. Much the wiser course will be to have the Legislature overlook the violations this year and guard against offences in the future by amending the statute so that it will read that all ballots cast in violation of its provisions shall be declared void. As for Judge Park's decision, that applies only to the candidates in New-Haven, and can be settled there without involving the peace of the State.

PROHIBITION IN KANSAS.

The future of the Temperance movement in Kansas will be awaited with considerable interest, now that Governor-elect Glick is announcing so emphatically that he finds no good in prohibition. Elected upon an Anti-Prohibition platform, although not upon that issue alone, and owing his election partly to the aid of the liquor interests, it is, of course, to be expected that Mr. Glick should on every occasion denounce prohibition, of which his unsuccessful opponent, Governor St. John, has been the champion.

Some recently published utterances of Mr. Glick, however, appear to indicate that his zeal is carrying him too far. He says: "In "the year preceding prohibition in Kansas the "United States Revenue Collector issued 1,132 "permits to sell intoxicating liquors, being one "permit to every 879 persons, showing Kansas "to be the first temperance State in the Union. "The first year of prohibition Colonel Carpenter, the United States Revenue Collector, "issued 1,788 permits, being an increase of 58 "per cent, or one permit to every 551 persons, which makes Kansas the seventh temperance State." Now if Mr. Glick wishes us to believe literally that an increase of over one-half of the number of drinking places throughout the State followed the enactment of the prohibitory law, he asks altogether too much. The supposition is unreasonable. Nor, granting that his figures are correct, does the issuing of permits by a collector justify his inference. He would not claim that previous to prohibition there were only 1,132 places in the State where liquor was sold. Nor would he deny that on the passage of the law, which was expected to be stringently enforced, most liquor-sellers would desire to screen themselves as far as possible, and thus those who had had no permits before would apply for them, without any actual increase in the number. It is to be hoped also that in his calculation of proportions Mr. Glick took cognizance of the unusually rapid growth of the population at that time. He continues: "In the first forty-five "days of the second year of prohibition there "were issued 1,148 permits, being sixteen "more than in the whole last year of license "and local option." What particular significance is there in this? It would be very strange if people who intended to apply for permits to run a year didn't apply for them in the first month and a half of that year.

Mr. Glick and his friends consider Prohibitionists fanatics. They fail to see that the same charge can be preferred against themselves. The conclusion to be drawn from Mr. Glick's words is that prohibition set every other man in Kansas selling liquor, but that license would stop its sale altogether. Now it is true that liquor has been sold in Kansas ever since the enactment of prohibitory legislation. Few are so sanguine as to expect such laws to suppress entirely its sale. But it is equally true that less liquor was sold than before the law was passed. The Kansas farmers have been steady advocates of prohibition. The sentiment of the large towns has favored license. In these towns the traffic has never been abandoned, owing to the popular feeling against the enforcement of the law. Thus, at the State Capital, Topeka, the local authorities were known to sympathize with the liquor-sellers. But where there were previously half a dozen open bars, the influence of the law has substituted one small and carefully concealed drinking-place. The election of an Anti-Prohibition Governor cannot change the law. It is his duty to see to its enforcement, but his utterances give little reason to expect that he will do so. If he fails, he sets the people of the State the dangerous example of their chief executive's neglecting and trampling upon their laws, and a reaction will ensue which will bring a representative of prohibition to the front. Governor-elect Glick should cease his denunciations of prohibition and prepare to sustain the law which he will swear to enforce.

PERSONAL.

United States Treasurer Gilfillan has bought 5,000 acres of land in Florida.

General Butler will appear in a new and brilliant uniform at his inauguration as Governor of Massachusetts.

Mr. Wilfrid Blunt, who has recently become so well known as the champion and friend of Arabi Pacha, is a good-looking man of forty-three. His wife is a grand-daughter of Byron, and very eccentric in her manners. Mr. Blunt is a Sussex squire, and a devoted Roman Catholic.

General Thomas O. Osborn, United States Minister to the Argentine Republic, has been visiting this country, and will soon return to his post of duty. Six years ago he left Chicago, which had been his residence for twenty years. He has been spending a few days in Chicago recently, and declares that it appears like a strange city to him, so marvellous has been its growth and so many have been the changes.

The learned Christian archæologist, Commendatore Giovanni Battista de Rossi, of Rome, was recently presented by his friends with a gold medal and an album. The presentation was made in the Sarcophagus Hall, at the Lateran Palace, in presence of a brilliant array of prelates, diplomats and savants. Professor De Rossi is now sixty years of age, and with his no less gifted brother, is an acknowledged authority in Christian antiquities, especially in the Catacombs.

Captain Thomas Ward of the First Artillery, who has been appointed to succeed the late General Arnold as Assistant Inspector-General on General Hancock's staff, was graduated from West Point in the class of 1860. He served through the Rebellion with distinction, and is accounted an exceptionally efficient and well-informed officer. Captain Ward has been stationed at Governor's Island for several years. While his regiment garrisoned the post he was in command of the light battery, and succeeded Major Mendenhall as commandant of the garrison. For the past year he has been ordnance officer at the island. Captain Ward was an intimate friend of General Custer, the two having been much together while at West Point and afterward.

Michelangelo Caetani, Duke of Sermoneta, Prince Teano, Duke of St. Mark, Marquis of Cisterna and Lord of Bassiano, Ninfa and Donato, and a Grandee of Spain of the first class, whose death in Rome on December 12 was announced in THE TRIBUNE at the time, was a man of mark. *The London Globe*, in a notice of his life and services, says: "He was one of the few Roman aristocrats who can boast of really ancient lineage. He had the best masters in his youth, and studied much. His memory was prodigious and his conversation brilliant. Tenerani was his teacher in sculpture, and some of his statues are of considerable merit. In literature he excelled, and his published works on Dante exhibit proofs of of no ordinary talent. As a politician he sympathized with the revolution which made Italy a kingdom.

The well-known William Galignani, of Paris, who recently died, was buried with great pomp in the Cemetery of Père-la Chaise. After the funeral the Mayor of Corbeil, at which place M. Galignani had his country house, announced that he had bequeathed 120,000 francs to the Hospital, and the same amount to the Orphanage of Corbeil. Besides this, having made his fortune in a library and printing office, M. Galignani made a handsome provision for librarians and printers over sixty years of age. To establish a Home for them he bequeathed 7,000 metres of land in the Boulevard Beneau, with rentes to the amount of 70,000 francs, and two houses in Paris, the rents of which exceed 100,000 francs annually. The Home will accommodate one hundred persons, fifty of whom will pay an annual fee of 500 francs, while the remaining fifty will be maintained free of cost.

The English papers contain numerous anecdotes about Anthony Trollope. A letter written by the vicar of the Sussex village where he used to live, appears in *The London Guardian*. "Mr. Trollope," says the vicar, "was the life of our school manager meetings, and a generous patron of the education of the poor. He rarely, even when his health was failing, missed Sunday morning service, always punctual to the minute. In his life he had had some narrow escapes. Once in his early years he was saved from drowning under the ice by a young hero who afterward became Dean Milman; and once in the hunting field he owed his life to a favorite horse, which, to its own pain, managed to tread aside, and spare its prostrate master's head. To the last Mr. Trollope was never weary of generous deeds. No one ever was more vigorous in his hatred of what was wrong and mean; he was the perfect type of gentle English manhood and honor. 'I have no fear of death itself, but only of long waiting for it. When once a man has made up his mind that God means to do him good, he ceases to fear death.' It was an unconscious translation of the golden words, 'Non erubescco vivere; neque mortem timeo, quia bonum habemus Dominum.'"

Dispatches from Constantinople have appeared from time to time recently stating that the Sultan of Turkey is rapidly losing his reason through nervous apprehension of coming disaster. The truth of these reports would seem to be borne out by a dispatch of recent date in *The London Standard*, which is vouched for by its Constantinople correspondent. Some time ago one of the chief servants in attendance on Abdul Hamid approached his Majesty for the purpose of presenting to him a written petition. Seeing the man nervously place his hand within his coat and seek to remove something from an inside pocket, the suspicion rapidly arose in his Majesty's mind that the man was about to draw a revolver with which to assassinate him. Seized with terror, the Sultan rapidly drew a revolver which he always keeps loaded on his person, and, firing at the man, killed him on the spot. On hearing the report of firearms, one or two aide-de-camps immediately entered the imperial chamber. The body was at once searched, when the Sultan's mistake was too apparent. Nothing more dangerous was found upon the person of the dead man than a letter petitioning Abdul Hamid to allow him a few weeks' leave of absence, in order to visit his family in the provinces. The matter was, of course, carefully hushed up, so that very few of the outside world are aware of the event.

GENERAL NOTES.

Owners of gold-mining prospects in the Adirondacks are awaiting with considerable anxiety the beginning, next week, of extensive operations by the Benson Gravel Mining Company upon its property in Fulton County. It is supposed that this work will furnish an important test of the mineral value of the Adirondack region.

Commenting with cordial approval upon the work of THE TRIBUNE Fresh Air Fund during the past season, London *Public Opinion* says: "A similar work has been carried out pretty extensively in London, on the initiation of the Rev. S. A. Barnett and the curates of St. Jude's, Whitechapel. Possibly, if the excellent and attractive title chosen by the New-York organization were adopted, equally extensive results would be attained here."

An interesting ceremony took place in the Vatican on December 14, when the Pope received 1,800 children belonging to the fourteen schools established in Rome by the Society for Promoting Catholic Interests. After the children had sung a chorus of thanks, the Pope spent two hours walking about among them, talking to them individually and giving them his hand to kiss. At the conclusion of the audience every child received a silver medal and the Pope handed the president of the society 2,000 francs to be spent in buying clothes for the poorer scholars.

The increase of perjury in English courts suggests to *The Spectator* a story of the way a Danish magistrate once suppressed perjury under his jurisdiction: One day an English friend seated beside him on the bench noticed that every witness jumped immediately after uttering a palpable lie. "He asked the reason, and the magistrate, after a caution, revealed his secret: "My orderly stands behind the witness, and whenever I put my left hand to my ear, that indicates that the evidence is false, and he runs a pin into him." The sting of conscience in this material form proved effectual, and the magistrate, who died honored throughout Denmark in three years turned an Alsatia into one of the most orderly and law-abiding of communities. He could always get the truth."

The Rome correspondent of *The London Globe* says that a new American club has been started in that city under the patronage of Mr. W. W. Astor, the American Minister, and General Lewis Richmond, late Consul-General and now First Secretary to the Legation of the United States. This club is organized for the purpose of affording facilities to Americans residing in Rome, or visiting the city of enjoying the same advantages as are offered by similar clubs in all the principal cities of Europe and America. There are two classes of members, the annual, who pay 100 francs yearly, and the temporary, who pay 50 for three months, or 25 for one month. The rooms of the club are well furnished, and consist of reading, billiard, card, and chess and conversation rooms.

Last spring the Rev. Mr. L. F. Walker, of Cincinnati, reflecting how delightful it would be to eat pork of his own raising, undisturbed by visions of trichinæ, purchased five small and healthy pigs and had two of them transferred to a pen upon his own premises. Under his liberal care they grew beautifully and soon became his joy and pride. With every passing week they acquired a new layer of fat, until now they have reached the most surprising proportions and can scarcely manage to stand erect upon their legs. In fact they are supremely fit to achieve their destiny beneath the butcher's knife; but just here arises an embarrassment of which the Rev. Mr. Walker had never thought before. He now finds that he has become so deeply attached to the creatures which have so long depended upon his care that the thought of killing them almost drives him distracted, and as for eating them, that is a suggestion of the most hideous barbarity. It is evident that they cannot remain *in statu quo*, to starve them would be inhuman, and with another week's feeding they would inevitably burst. Rarely, if ever before has a clergyman been placed in such a predicament.

A resident of Madagascar for seven years recently surprised his London audience in the course of a lecture for the benefit of a hospital at Tananarivo, the capital of the island, by describing the civilization of the Malagasy. He found Tananarivo to be a really splendid city, with magnificent public buildings. The house he lodged at was as good as any in London, and there was a Roman Catholic Church which would not disgrace Paris. The Prime Minister, who was curiously enough husband of the Queen and almost the most intelligent, astute and clever man he had ever met, occupied a splendid official residence. The Premier knew precisely how far he could advance in the path of civilization, and where to stop. No outside people could so well control the Malagasy as the present Prime Minister. During the Queen's reign of ten years he had publicly abolished idol worship and embraced Christianity. The nobles of the land as well as the mass of the population were now Christians. The Premier was an educational reformer and had established numerous schools. He had abolished "trial by poison," a superstitious rite which used to decimate the country. It was intended to make the Queen *de facto* as well as *de jure* the monarch of the island, and, it was a great pity that any disturbance should come to the existing state of things. Among other beneficent changes which the Prime Minister had wrought was the abolition of the introduction of slaves from Africa. He did this with one stroke of the pen, and in doing it he did away with what might be called the "material wealth" of Madagascar. A man had before been considered richer or poorer in proportion to the number of slaves he owned. A natural anxiety prevailed that a country which had so far advanced in civilization should not go back.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Civil Service Reform has thrown the whole Democratic Press in Ohio into convulsions. So far as known there is not a paper of that party in the State that supports the measure. The further they see the the offices drift away from them the more angry they become. If double-leaded articles a column long could have sunk the bill it would have been at the bottom of the sea long ago. Defeated in their effort to kill the measure they are training their guns on Senator Pendleton, and making his Presidential boom look like a prairie calm after a cyclone.

The question which agitates the Democracy all over the country just now is whether Governor-elect Cleveland will "lose his head." The party never had any faith in Governor-elect Pattison's eligibility, and the knowledge that New-York must be carried if a Democratic President is elected makes it particularly anxious about Mr. Cleveland's course. This palpitating uncertainty is a convincing proof on how slim a basis Democratic hopes of carrying the country in 1884 rest. The party confesses that its only prospect depends upon one man's not "losing his head."

The bitterness that the Senatorial contest in Michigan is developing makes the result every day more doubtful. The opposition of *The Detroit Post* to the re-election of Senator Ferry was understood to mean that the Hon. James F. Joy, one of its owners, was a candidate for the position. But *The Post* announces decidedly that Mr. Joy is not seeking the place and will not allow his name to be used. It pronounces in favor of no candidate and says that its course in the contest is actuated by the single desire to see harmony restored to the Republican party. Michigan has been such a safe Republican State that no effort should be spared to prevent it from passing into the doubtful list.

General Butler has taken upon his shoulders a task that might have appalled a political Hercules. As Governor he proposes to reform all the real and imaginary abuses that have grown up in the old Commonwealth for the past two hundred years and save the people no end of money. He has also undertaken to defeat Senator Hoar's re-election and to organize the Legislature against the wishes of a majority of the Republican members. If he can accomplish all this, and in addition keep the public amused by some sensational political move every little while, his boom for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1884 will distance that of any rival now in the field.

The old Democratic argument against the Republican party that it is not a National but a sectional organization is being revived for use again. It is a rather weak argument for a party that carried only three States outside the solid South in 1880. The causes which have kept Republicanism from advancing in the South in the past have been more to its honor than its disgrace. But the growing intelligence and liberality indicate that Democratic principles have seen their best days in that neighborhood. They thrive on ignorance and narrowness, and where these do not prevail the Democracy is inevitably in a minority. The unquestioned sway of the party in the South is probably ended.

Nothing has been so underrated as the opossum's tail. Baked 'possum, of course, is highly esteemed by all colored brethren who possess a sharp axe, a cur dog and sufficient length of limb to keep out of the reach of the enraged farmer who is apt to punctuate his objections to the indiscriminate felling of his trees with a shot gun; but the tail of the 'possum has been wrongfully looked upon with scorn. A man in North Carolina makes it his business to collect 'possums, which he sells during the Christmas holidays. Lately he arrived from the mountains with a drove of 123 which he is stated to have urged along the "roads as though they were so many hogs." At night he "secures his drove by means of poles, having ten 'possums to the pole, and keeps three dogs barking all night, which so frightens the 'possums that they hold a firm grip to the poles with their tails until the sun is up." The beautiful utility of the 'possum's tail as a patent automatic tie rein is too obvious to need comment.

PUBLIC OPINION.

THE SITUATION EXACTLY.
From The Vicksburg Herald (Dem.)

Congress did not adjourn for Christmas; it petered out.

EXPLAINING PENDLETON'S COURSE.
From The Cincinnati Enquirer (Dem.)

Perhaps the Democratic Senator from Ohio has just gone over into the camp of the enemy to get points.

KEEP CONGRESS TO ITS WORK.
From The Toledo Telegram (Rep.)

This Republican Congress must not leave the Democrats an opportunity to retain the advantages of last fall, which were largely due to the unsatisfactory action of that body at its last session. The situation is a pivotal one, and Congress can turn the tide in either direction. Let the people closely watch their Representative and Senator. If he falters now, he is not the man they want, and should be forever retired to private life. If he will not do his duty to save the party, the party can have no use for him.

A JUST TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR CORNELL.
From The Troy Times (Rep.)

Governor Cornell has done the State excellent service in the executive chair. His mistakes have been insignificant in number and character, and he has done much that entitles him to popular esteem. As a rule, his appointments of subordinate officials have been such as to merit commendation. He has exhibited a careful and discriminating consideration for economy in expenditures, and a resolute determination to enforce honesty in the public service. There has been some complaint, mainly in the hope of making partisan capital, on account of his policy in regard to the National Guard; but in that he acted under the advice of first-rate military authority, and in the end it will probably be discovered that his course was wise and considerate, and calculated to increase the efficiency and elevate the standing of the State militia organization. His manly resolution in refusing to extend indiscriminate clemency to convicted criminals deserves a high meed of praise.

PROGRESS IN THE SOUTH.
From The Philadelphia Inquirer (Rep.)

The once cherished heresy of States' rights is rapidly losing its hold in the South. Rabid Bourbons may reassert it, but the younger generation considers the doctrine as buried in the grave at Appomattox. Free trade sentiments are also on the wane. The strong conservatism of the Southern people causes many of them to nominally adhere to this economic sophistry, but they do so more because it was held by their fathers than because they really believe in it themselves. In the South, as in the North, there are young men who reason and act, even though they may commit the dreadful sin of scratching tickets submitted to them. These young men have learned that the extreme States' rights demagogues brought on their section an unsuccessful war, and they fail to see wherein the free traders are likely to benefit their interests. The Southerners showed their bravery in the civil war. Have they not the moral courage