Smyth once said: "A machine always wins except in times of great popular excitement." It may be that Republicans will think it worth their while to get excited when they see that they have an opportunity to express their choice among the Republican candidates for President by attending the caucuses.

NO "BAR'L" WANTED.

A word should be said also in relation to the remark that this or that Republican candidate for President will be able to raise a good deal of money for campaign purposes. In this State at least it would seem that the possession of a large campaign fund is now a positive disadvantage. The Republican State Committee has rarely had a larger fund than in 1882, when the Republican candidate for Governor was defeated by 192,000 majority. On the contrary, in 1883 the Republican State Committee had the smallest amount of money since it was organized, and it was only able to pay a few of the campaign expenses. Yet the Republican party never made such gains. It made a most astonishing rally from its overwhelming defeat of a year before. In the opinion of men who now have its leadership, party success will be achieved easiest by nominating a man for President who is plainly the party's choice, putting forth a platform that frankly states the party's principles, and then appealing to voters for support.

## DISTRICT REPRESENTATION.

A FEELING IN WASHINGTON THAT THE STATE COMMITTEE WILL ACT IN GOOD FAITH.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The question of electing delegates to the Republican National Convention according to Congressional districts does not, in the opinion of Congressman Hiscock, present as many difficulties as the current discussion in newspapers would seem to imply. This view, it may be said, is shared by a large majority of the New-York delegation. They are almost unanimous in expressing the opinion that the State Committee will not make an attempt to exert its influence in an illegitimate way, or attempt to act contrary to the expressed wish of the people. Indeed, how could it, they ask, even if it were disposed to do so? There is absolutely nothing to show that the committee is not perfectly willing to do its work in carrying out the directions of the Chicago Convention.

Why, they say, should the voters in the different Congressional districts have to await action on the part of the State Committee in order to hold their conventions? Are they not perfectly independent of the State Committee? Can they not act without being called upon to do so by the committee? Wouldn't they have to hold these Conventions next fall to nominate Congressmen? and if then, without any initiative on the part of the State Committee, why not now? The proceeding would be the same. The same methods would have to be employed then which would serve now in setting the machinery in motion.

The question of the representation in the District Conventions is one for the counties to settle. The State Committee has nothing whatever to do with that. It is a matter to be settled by the County Committees, and, as one member of the New-York delegation expressed himself to-day, there need be no fear that they will fail to agree among themselves upon this question. He had not heard of one instance in which trouble was feared or even anticipated. In no case, he thought, would it be necessary to call upon the State Committee to decide disputes arising on questions of representation. The action of Chairman Warren in announcing that the State Committee would meet on March 4 has on the whole produced a good impression here, and is regarded as the surest sign that the committee means to act in good faith. It is not to be denied, however, that the fact that the "old machine" element only was represented at the Gilsey House meeting last night was in some quarters regarded not only as strange, but also as being in questionable taste at the present time, and not calculated to allay the suspicions on the part of those who still persist in questioning the good faith of the committee.

Intimate friends of Senator Warner Miller think it ridiculous to suppose for one moment that he would lend himself to such bargaining as was intimated in Buffalo dispatches the other day. "Nobody that knows him," said one of them, to-night, "would think him capable of doing it, nor would he consent to meet Mr. Warren or anybody else for the purpose indicated in these dispatches. He himself, as might have been expected, denies the truth of these stories. His indifference to the absurd charges is best calculated perhaps, to show how false they are."

MESSRS. WARREN AND WHEELER IN WASHINGTON.

James D. Warren, chairman of the New-York Republican State Committee, and DeWitt C. Wheeler arived here last night. Mr. Warren, as he has already stated in New-York, is here solely for pleasure and recreation. So, presumably, is Mr. Wheeler. "It is a flying trip to get a little rest and to go to Richmond, where I have never been," Mr. Warren said to-night.

"Seen the President?"

"No, Sir."

"Going to see him?"

"Don't know, sir."

"Here on politics?"

"No, sir."

These and like questions Mr. Warren was engaged in answering with the utmost good nature many hundred times in the course of the day, while he stood in the lobby of the Arlington. He expressed himself again and again as in favor of "Chester A. Arthur, now and all the time"; thought, in fact, that the New-York delegations should be made "solid" for him; that such a course was best calculated to aid the Republican party in the State and that moreover the President desired a renomination. Mr. Warren thought that the pursuit of "pleasure" would require his presence in Washington ten days or more. It is needless to say that neither his nor Mr. Wheeler's name appears on the hotel register, that being, of course, incompatible with a visit to the capital for pleasure merely.

## *VIEWS OF A MISSOURI REPUBLICAN.*

NO DECIDED PREFERENCE IN THAT STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

At the Hotel Brunswick last evening, a TRIBUNE reporter met ex-Senator John B. Henderson, of Missouri, and inquired for political news from that State. Mr. Henderson said:

"I have never seen, at so late a period before the assembling of National Conventions, so much indifference and apathy on the part of the people. There is no expression of decided preference for any Republican Presidential candidate. Indeed, in Missouri we feel that, being to the minority, we should let the States that must be carried to effect an election make the selection of candidates. They have, of course, no right to do so under the rules of an organization. But they have the moral right, which we are bound to respect."

"What about the Democrats?"

"They are about as much divided about the Presidency as the Republicans. Some favor the old ticket, some McDonald, some Payne. There is no ruling sentiment for any man."

"Does the tariff question affect Missouri?"

"Very materially. The people of Missouri are thoroughly and heartily in favor of tariff reformation. By that I do not mean that they are in favor of the Morrison bill. They are not. A horizontal reduction is not the right application. But they would lower the tariff on some articles, cut it off on others, possibly not change it at all on still others. Tariff reform is inevitable. But it must be done judiciously. Take iron, for instance. It is to-day as cheap in America as in England. It could not be cheaper if the tariff were entirely removed. I would not remove it all; but I would cut it down considerably, in preparation for the time when the public debt shall be paid, and when the revenues necessary for Government expenses shall be so greatly reduced that both internal and external taxation must be lessened. The people of this country will never permit protective tariff taxation after the public debt is paid, if there is no other use for the money than to pile it up in the Treasury. The progress of the age is toward free-trade. Understand me, I am not in favor of the Morrison bill. That is the Democratic mistake. The Republicans may make an equally great mistake by not properly interpreting public opinion in favor of a tariff reform which shall cut off the abuses of the present system."

## *CONGRESSMAN BURLEIGH FOR ARTHUR.*

HIS OPINION OF THE POLITICAL DRIFT IN THIS STATE.

Congressman Burleigh, who was here for a few hours on Saturday, on his way from Washington to his home at Whitehall, was asked by a TRIBUNE reporter what there was new politically in Washington.

"Not a thing," he replied. "I'll be frank with you; I'm an Arthur man. But so far as I know he is not doing a thing to secure the nomination. He is just pursuing the even tenor of his way. I have seen him several times lately, and never once has he so much as mentioned politics. He's making as good a President as we've had."

"What are the chances of his nomination?"

"They depend very largely on what New-York does. If New-York is practically solid for him, he can and probably will be nominated."

"What are the chances of New-York being solid?"

"That is difficult to answer. There is a feeling among people up through the State not to commit themselves to any one, but to select good, straight men for delegates to Chicago and leave the matter in their hands. There is some drift toward Logan."

"Do you think the State Committee should make recommendations concerning district conventions?"

"Why, it is practically agreed upon by common consent now that the county chairmen shall meet and call such conventions, if they see fit."

"But who shall determine the basis of representation in those conventions under the redistricting?"

"I think that belongs to the State Committee, and I think they will fix it at the meeting on March 4. I don't believe John D. Warren would do a thing that is not in the interest of the whole Republican party."

## *VIRGINIA POLITICS.*

### THE PRESIDENT MISREPRESENTED.

STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM WHICH HE COULD NOT CONSISTENTLY HAVE MADE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—The same Sunday paper which two weeks ago published a purely fictitious account of what purported to be a conversation with Secretary Teller, in which he was quoted as denouncing the Civil Service law and speaking in terms of contempt of the work of the Civil Service Commission, to-day contains an article about Virginia politics, from which the following is an extract:

A few days ago a Republican Representative, in the course of a conversation with the President, said that he thought the action of the Democratic Legislature of Virginia showed that that party was determined to leave no stone unturned to keep possession of the State, and that the high-handed actions of the legislative majority ought to be rebuked by the Northern press, which, however, seemed to take little notice of them. President Arthur replied that the result of the late election in Virginia, including the Danville killing, was directly chargeable to the account of those Republican leaders and newspapers which found Senator Mahone's principles and methods too unrefined for their indorsement. . . . He asserted that it was not only in a political view that he regarded the result as disastrous, but that Virginia would in all respects—financially, industrially and socially—react and fall behind. The effect also would be felt in all the Southern States, especially in the adjoining State of North Carolina, where the Liberal leaders, so confident and hopeful in 1882, were now fallen into despondency.

It is entirely safe to say that this paragraph is as untrue in every particular as the one first mentioned, and which Secretary Teller, in a letter afterward published in THE TRIBUNE, declared to be a pure fabrication. What is the name of the "Republican Representative," who says the President made the statement attributed to him? Senator Mahone, Colonel Brady, Congressman Wise and other Liberal leaders in Virginia declare that the political reverse in that State last fall was due to the terrorism of the colored voters by the Danville murders, and the excitement and demoralization of white voters by the flagrantly false and sensational accounts of the same, which were circulated by the Bourbons on the eve of election. What were the "unrefined principles and methods" of Senator Mahone, with criticism of which by "Republican leaders and newspapers" the President is reported to have found such serious fault that he declared they were responsible for the result of the election, "including the Danville riot"?

Several times in the course of the campaign circumstantial charges that the Civil Service law had been violated in Virginia were brought to the attention of the President and members of his Cabinet and by the latter they were investigated with his full knowledge and approval. The investigations showed that some of the accusations were wholly untrue and that others were greatly exaggerated. With the President's full knowledge and approval, if not by his positive instructions, effective measures were taken to prevent violations of the law. It can be positively asserted that the President showed no disposition to do more or less in respect to the administration of the laws in Virginia than in any other State. To say that he would sanction or wink at practices by Federal office holders in Virginia that he would condemn and reprove if followed by Federal office holders in New-York or Massachusetts, is to impeach his good faith and honesty.

And to go still further and represent him as finding fault with Republicans because they did not approve certain "principles and methods," vaguely described as "unrefined" is to charge him with want of sense. The story is utterly foolish and absurd.

It may be added that if the "Republican Representative" is not a myth, he has neglected to read THE TRIBUNE and other Republican newspapers, by which the lawless and revolutionary conduct of the Bourbon Legislature of Virginia has been properly described and denounced.

## VIEWS OF SENATOR RIDDLEBERGER.

QUEER WORK OF THE BOURBON—HIS EXPLANATION OF READJUSTMENT.

At the St. James last evening, Senator H. H. Riddleberger, of Virginia, in reply to a query as to the latest political news from his State, said:

"Some very queer things are going on there. The chief movement is in the direction of changing the election machinery. At present the county clerks appoint the registers and judges of election. There is a law requiring that where it is possible the selection shall be made so that the members of the board shall represent different parties. In nine out of ten of the counties to-day, the representation is one Republican, one Readjuster and one Bourbon Democrat, or Funder, as we call them at home. In the cities, the boards are made up generally from two parties only. It is now proposed to place the appointment of all these election officers in the hands of one board, taking it out of the power of the county clerks. Just what the Bourbons expect to gain by this it is impossible to say. They are now represented on all boards. Unless they repeal the law requiring all parties, where possible, to be so represented, they can scarcely get more of a hold than at present. To enable them by a two thirds vote to override the Executive, if necessary, they are doing some remarkable things in the way of unseating members. They have just now unseated a Senator who had 1,700 majority, and whose election was not even disputed. Another member who has been elected repeatedly for ten years, and has been twice elected to this body, has been declared to have no seat."

"Do you ever attempt an explanation of the peculiar financial situation in Virginia?"

"No, I can't say that I ever do. I sometimes sketch it briefly, but it would take a lifetime to explain to a business man of New-York what we all understand perfectly well in Virginia. The New-Yorker can never understand how we paid $29,000,000 of debt with $21,000,000 of cash. He is positive the $8,000,000 difference was repudiated. He has been told so repeatedly by all the newspapers. I might hire Cooper Union and talk till I'm gray, but he would still ask, How did you pay that $8,000,000 with nothing? The fact is that we paid that money with what was at the time currency, namely, Virginia treasury notes. The interest on the bonds was the part thus paid. It was done during the war, and the books were in pretty bad shape when we came to look them up, many being destroyed. But we found in the Auditor's office a record of the bonds and the interest paid. I had been fighting in the trenches and was paid for it in Confederate notes. The men who bought these Virginia bonds had their interest paid in Virginia treasury notes, which were worth all the time from two to ten dollars more than Confederate currency. I could see no reason why they should be paid a second time in gold any more than I who was in the trenches. They knew there was a war going on when they bought the bonds. They bought them at 33 cents on the dollar, taking their chances on the war issue. They got rich at it. Under all the equities they had no right to ask double payment of the interest. The bonds were nearly all held in Virginia—a very small amount abroad and some in New-York. My readjusting bill simply charged them up with the interest they had received as shown on the records."

"What is the Presidential outlook in Virginia?"

"No man can tell. We are not tied up to men but to principles."

As the Senator replied to the last question, a Virginia friend who stood by said:

"Just say that we are for John Sherman for President. Put it down that the Senator says so."

To which he rejoined:

"My friend and I agree on readjustment matters but we differ on others."

## *DANGER FROM THE MORRISON BILL.*

Congressman William A. Russell, of Massachusetts, who is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, was asked last evening at the Fifth Avenue about the prospects of the passage of the Morrison bill. Said he:

"It is hard to say what might happen. Such men as Morrison and Hurd say unhesitatingly that they have votes enough to pass it in the House. I find that the interests affected by the bill are relying too much upon the possibility of its defeat in the Senate, forgetting that only last session, though it was everywhere predicted as impossible to pass a tariff bill in the short session, such a bill nevertheless was passed and became a law. Every manufacturing and business interest that is affected by the bill should send in its protest to the committee and its statement of the effects of a horizontal 20 per cent reduction. Otherwise, when Colonel Morrison comes to present the bill to the House, he will be able to say in his opening speech: 'There is no opposition to this measure from the public.' Why, last session, some interests did not wake up to the situation until the bill had been reported in the House, when it was impossible to consider their claims. The committee is now in session almost daily to hear statements from the various protected industries. They ought not to neglect to be fully represented."

## *AN IRON ROOF FALLS IN.*

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 17.—The heavy iron roof of the retort house of the Charleston Gas Works fell in this morning, killing John McGann and injuring Cornelius McGowan and Edward Clarkin, firemen, who were engaged in the building at the time of the accident. The damage to property is $10,000. There will be no interruption in the lighting of the city.

# THE ROCK ISLAND CONTEST.

## WARM WORDS FROM PRESIDENT CABLE.

CRITICISING THE METHODS OF MR. VANDERBILT AND DEFENDING THOSE OF THE COMPANY.

R. R. Cable, president of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway, was asked by a TRIBUNE reporter yesterday if he had any reply to make to the recent criticism by William H. Vanderbilt of the present management of the company. He said:

"Well, in the first place it is not true that the 'Rock Island has a representation in the Northwestern' Railway. Some years ago, before my official connection with the Rock Island, John F. Tracy was made president of both companies, and the boards were composed largely of the same gentlemen. When Mr. Tracy retired from the Northwestern the experiment was abandoned. Mr. Dulman, who represented in this country the foreign bond and stock holders, was retained in both boards at the request of his principals. Mr. Flower was retained in both because he was the choice of a great many large stockholders in each company. Neither is in the Rock Island as the representative of the Northwestern, or in the Northwestern as the representative of the Rock Island. Their action in one board is not influenced by their connection with the other. The Rock Island has no representation in the Northwestern and wants none; and its present management will not concede to the Northwestern any representation in its management.

"Mr. Vanderbilt recently said: 'My holding of Rock Island is 12,000 shares. There ought to be directors in the Rock Island to represent the Northwestern and myself. Mr. William L. Scott was my representative in the Rock Island. He wanted to go out two years ago, but I urged him to stay. While I was in Europe a year ago he retired at the same time Hugh Riddle did as president.' Now, that the books show that he holds 12,000 shares is not disputed. That the 'Northwestern and' Mr. Vanderbilt are entitled to one-sixth of the board and two-fifths of the committee because he owns one-fortieth of the stock is disputed and will not be conceded. Mr. Scott was Mr. Vanderbilt's representative in the board, but he was never elected as such. Our experience with him caused him to be advised a year ago last June, and not last June, as Mr. Vanderbilt states, that he could not be re-elected. He did not go out with Mr. Riddle, but had been out a year when Mr. Riddle ceased to be president. After receiving such notice he wrote a letter declining a re-election, and saying in substance that his sense of delicacy would not permit him to remain with the boards of both companies."

"What experience do you refer to?"

"That concerning the attempt to secure to the Northwestern Company the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railway. In defeating that we we were compelled to defeat one of our own directors, who was a member of our Executive Committee, but who was at the same time a representative of the 'Northwestern and' Mr. Vanderbilt.

OPPOSED TO MR. KEEP AND MR. HUGHITT.

"Mr. Vanderbilt also said: 'I wanted to put in two such men as Albert Keep and Marvin Hughitt. They could not be told that the moon was made of green cheese and made to believe it. I did not want to go in myself or have my boys, and I said so. I wanted to choose who should represent the Northwestern and myself, and not let an opposing interest, Cable and Porter, run the Rock Island.' The frankness of this declaration is really admirable. Both of these gentlemen have even a higher degree of intelligence than Mr. Vanderbilt claims for them. They have been connected with the Northwestern many years and know quite well its points vulnerable to attack by the Rock Island, as well as those at which it can assail the business of that company. As members of the Rock Island Board and Executive Committee, fully advised of its plans, policy and purposes, they would be able to protect 'the Northwestern and Mr. Vanderbilt,' and if they refused to do it at any expense to the stockholders of the Rock Island, two official heads would roll gracefully into the executioner's basket. The declarations of Mr. Vanderbilt leave no chance for a misunderstanding hereafter as to one of the issues between him and the present management of the Rock Island.

"In one paper he is reported as saying: 'I am getting letters by the stack from freighters along the road saying how it is run.' And in another he uses these words: 'I have 12,000 shares and I think I'm entitled to know something of what's going on.' I've got some letters over there [pointing to his desk in the corner]. The stockholders had better look around and find out what is being done in the coal and lumber trade. They had better get some information as to who's interested in the coal and other branches of business along the Rock Island road. I don't know myself, but I'm going to try and find out.' These insinuations," continued Mr. Cable, should have a passing notice. First as to that 'stack' of letters. There is a board of railroad commissioners in each of the States of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. It is their duty to hear and decide all complaints which shippers and others may make against railway companies. Their annual reports show that they perform these duties. In the last ten years there may have been a dozen complaints against the Rock Island Company, though I do not remember more than half that number. I confess to having entertained a feeling of gratification because of this apparent evidence of harmonious relations between the Rock Island and its patrons. This statement by Mr. Vanderbilt shows how little basis there was for such feeling. The shippers on the Rock Island line it seems were not relying for redress of grievances upon their own commissioners, whose duties were prescribed by statutes and enforced by solemn oaths, but instead they were writing 'stacks' of letters to this champion of all victims of corporate oppression.

MR. VANDERBILT AS A RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

"Yet there is some compensation for the discovery. The wisdom of the nation assembled at its Capitol is now alert by day and wakeful by night to discover some method by which the power of the Government can be applied to the protection of 'freighters' against the exactions of grasping corporations. Boards consisting of seven, nine, eleven, thirteen, and I know not how many other odd numbers of commissioners have been prepared. Why mear all this expense? I nominate as sole commissioner William H. Vanderbilt, of New-York, to whom letters by the 'stack' may be sent by all 'freighters' who are afflicted by railroad extortion. His relief will be simple and summary. The offending line will be made a branch of the Northwestern or some other railway under the absolute control of the Vanderbilt family. The remaining insinuations were evidently to create the impression upon the minds of the Rock Island stockholders that I am dealing with the Rock Island property in regard to coal and lumber as he is known to be doing with the lines he controls with regard to sleeping-cars, fast freight lines and coal transportation. If anything shall be said in reply to this covert charge of dishonesty against me which shall be personally unpleasant to Mr. Vanderbilt, he must bear in mind that the attack was made by him. 'I don't know' about the coal and other business along the Rock Island,' but is 'going to try and find out.' Of course Mr. Vanderbilt 'don't know.' His examination under oath at Saratoga a few years ago shows that what he 'don't know' about railway management would fill several large libraries. His expressions of ignorance then as to the line of which he had been an officer for years were humiliating. He knew nothing about the New-York Central then; why should he about the Rock Island now?

"But he is 'going to find out' something in regard to the Rock Island management, and in an effort so commendable in him he shall have my aid. His efforts to 'find out' things should not end with this investigation. If he will look into the operation of sleeping-cars on the Rock Island, he will find that the company has a one-half interest in the equipment, that one-half the profits go into its treasury and ultimately reach the stockholders in dividends, while no director or officer of the company is interested directly or indirectly in any profits made on sleeping-cars. Mr. Vanderbilt dictates the policy of several railroads—will he name one of those which has, under his management, received any profits from its sleeping-cars? It is said on good authority that he realizes over $300,000 every year in dividends on his sleeping-car stocks—dividends made from moneys earned under contracts made in compliance with his dictation. When Mr. Vanderbilt acquired control of the Northwestern Company, the Pullman sleeping cars had been operated over its railways for a period of fifteen or twenty years. The company had an option under its contract to buy the equipment and terminate its arrangements with the Pullman Company. That option was promptly exercised the equipment purchased, and with little or no delay sold without profit to the Wagner Company. If the operation was a good one for that *Wagner* Company, would it not have been as good for the Northwestern? If the railway company preferred, as it reasonably might, that its sleeping-cars should be operated by a separate organization, why this preference for the Wagner Company against another which had been doing the work satisfactorily for so long a time? Did the Vanderbilt ownership of one-half of the Wagner Company stock have anything to do with this? If there were reasons independent of his ownership of stock for this preference, why did not the company take the interest which Mr. Vanderbilt holds and thereby secure for its treasury some portions of the $300,000 which yearly goes into his pocket? Does not the Wagner sleeping-car appear upon every railroad which Mr. Vanderbilt controls, and does he control any railroad from which, under his direction, it has not excluded all other sleeping-cars? Did Mr. Vanderbilt buy about 30,000 shares of Union Pacific stock and attempt to use his power as one of the 'largest stockholders' to supplant the Pullman car with the Wagner, and failing then sell his stock? He can answer these questions and the stockholders of the Rock Island will be glad to hear his answer before they surrender to his one-fortieth of the stock one-sixth of the powers of the company. When 'the Northwestern and' Mr. Vanderbilt receive the surrender of the stockholders of the Rock Island will his sleeping-car policy be established as to its lines? Some benighted people who have received from eight to fourteen per cent on their investments in Rock Island may not be able to appreciate this style of revenue reform. To such let the Vanderbilt men, who cannot be convinced that the moon is made of green cheese, expatiate upon the beauty of a policy which diverts its revenue to the plethoric coffers of Mr. Vanderbilt.

ROCK ISLAND'S POLICY.

"After he has completed his examination of the coal and lumber business on the Rock Island, and has satisfied his own stockholders of the justice of his sleeping-car policy, it may be well for him to 'try to find out' something about the policy of that company as to the elevators which it owns at Chicago, and conform it with the policy of the companies which 'the Northwestern and' Mr. Vanderbilt control. He will discover that no director, officer or agent of the company has any interest, direct or indirect, in them or their use, and that the large rental paid for their use goes directly into the treasury of the company. He will do well to ascertain then whether or not the options held a little while ago by the Northwestern to buy certain elevators were made available to William H. Vanderbilt instead of to the company. Again, Mr. Vanderbilt will find that no director, officer or agent of the Rock Island Company is interested, directly or indirectly, in any fast freight line which is operated over its railways; and that all profits arising from any interest which the company controls goes directly into its treasury. I fear that if he will look into the matter carefully he will discover that a very considerable portion of the profits made by the ownership of such lines on railways which he controls goes to keeping the wolf from the door of some Vanderbilt. If he shall so discover will he establish a like state of things on the Rock Island, when the 'Northwestern and' himself shall hold the proxies of the shareholders?"

NOT DEPRECIATING PROPERTIES.

"Mr. Vanderbilt says in one of his interviews: 'Cable and Porter were going to make the Northwestern roads worthless. I would buy every share before anything of that sort should occur.' Is this as a threat to buy a majority of the stock of the Rock Island?"

"I have not taken the trouble to construe his words. The friends of the management control a majority of the stock as investment, and Mr. Vanderbilt cannot buy it."

"Have you or Mr. Porter depreciated the value of any Northwestern railroads?"

"Not that I know of," Mr. Cable replied. "Mr. Porter was president of the Omaha Company when Mr. Vanderbilt bought the control, paying for it about $10,000,000. Both he and the public know that when Mr. Porter resigned the presidency the property was worth much more than it has ever been since it was controlled by 'the Northwestern and' Mr. Vanderbilt. The truth is that Vanderbilt's grievance against Porter is that he made the Omaha valuable, and that it has depreciated largely under the management of Vanderbilt and subordinates, who can't be deceived as to the composition of the moon. As to the roads I have managed, I am willing at any time to compare results with roads controlled by him. In one of his recent interviews he says: 'I believe that the majority should rule, but if I own a majority I believe that persons in the minority have rights just the same. . . . If I were to buy West Shore at even less than its worth, I would do with it the same as I did with the Nickel Plate. I would offer it to the New-York Central at just what it cost me and no more. If I made fifty cents out of the transaction there would be grumbling. There was nothing compulsory in Lake Shore taking Nickel Plate. I suppose I might have made heaps of money out of it, but I did not. It was the same with the Omaha road. I bought it with my own money. I did not make a dollar in those transactions. That is the way I have always done business. If New-York Central did not want the West Shore, and I were to buy it, some stockholders would say 'I was a rascal. I think a great deal of my good name.' These declarations would be assuring, if I could forget some facts. He believes that the 'majority should rule,' but demands that we surrender to six-fortieths of the stock the right to select the entire board to the exclusion of a representation for the remaining thirty-four fortieths. His great generosity displayed in turning the Nickel Plate over to the Lake Shore, and the Omaha to the Northwestern at what they cost does not bear close scrutiny. The Nickel Plate, at the rate at which Mr. Vanderbilt purchased the control, was worth about $13,100,000, and to-day it is worth about $7,200,000, showing a depreciation in the value of the entire property of $6,200,000. 'There was nothing compulsory,' he says 'in Lake Shore taking Nickel Plate.' Of course not, yet it is remarkable that when Mr. Vanderbilt has a piece of worthless property to sell, some corporation which he controls takes it 'without compulsion.'

JAY GOULD AS AN APPARITION.

"But Mr. Vanderbilt says: The purchase of Nickel Plate was due to a combination of circumstances, and was effected so quickly that I hardly knew of it before it was over?"

"There was but one 'circumstance.' The apparition of Jay Gould appeared at his foot-board in the small hours 'when ghosts troup home to church-yards,' and gave Vanderbilt notice that he would meet him at Philippi or some other place, or all places along shore from Buffalo to Chicago. Result—the Nickel Plate was bought 'so quickly' that 'he hardly knew of it before it was over.' This suggests the question, will the stockholders on the Rock Island wish to transfer the case of their property from a board which has produced such satisfactory results in the past to a man who can be scared by the ghost of an other who is not dead? My experience with Rock Island's stockholders satisfies me that they are a very practical set of people, who enter into the spirit of net earnings, dividends, surplus earnings and such things, but who have little sympathy with persons who are afraid of ghosts.

"Your question drew me away from his statement in regard to the Omaha. At the rate at which Vanderbilt paid for that it was worth about $18,000,000. It is now worth about $14,000,000. Of course the Wagner sleeping car and other Vanderbilt reforms were introduced, with what effect upon the revenue of the company you can determine as well as I can. His regard for his good name' encourages me to make a suggestion or two for the benefit of that name. A sale to the companies which he controls of his Wagner sleeping-car stock and his interests in fast freight lines and elevators at actual cost, would add greatly to the estimation in which that 'good name' will be held by the stockholders of the New-York Central, Lake Shore, Michigan Central, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis, Chicago and Northwestern, Omaha, and possibly other afflicted corporations."

## *IRON AND POLITICS IN PENNSYLVANIA.*

A TALK WITH GENERAL NEGLEY—EVIL EFFECT OF THE DEMOCRATIC TARIFF AGITATION.

At the Hoffman House a day or two ago a TRIBUNE reporter met General James S. Negley, of Pittsburg, of whom the inquiry was made:

"How would the Morrison bill affect Pennsylvania?"

"Any change in the present tariff," replied the General, "and especially a horizontal reduction, such as that proposed by Mr. Morrison, would disturb values to a very great extent. The iron interests and the laboring people engaged therein through Western Pennsylvania have looked forward to an improved condition of business this spring. There was expected to be a cautious demand and prudent buying of all who deal in manufactured goods in the Pittsburg region. The threatened change in the tariff has already intimidated buyers to a considerable extent. A change by the passage of the law would still further intimidate them and prolong the present depressed condition of affairs. In the unsettled condition retailers will not load their shelves up with goods, but will go to the other extreme and carry slim stocks."

"What is the present condition of the iron business?"

"We have had a long depression owing to just that cause—buyers neglecting and refusing through caution to renew their stocks. They would not buy until absolutely obliged to do so, to meet the meagrest demand upon them. They had begun to buy again, but if there should be any prospect of the passage of the Morrison bill they would stop purchasing and hold off still longer."

"Do you think that bill will pass?"

"It will not pass the Senate. It may pass the House, but in its present condition I very much doubt if that can be effected. Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Morrison and their friends have become alarmed at the attitude of the country toward their scheme and the adverse comment that has poured in from every direction. THE TRIBUNE'S strong and able criticisms have shown them their mistake, and they are now in a state of vacillation. It would take a very small combination of Democrats with the solid Republican vote to defeat the bill. A defection of 40 to 50 Democrats could load it with riders and finally kill it. Kentucky, for instance, wants a trifle more tariff on hemp than the 20 per cent cut would allow. Some Ohio Democrats want wool lifted up instead of cut down. Maine Democrats want lumber protected. In a very short time they would change the horizontal character of the bill to a rickety perpendicular, when it would fall of its own weight."

"Will Randall lead such a combination?"

"I can't say whether he will be its leader or not, but it is his great opportunity."

"What about the Presidency in Pennsylvania?"

"There is no crystalized feeling for any man. There is a general good feeling among all classes of Republicans. We had for a number of years a division that assumed the attitude of a revolt. The Blaine and the Cameron forces were very bitter in their antagonism. We have none of that left. There is a surprising vigor and remarkable solidity in all the party circles. Men with grievances no longer parade them, but unite in saying that this is no time to fight personal quarrels. There is absolutely no discordant element in the Republican ranks. There is a wholesome respect for the opinions of the people, and a commendable degree of modesty on the part of those who are recognized as great organizers. A most promising feature in the Presidential canvassing is the query, 'Who can carry the State of New-York?' That is recognized as the key to the situation. When we get to Chicago, the candidate whose friends can make the best showing in that regard will secure his nomination. The convention will be so made up that whoever secures the nomination will secure united support."

"Whom do the Democrats favor?"

"McDonald is very popular as well as Randall in our State, with the Democratic party. Along the Western border there is much sentiment in favor of Payne. A few of the other politicians still favor the renomination of Tilden. There is a remarkable sympathy for him existing all through the party. Payne would be strong in Ohio, but his party there is divided into warring factions."

"What do you think of the political outlook?"

"The tariff question seems to be turning the tide in a Republican direction. The Irish are not going to be allied with British free trade. The working people, who have suffered from the present depression of trade, have been hoping for cheaper breadstuffs, but must now face the promised still further depression of business under the Morrison bill agitation. Instead of manufacturing resuming its normal activity, it will be dull and duller all through the summer. I think when the people come to vote this fall, the tinkerers will find that this is a protective tariff nation."

## *VINDICATING D. H. BATES.*

D. H. Bates on Saturday addressed a letter to Dr. Norvin Green, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, asking him to refute charges that have been made against Mr Bates. Dr. Green replied regretting that the charges had been made, and adding: "The defalcation that was found in your office in 1875 was ascertained to be solely the fault of your chief clerk, Heiner, and entirely without your knowledge. This was afterward confirmed by his own confession. No officer of the company believed that anything connected with the transaction reflected on your honor or business integrity."

## *HANGING A NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.*

The police of the Seventh Precinct, Brooklyn, hanged a large Newfoundland dog belonging to Henry H. Watts, jr., of No. 239 Manhattan-ave. Until about three weeks ago the dog was quiet and inoffensive, but one day while a child was stroking his head he suddenly turned and bit her. Thereafter ugliness seemed to be his most striking characteristic, and since February 1 he had bitten no less than thirteen persons. One of them, Joseph Morrison, was seriously injured. The police secured the dog after an appropriate amount of clubbing, and he was confined in a cell at the Manhattan-ave. Police Station while the arrangements for the execution were made. A stout hemp noose was prepared and a gallows was improvised under the station-house stairs. After the dog was dead residents of Manhattan-ave. walked forth more freely.

## *THE FIRE RECORD.*

### HEAVY LOSS IN CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—At midnight last night fire broke out in the basement of Nos. 110 and 112 Madison-st., occupied on the lower floors by the grocery importing firm of C. Jevne and on the upper floors by Charles Glanz, importer of furs. The flames quickly spread to the fifth floor, and dense volumes of smoke prevented the firemen from working effectively. The stocks of both firms were completely destroyed by fire and water. The total loss will reach $150,000, and, it is believed, is covered by insurance.

### AN EPISCOPAL MISSION HOUSE BURNED.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17.—Bishop Hare, who arrived in this city a few days ago on business connected with his mission, received a telegram this evening informing him that the Santee Indian Mission building, near Yankton, Dak., an extensive structure consisting of the church, the missionary's house and St. Mary's boarding school for girls, were all burned down. The inmates, fifty in number, are all safe. The buildings were insured and the mission will suffer no serious loss. The Bishop leaves town for the West to-morrow morning.

### AN ENTIRE BLOCK BURNED.

PRESCOTT, Arizona, Feb. 14.—A fire here yesterday morning destroyed an entire block, comprising several stores, liquor shops and law offices. S. N. Holmes, proprietor of *The Daily Miner*, attempted to save some valuable papers and was burned to death. Kitty Purcell rescued a child from the flames at the risk of her life. This was the most disastrous fire that ever occurred here, and in order to save the town several buildings were blown up. The loss is not known.

### LOSSES IN VARIOUS PLACES.

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 17.—The foundry of Ball & Bro. was burned last night. Loss $20,000; insurance $10,000.

ANDOVER, Mass., Feb. 17.—Fire destroyed three of the principal business blocks here this morning. The buildings were owned by Charles L. Carter and G. J. Brown, who lose $10,000; insured. The other losses are McLowlin & Baker, hardware, $5,000; J. J. Brown, apothecary, $3,500. Several smaller losses aggregate $2,100.

## *DOINGS OF THE WORKINGMEN.*

POSSIBLE STRIKE OF STRAITON & STORM'S EMPLOYES—DISCUSSING GRIEVANCES.

A committee from the striking Fall River cotton operators visited the Central Labor Union yesterday afternoon at Odd Fellows Hall, and asked aid. Their appeal was referred to the different unions. The silk ribbon weavers reported that a conference had been held between them and their employers, and that arrangements had been almost completed which would end their strike. A number of unions reported in favor of the free concert, and some of the unions have appropriated sums for the striking iron moulders of Troy. The New-York Musical Protection Association was granted permission to form a brass band, to be known as the Central Labor Union Band. A letter was received from the Paris Federation of Trades stating that the action of Messrs. Balin and Ribaudet in forming international relations between the Central Labor Union and the Paris Federation had been confirmed by the French National Committee.

A meeting of clothing cutters was held yesterday afternoon at No. 213 Forsyth-st. Charles Sauller read a paper showing that there were 247 clothing firms in the city, with a capital of $14,000,000. They employ 18,400 hands, of whom 2,800 are cutters. The average earnings of the men are $10 a week and they have to support on an average four people, which after rent is paid leaves an average of twenty-five cents a day for each person for food, clothing, etc.

The Tugboatmen's Association met yesterday afternoon in Military Hall. The meeting was secret, but it was understood that reports were made by the Committee on Halls and Boilers, showing the condition of a number of boats, and that the Committee on Hospital Fees reported in favor of the continuance of the system.

The National Association of Bookbinders ended their annual meeting on Saturday night. They had been in session several days. Delegates were present from all the principal cities. Albert Thomas, of Washington, was elected National president, and a committee on organization was appointed to organize all those cities which are not already organized.

The Brooklyn bakers held a mass meeting on Saturday night at National Hall, No. 365 Fulton-st., to strengthen the Union for the fight for shorter hours and higher wages, which is to be begun on April 1.

A meeting of the cigar makers employed by Straiton & Storm was held in Concordia Hall, Avenue A, yesterday, to decide whether they should submit to a reduction of from 20 cents to $1 a thousand for making cheers. In addition to Straiton & Storm's employes, there were present delegates from 21 factories, who pledged financial aid in case of a strike. No decided action was taken. Another meeting will be held to-night.

The cigar makers employed by Louis Asch & Co. have informed their employers that they will not return to work in the tenement houses, and all the hands have struck work.

## *MUSIC IN PLYMOUTH CHURCH.*

WALTER DAMROSCH ENGAGED AS ORGANIST AND MUSICAL DIRECTOR.

The Music Committee of Plymouth Church met last evening, Mr. Beecher presiding, and resolved to engage Walter Damrosch, of this city, to conduct the music next year, beginning