ability being proved, it does not require much evidence to establish the fact of its soundness at enlistment.

THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

ITS PREVALENCE IN ENGLAND LIKELY TO CAUSE A STIR IN POLITICS.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Secretary of State has sent a letter from Mr. Lowell, regarding the prevalence of the foot and mouth disease among cattle in England, to Representative Hatch, of Missouri. Mr. Lowell says: "The recent prevalence of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom has not only caused great losses and greater apprehension among the farming population, but has been adroitly used by the friends of protection and the enemies of the party in power for the purpose of bringing to the surface and rendering active a certain amount of political discontent. It is assumed, though this malady may be originated in other less favored quarters of the globe, yet that the soil and climate of England have been endowed by the Creator with some divine immunity in this respect, and it has not been difficult to persuade the agricultural classes that their losses have been due to the unwise and even culpable laxity of the Government in the admission of foreign cattle. Looking round in their irritation for some object on which to vent it, the farmers have naturally selected the Ministry as the most obvious and attainable. As many of the Liberal members of Parliament are largely interested in the question as landholders and represent rural constituencies, the question has assumed so much political importance as to give some anxiety to the Government.

"The matter was not alluded to in the speech from the Throne, but was thought so urgent that a bill was introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Carlingford, President of the Council, to define more precisely and in some respect to enlarge powers already possessed by the Privy Council with respect to the importation of cattle. The bill, amended on motion of the Duke of Richmond with the intention of making it obligatory on the Privy Council to prohibit such importation from any country in which they were not satisfied that the disease did not exist, will now go to the House of Commons. What will be its fate there, it is, of course, impossible to foretell, but from all I hear I should think it hardly likely that it will leave the Commons with any abatement of its more rigorous provisions. The wish and hope of the farming interest is absolute exclusion, but this will be difficult of attainment, because the graziers, both here and in Scotland, are fully sensible of the advantage they would gain by the free admission of cattle on the hoof. Hitherto the Privy Council have performed a very difficult and complicated duty with great fairness and with a leaning, if there was any, toward the most liberal interpretation of the law. But the clamor is so loud and so persistent that they may find themselves forced to measures which in principle they would disapprove. The question has grown to such dimensions that one of the persons most competent to give an opinion assured me that he thought it to be politically the most important which would confront the Ministry in any election that might occur in an agricultural constituency.

"Should the protectionists and farmers' friends succeed in bringing about anything like the exclusion of foreign cattle, there would soon be an even more powerful reaction brought about by the higher prices of meat that would inevitably follow, and which it is the thinly veiled object of the agricultural interest to produce. Though it might be almost impossible in a territory so vast as ours to prevent the occurrence of sporadic cases of foot and mouth disease, it occurs to me that it might be feasible thoroughly to disinfect and keep disinfected certain routes and ports of shipment by a rigorous inspection and an unswerving resolution in stamping out every spark of existing contagion. Were such a course persevered in it would produce such conviction here as nothing else, especially no amount of argument, ever could, or will."

Mr. Hatch received a telegram from Missouri to-day stating that the foot and mouth disease has broken out among cattle in the northeastern part of that State.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, March, 15, 1884.

GENERAL NEWTON TO CONTINUE HIS WORK.—The Secretary of War has decided that General Newton, Chief of Engineers, shall remain in charge of the work of improving the harbor of New-York, unless it is found that his other duties will prevent his doing so.

THE VACANT SOLICITORSHIP.—The President has not selected a successor to the late Kenneth Raynor as Solicitor of the Treasury. The ten days under which Assistant Solicitor Robinson could act without designation expired to-day. He will, therefore, be designated to act for ten days longer, at the expiration of which time the office will have to be filled by appointment.

BIG DROP IN COFFEE.

A DECLINING MARKET CAUSES THE FAILURE OF WOLFF & SELIGSBERG.

The recent "bull" speculation in coffee collapsed yesterday and carried down with it one of the largest speculative houses connected with the Coffee Exchange. Several months ago a syndicate of merchants and operators in Rio de Janeiro and Havre, France, was formed to advance the price of coffee, their operations being based upon the deficiency in the crop in Brazil. When they began their purchases the price was about 7½ cents. It was put up to 11½ cents, but at the high figures the speculative trade generally became "bearish" and free sales were made to the syndicate. The movement, however, had the effect of greatly stimulating the dealings at the Coffee Exchange, which was organized in January, 1882, and started with dealings in the next month amounting to only 8,500 bags. In December, 1882, the business had grown to 221,500 bags, and the year's business was represented by sales of 514,750 bags. Last year the speculative transactions steadily increased and the record for the year was 7,521,750 bags. In January last 869,500 bags changed hands, and in February 614,250.

For the last two weeks the market has been declining. The price opened yesterday at 10¼ cents a pound, declined to 9½ cents, and closed at 9¾ cents. The transactions were the largest ever known on any single day at the Exchange. About noon a notice was received from Wolff & Seligsberg, of No. 136 Front-st., that they were unable to respond to any calls for margins "in consequence of the non-arrival of remittances by cable from Rio de Janeiro." Later the failure of L. S. Risley, a broker doing business at No. 80 Wall-st., was announced. This failure was a small one, as the broker was "long" only 10,000 bags of coffee. He said that he would probably resume in a few days. Mr. Risley has been in business many years, but his operations were not on a large scale.

Wolff & Seligsberg have been the New-York agents of the foreign syndicate. The firm was composed of Lee Wolff and Louis Seligsberg. They came from Baltimore about five years ago, and have speculated largely here since the organization of the Coffee Exchange. Among importers, lower, they are not well known and the failure will cause no commercial disturbance. The amount of their liabilities cannot be determined until their contracts are settled. They declined to make any statement. Brokers, however, credit them with carrying about 175,000 bags of coffee, but their margins were kept well up and the extent of their nominal liabilities is placed by no one higher than $100,000. It is understood that the firm informed a committee of the Exchange that they had cabled to Rio de Janeiro for the amount, and if it was received, as they expected it to be, they would be able to resume in a few days. They expected remittances on Wednesday, but these had been delayed by trouble with the cable, and calls for additional margins on their loans from the Bank of New-York and other banks on Friday compelled them to suspend. The general opinion of the coffee brokers is that the firm will be able to pay creditors nearly in full unless there are further unfavorable developments in the market.

A member of a prominent importing house said: "I never heard of the firm, but if it was connected in any way with the French speculators it must have lost money. The losses of the syndicate in the last year or two have been immense. I have felt a fear that Havre might ship as some coffee because the price here has been nearly one cent a pound higher than in the Havre market. I suppose that the speculation has been pushed here."

Among the coffee brokers in Wall Street it was said that the losses by the failure would be small to the members of the Coffee Exchange. "We have been watching the firm's operations carefully," it was said, "and in point of fact the failure has been anticipated for weeks. There is a deficiency in the Brazil crop this season and every man in Brazil jumped at the conclusion that the crop was short everywhere. The visible supply of coffee is over a million bags larger than it was last year, but by the operations of the syndicate the price is nearly three cents a pound higher. There could be only one end to such a speculation."

A MASS-MEETING ON THE FOREST QUESTION.

The committee having for its object the preservation of the Adirondack forests met last evening at the Hotel Brunswick. Henry Hubert, formerly a member of the British House of Commons, spoke of the efforts now being made in Great Britain and Continental Europe to restore, in part at least, the forests which had been cut away in former years. An address to the public was prepared and adopted, setting forth the urgent necessity of immediate action for the preservation of the Adirondack forests and the necessity for calling a mass meeting. A Committee of Finance, consisting of twenty, and a Committee of Arrangements composed of seven, were named.

RAFFLING FOR A HORSE.

The raffle for the horse Judge Fullerton which was to have taken place at the Hoffman House last evening, came off at Milligan's, in Broadway, Mr. Stokes having refused the use of his rooms on the ground that he was afraid that Mr. Comstock would have some objections to the game. Five hundred tickets at $5 each were sold. At midnight there were still two hundred persons awaiting their turn.

ARRANGING FOR A RECEPTION IN JUNE.

The citizens' committee on the reception to the Society of the Army of the Potomac in Brooklyn next June, met last night at City Hall, Brooklyn, with Mayor Low in the chair. Sub-committees were appointed and several subscriptions acknowledged.

ATHLETIC GAMES IN AN ARMORY.

A large audience watched the athletic games at the 7th Regiment Armory last evening, and listened to the regimental band under Mr. Cappa.

POISONED BY CANNED TOMATOES.

The family of Theodore B. Kolyer, of No. 33 Clermont-ave., Brooklyn, were poisoned on Friday by eating canned tomatoes. They are recovering except Theodora, age twenty, who is in a critical condition.

FREE TRADERS AT DINNER.

THE NEW YORK CLUB AND ITS GUESTS.

RESPONSES TO TOASTS BY SENATOR CARLISLE, SENATOR VANCE AND OTHERS.

The annual dinner of the New-York Free Trade Club took place at Delmonico's last night. More than two hundred members and guests were present. Everett P. Wheeler, president of the club, presided and with him at the guests' table were John G. Carlisle, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Congressman S. S. Cox, Senator Z. B. Vance Congressman O. B. Potter, Professor W. G. Sumner, Congressman Perry Belmont, H. A. Herbert, State Senator J. Hampden Robb, Manton Marble, David A. Wells, Poultney Bigelow, Anson Phelps Stokes, Thomas G. Shearman, F. R. Pendleton, A. W. Speir, Lucien Oudin, Captain Codman, Captain James Parker and George Hill. Among the others present were G. F. Peabody, W. C. Beecher, J. S. Moore, R. G. Carey, Alexander Nicoll, George S. Wilcox, C. T. Christensen, T. Delafield, W. C. Floyd-Jones, Fordham Morris, William M. Ivins, Commissioner Coleman, R. D. Harris, J. M. Levy, R. S. Ely, Simon Sterne, S. W. Van Nest, Wheeler H. Peckham, George De Witt, Charles Tracy, William Wood, Ambrose Snow, Horace White, George K. Sistare, John T. Agnew, John E. Parsons, E. L. Godkin, G. P. Putnam, B. H. Fields, S. P. Avery, W. S. Opdyke, Dr. C. P. Murray, H. M. Hoyt, E. S. Jaffray, H. E. Alvord and Charles W. Woolley.

About 9 o'clock Mr. Wheeler rapped for order, and Secretary Bigelow read letters of regret from Senators Pendleton, Beck and Bayard, and from General Rosecrans, Charles Francis Adams, jr., Henry Ward Beecher, Dr. Howard Crosby and others. Dr. Crosby said:

I have received your invitation to purchase a ticket to the Free Trade Club dinner, which I should accept were I a Free Trader; but I am a benighted Protectionist and could have no place at your table, unless to hear words of wisdom to convert me; but these I can get in the morning papers and weep over my errors without being seen.

MR. WHEELER'S OPENING REMARKS.

Mr. Wheeler then delivered the opening address. He referred to the adoption of the Mexican Treaty and the passage of the Lasker resolution. He spoke of the Morrison bill as "another encouraging fact" and said:

Some of our friends condemn this as not going far enough. Others criticise it as going too far. It is a step forward, and as such we welcome it. How amazing that any citizen of a Nation with a surplus revenue of more than one-hundred millions a year should object to reduced taxation. How equally surprising that those who supported and advocated the tariff of 1883 on the ground that it reduced the duties on imported goods twenty per cent, now that this anticipation proves erroneous, and that tariff appears to effect a reduction of only two per cent, should object to a new measure that simply makes good the promise of the Tariff Commission. The practical measures which we have uniformly recommended and urged by every means in our power are two, and only two. Put the raw materials required for American manufactures (such as ores and heavy wools) on the free list. Modify the tariff so that the duty on the material shall in no case exceed that on the manufactured product. These, certainly, are not extravagant demands. [Applause.]

ADDRESS OF SPEAKER CARLISLE.

Mr. Wheeler in closing called upon Speaker Carlisle to respond to the toast "Our Federal Union." The whole assembly rose as Mr. Carlisle's name was announced and greeted him with continued cheers and the waving of napkins. He spoke clearly and forcibly, and this is what he wrote:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CLUB: I should be cold indeed if I were not profoundly grateful for this very friendly reception. It is so much more than I expected, or had any right to expect, that I feel myself wholly unable to express my appreciation of it. I am obliged to you, also, for the opportunity to say a few words in response to the toast which is announced, although, of course, it will be impossible under the circumstances to do anything like justice to the subject, and perhaps I shall not confine myself very closely to it. Certainly I shall not attempt to do more than call your attention very briefly to one or two of the most conspicuous advantages conferred upon the American people by the Union established in 1789. The formation of that Union, peaceable and voluntary, under a Constitution which made such radical changes in the relations previously existing between the several States themselves and between them and the General Government, was undoubtedly one of the greatest political achievements of modern times. It is difficult to say which is more entitled to our admiration, the statesmanship of the men who framed the Constitution or the patriotism and intelligence of the people of the several States who ratified it and made it for themselves and their prosperity the supreme law of the land. It is, I think, safe to assert that in no other part of the world could such a fundamental change have been peaceably made at that time, and perhaps, gentlemen, it is equally safe to say that it could not have been made here twenty or thirty years later. Why and how this Union was formed are historical questions which it would be superfluous, and, in fact, impossible to discuss upon this occasion. What benefits, what advantages it has already conferred upon us, how its bonds shall be strengthened and the prosperity of all its parts increased and perpetuated are questions which challenge our attention constantly.

The old Confederation possessed no means of sustaining itself—in fact, it was but a skeleton of a government; it had no power to impose taxation, to regulate commerce or to administer justice. It had but one of the essential departments of a real government—the legislative—and even that was defective and almost impotent. Each State had the right to lay imposts and duties subject only to the condition that they should not interfere with treaties entered into by the United States in Congress assembled, with foreign Kings, Princes or States. There was no limitation whatever upon the power of any State to impose duties upon the products of any other American States brought within its limits for sale or consumption. For the purpose of raising of revenues or for the purpose of protecting and encouraging its own domestic manufactures, the State of New-York had full power to impose any rate of duty its authorities might see proper to establish upon the products of New-Jersey brought here in search of a market; and New-Jersey possessed the same power in respect to the products of New-York. If the doctrine of protection is what its friends claim, if its application to infant industries in new States enables them to overcome natural disadvantages and secure a higher degree of prosperity than would be otherwise obtainable, it must be admitted that the arrangement existing under the Confederation was a wise one, and ought never to have been disturbed. But, gentlemen, the framers of the Constitution, the men who founded this Federal Union did not think so. They believed that free trade—absolute free trade—between the several States was imperatively demanded by the interests of the people. [Applause.] Accordingly they adopted this provision as a part of the Constitution, without a single dissenting vote:

"No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay import or duties upon imports or exports except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws, and the net proceeds of all duties and imposts levied by any States on imports or exports shall be for the use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of Congress."

It is true, that Mr. George Clymer of Pennsylvania said in the convention, while this subject was under consideration, "If the States have such different interests that they cannot be left to regulate their own manufactures without encountering the interests of other States, it is a proof that they are not fit to compose one Union"; but he stood substantially alone in his opposition to this provision, and when the vote was taken not a single State was recorded against it. Tax-free trade was established by the Constitution, not only between the States then existing, but between all the States that might thereafter exist as members of the Federal Union. [Applause.]

THE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF THE COUNTRY.

I venture to believe, my friends, that the most ardent advocate of the protective system will admit that the wonderful growth and prosperity of this country are attributable largely to this provision—more largely than to any other one thing. [Applause.] That free commercial intercourse between the States our internal commerce has steadily and rapidly grown until it amounts to thousands of millions of dollars. More than 120,000 miles of railroad have been constructed, over which interminable trains are steadily passing, carrying manufactured and other articles from State to State, while our great water ways are crowded with steamers and barges and other craft laden with the products of every part of the Union. The markets of New-York are as free as the markets of Philadelphia for the iron, and steel and coal of Pennsylvania, as free as the markets of Savannah, or Mobile or Charleston for the cotton and fruits of the South. What a different picture this country presents from what it would have presented if the policy of restriction and protection had prevailed among the States as it has prevailed for so many years between the United States and foreign nations. [Applause.]

Under the liberal policy established by the Constitution, our means of internal communication and transportation have increased, and are still increasing, while under the restrictive and obstructive policy of Congress our merchant marine, once the source of pride and profit, has almost disappeared from the seas, and unless something can be done to arrest its further decline it will disappear entirely. Free commercial enterprise between the states encouraged trade, promoted the development of our natural resources, fostered agriculture and manufactures and added untold millions to the wealth of the people, while the protective system maintained by Congressional legislation has, to a large extent at least, shut us out from the markets of the outside world, limited production substantially to the demands of home consumption, and in many cases actually arrested the further development of great industrial interests. [Applause.] Under this system, when any highly protected manufacturing industry has reached a stage of development which enables it to supply the home demand, its growth must virtually close, because its products can have access to no other market. . . . .

The experience of mankind has shown that it is almost impossible, if not quite impossible, to devise any system or scheme of duties upon imports that will not incidentally in a greater or less degree, either injure or benefit private industrial interests, and I have never hesitated to say that I would rather benefit them than injure them, but what I want to assert is that when the primary or principal object of a tax imposed by public authority is to foster a private interest it is not a legitimate use of the power of taxation but is simply legislation. [Great applause.] Whether what is called protection, direct or incidental, is or is not really beneficial to the productive industries is a question about which I imagine there will never be anything like perfect unanimity of opinion; but whatever may be our opinion upon that question, most of us will agree, I think, that there may be conditions under which it would not be wise to make a sudden change, even from a bad policy to a good one. When manufacturing interests have grown up under a high protective system or through a series of years have adjusted themselves to it, and when those who are engaged in them have become accustomed to look upon the bounty of the Government for support, it might be injurious and even disastrous to them suddenly to repeal or greatly reduce the duties. Such a course would seriously alarm many who have employed their capital in these enterprises, and when capital is really alarmed, even if it should be without cause, the result, for the time being at least, is practically the same as if there was real danger. For this reason, if there were no others, it has always been my opinion that it was the duty of Congress to proceed carefully and conservatively in its legislation upon this subject, having due regard at every step to the large interests involved; in other words, I am in favor of a reformation, not a revolution. [Great Applause.] This process of reformation must go on until the power of taxation is used only for proper purposes. There must be no step backward, or no deviation from correct principle and sound policy. As I have already briefly intimated, this Federal Union is a commercial as well as a political one. Politically we are free and commercially we are not. [Applause.] When our ancestors determined to rebel against the British system of Government in America, one of the principal causes alleged in the Declaration of Independence was that it had cut off free trade with all parts of the world. Isn't it strange, my friends, that the Government established over this people by these same men will persist in the maintenance of a policy which must legitimately produce substantially the same results—the cutting off of our trade? Let us see to it that all foundation for such an accusation against the Government of the Union is removed as speedily as circumstances will admit. Taxation only for the purpose of raising revenue for the public use, commercial regulations in time of peace only for the purpose of fostering and protecting legitimate trade, will strengthen the Union, insure the prosperity of the people and perpetuate the system of government under which we live. [Great Applause.]

RESPONSE OF SENATOR VANCE.

Three cheers were proposed for Mr. Carlisle and were given heartily. Then Mr. Wheeler asked Senator Vance, of North Carolina, to speak upon "Equality before the Law." Some of the points of his remarks were these:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: I complain of bad treatment. Two years ago I had the honor, and I assure you that I esteemed it an honor, to address this club and many other sinners who were seeking political righteousness, as I hope, [laughter] in Chickering Hall, on the subject of a tariff, and I thought from the congratulations I received then and since that I had so conducted myself on that occasion that I would be invited to speak on the same subject again. [Laughter.] But, to my surprise, I find myself hitched out in a back lot and confined to the theme, or phrase, or sentiment, which had its origin in the anti-slavery agitation, many years ago, [laughter] and the only subject I can discuss is equality of rights and privileges in American citizenship, a certain class and a certain color of our present fellow-citizens. [Laughter.] But I wish to say to you, gentlemen of the club and Mr. President, that if you thought I was to be put down and laid out in that way, you are exceedingly mistaken. [Laughter.] You have missed the truth as badly as the man who thinks a high protective tariff makes cheap goods. [Laughter.]

But there are a great many phrases or sentiments floating about through the intellectual spaces of mankind that have taken a footing in popular estimation, more than some public events of great importance of the hour than from their own intrinsic merits, and such will never stand the criticism which is bestowed upon them in cooler moments. This phrase, or sentiment, to which I have been asked to respond, is no exception to the rule. It has served its purpose; it has had its day, and we may now analyze it; take it to pieces and resolve it into its original elements, and see what it means. It is very true, in a certain limited and restricted sense, that under our form of Government, all men are equal under the law, or before the law; but we know in fact and in truth, that there is really everything and anything else, but equality. [Laughter.] And we know now that that sentiment is made use of, to divert public attention from the ulterior falsehood which is asserted by implication, that the laws are equal for all men. This use of this much-abused phrase, 'The equality of all men before the law,' is constantly in the mouths, and is rolled as a sweet morsel under the tongues of those, the main object of whose lives is to gain some legal advantage over their neighbors by the enactment of unequal law. In fact, so great has this evil grown, and so numerous and influential have become those who thus undertake to shape the laws of their country for the benefit of a class, that it has become a question with me, a serious one, whether this is not the most dangerous tendency of our times.

Now, what is there of safety or what is there of freedom in this phrase, when we come to analyze it? In my opinion the highest genius of American statesmanship will be found inadequate to the task of steering safely past these rocks, and I believe that the noblest duty which a patriotic statesman could take upon himself would be to aim to it that the laws of his country were so shaped as to bear equally upon all who were subject to them. [Applause.] That men should not only be made, thereby, equals before the law, but that the laws should be made equal for all men who are under them, and that the blessings which our laws are intended to bestow should fall impartially, like the summer showers upon the whole broad expanse of the thirsty earth, for the making of universal bread, and should not be directed as mountain torrents into a single channel, for the turning of one man's wheel. [Great applause.] Now "Equality for all men before the law," is a goodly sound; but to me, "Equal laws for all men who live thereunder" is a better sound. [Applause.] It is of more importance than any other.

Mr. President and gentlemen, if an American manufacturer is permitted by law to go to Europe and buy the labor which he needs in a foreign market, and I am not permitted by the same law to send to Europe to buy a pocket-knife or a pair of shoes, which I need, where is my equality with him, not "before the law," but "in the law itself?" [Applause.] If I, Mr. President, buy a ship from a foreigner with my money, and thereby increase the wealth of my native land, and the government refuses me the protection of its laws and its flag in the use of my property, whilst my neighbor buys a ship from a builder here and is protected in the use of his property, where is my equality with him, in or under or before the law? [Applause.] Didn't I tell you I was going to run into the tariff? [Laughter.] Mr. President, if I raise cotton in my fields without expense to the public and am compelled out of the sweat which I put upon that cotton, to pay a heavy tax to my neighbor on the creek who spins it, where is our equality in the law which governs him and me? [Applause.] If a railroad company charge me more for carrying my productions five hundred miles than it charges my rival in production, for carrying his a thousand miles, to the same market, and the law helps the not, where is its equality for him and for me? [We will say that I have an income of $5,000 per annum; that is all I have, and that I spend it all and wish I had more, [laughter] and I am taxed 43 per cent of the whole of that sum for the support of the Government; and suppose my next door neighbor has an income also of $5,000, which he spends and no more, and on which he pays the same tax that I do and no more, and yet he has a million dollars worth of reserved estate that is not taxed at all or the support of the Government, where is the equality of that law that taxes him and me? [Applause.]

The laws are unequal and there can be no equality until the laws, which are the fountain and source of our justice, are purged from inequality. Let us not be deceived by phrases. "Prove all things; hold fast to what is good"; says the free trade apostle. [Laughter.] And he was a manufacturer, too—he made tents. [Laughter.] I believe that the great purpose that we seek to accomplish can be successfully obtained by the proper amount of fearless and fair agitation.

There is still slavery. Bitter slavery, that from which we escaped by the great revolution of 1776, is behind us; domestic slavery, that which was liberated and set free by the great civil war, is behind us. The highest tribunal in this land has said that any kind of involuntary servitude is slavery, and there is financial slavery now, that holds us in its grip as tenaciously and as injuriously as any other that we have ever encountered. So long as men are not permitted to buy and sell where they please, they are in that respect as much slaves as when they were not permitted to do what they pleased with their bodies. The great economic question is to work a reconversion of the Nation, and I cannot doubt its glorious triumph in the near future. [Great applause.]

THE OTHER SPEAKERS.

The next speaker was Hilary A. Herbert, of Alabama, who answered to the toast "Tariff Reform." This is an extract from his speech:

I believe in free trade as a theory. The Protectionist sneers at you as theorists. Adam Smith was a theorist. Yet England adopted his theories as to free trade and in consequence has outstripped all the nations of the world in commerce. I believe we should continue to collect the bulk of our revenue from tariff taxation. That will give us the most perfection. What I do contend for is that when the law-maker puts his hand upon the subject of taxation his theory should be correct. Most of us at Washington who favored tariff reform pronounced the Tariff act of 1883 a sham and a fraud. Experience has proved that we were right. We propose to take a step forward. We believe that we must crawl before we can walk; so the act that is called the Morrison bill has been presented. [Applause.]

In responding to the toast, "The Prospect of Tariff Reform—Free Trade and Better Times," David A. Wells, of Connecticut, said:

Tariff reform has passed beyond the control of parties. The people of the country are going to compel it. No party can prevent it. We have carried our capacity for production far in excess of capacity to consume, and have in every department a store of goods that cannot be sold for a profit or even at cost. The result is a stagnation of industry, limitation of employment, and reduction of wages. The manufacturer can have better times when in larger markets he has increased demand for his wares. It is useless for him to expect prosperity under a continuation of the present system of taxation. Under this condition, with 600,000 laborers coming in here annually, what can the laborer expect but lessened wages? Yet there are men who propose as a remedy the taking off of the tax on whiskey and tobacco and letting everything else alone. Owing to our narrow commercial policy, we have incurred the ill-will of every nation on the globe, and they are taking measures to make us realize that trade is the mutual interchange of products and that when there is buying there must be selling. Tariff reform has got beyond parties and individuals, because necessities of the country demand it and there is no other relief. The men who stand back and say of this question "Let's dodge it," are the counterpart of the men who stood by when Noah was putting up the shutters and puffing in the gang plank and who said, "It's not going to be much of a shower." [Laughter and applause.]

George Haven Putnam was introduced to speak on the topic of "The Independent Voter in the State of New-York." He said:

The independent man doesn't want anything for himself. He wants other people to agree with him. He wants to find a party of convictions. He wants to find a party that will not alone put its expressions into planks to be forgotten, but into candidates who represent living ideas. He wants to find a party that has the courage of its convictions. If the Democratic party puts forward such leaders as Cleveland, Carlisle and Pendleton, it may win.

"Our Commercial Interests" was called out of order, to give Perry Belmont an opportunity to speak before midnight. He said, among other things:

Legislation cannot create a commerce. It can, however, do much to aid, encourage and foster it. It may impede and even destroy it. With us, war tariff continued beyond the necessities of a war period have deprived us of our rightful share of the world's commerce. The treaty-making power seeks to reciprocal advantages, to agreements for mutual benefits between nations, and commercial relations have their foundation in reciprocity. While the treaty-making power, therefore, has its duty to perform to the country, the legislative branch is already moving forward, keeping steadily in view all the great commercial and industrial interests of the Nation. The Democratic House of Representatives has the grateful task before it of lightening the burdens of taxation now resting upon the people, removing the restrictions from commerce, thus restoring to the flag its place upon the ocean and to the great Republic the commercial relations which belong to it in the family of nations. [Applause.]

"British Built Ships and the American Hog" was responded to by Captain John Codman; and "The City of New-York" by Orlando B. Potter. Captain James Parker spoke to "Our Shipping Interests," and Thomas G. Shearman closed the evening with a response to the toast, "The Tariff as it Affects Political Parties."

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

A NEW WESTERN POOL POSSIBLE.

CHICAGO, March 15.—Notwithstanding that the rate war was expected to occur next Monday, by reason of the dissolution of the Northwestern and Central Iowa Traffic Associations, the situation appears somewhat less warlike to-night. General Manager Hughitt, of the Northwestern, Assistant General Manager Miller, of the Milwaukee and St. Paul, and General Manager Cable, of the Rock Island Railroad, held a short meeting this afternoon, and it is confidently asserted that a meeting of the managers was called for next Monday or Tuesday, to form a pool, and that in the meantime the agents have been instructed to maintain the present rates.

FAILURE OF A AMALGAMATTION SCHEME.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WINNIPEG, March 15.—Duncan McArthur, vice-president of the Hudson Bay Railway Company, stated to-day that he and Sutherland were unable to agree as to the choice of president. Sutherland wanted the Dominion Government to make the appointment, and McArthur wanted the local Government to do so, on the ground that it is most concerned in its construction and operations. As they cannot agree, negotiations for the amalgamation are declared off, and a new company will be formed, and given the Dominion Government's land grant of 1,280 acres per mile. A failure to amalgamate is regarded as a blow to the scheme.

A RECEIVER TO BE DISCHARGED.

CHICAGO, March 15.—The stockholders of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Company had a hearing before Judge Drummond, in the United States Circuit Court, to-day, on the application to have the receiver discharged and enable the road to pass again into the control of the owners. The proceedings were entirely of a friendly character. The earnings of the line have steadily increased under the management of Receiver Douglass, and his reports presented to the Court to-day disclosed that sufficient available funds are now on hand to meet all the outstanding debts of the receivership. A decree was submitted by the Court, which will be entered this afternoon, the petitioners furnishing a bond in the sum of $500,000 to secure the payment of certain outstanding intervening claims not yet passed upon by the Court, and the receivership will close in the early part of next week.

MISCELLANEOUS RAILROAD INTELLIGENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—Officials of the Chespeake and Delaware Canal and Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Companies this afternoon agreed that the former should increase its tolls, so as to receive a fair return from its traffic, and that the railroad company should not interfere by a damaging competition in rates.

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—Pennsylvania railroad officials state that they are in ignorance of any intention upon the part of Mr. Dessmore to withdraw his injunction suit against the Central Railroad of New-Jersey and Philadelphia and Reading Companies, and they also declare that no negotiations have been entered into for the execution of a new contract with regard to the operation of the New-York and Long Branch Railroad.

BOSTON, March 15.—Further hearings in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New-York on the question of the confirmation of Mr. Clark as receiver of the New-York and New-England Railroad Company have been postponed at the request of the persons opposing the confirmation, the request being accompanied with the suggestion of an amicable settlement of the whole matter.

BOSTON, March 15.—Governor Robinson has signed the bill authorizing the New-York and New-England Railroad to issue 50,000 shares of preferred stock.

CHICAGO, March 11.—*The Tribune* this morning intimated that the Northwestern Railroad Company intended to compete with the Union Pacific road west to Denver by an extension of the Sioux City and Pacific Line. General Manager Hughitt denies this.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 15.—The United States Circuit Court extends the power of Thomas R. Sharp, receiver, over that portion of the Ohio Central Railroad lying between Corning, Ohio, and the Ohio River. In the three cases of Nelson Robinson, et al., Owen & Johnson and the Central Trust Company of New-York against the road, the question involved was a conflict of jurisdiction between the United States District Courts for West Virginia and Southern Ohio, and is decided in favor of the former.

The directors of the Brooklyn and Long Island Cable Railway Company met at No. 115 Broadway yesterday and chose the following officers: President, J. Rogers Maxwell; vice-president, William Richardson; treasurer, Newberry H. Frost; and secretary, Charles Bruff. A resolution was adopted authorizing the officers of the company to apply to the Mayor and Common Council of Brooklyn for authority to construct an elevated railway in that city, to be operated by a wire cable.

OBITUARY NOTES.

Asher C. Havens died at his home, No. 306 East Fifteenth-st., early yesterday morning of apoplexy at the age of sixty-five. He was born in this city August 24, 1819, and for the greater part of his life was engaged in the grocery and commission business, in which he succeeded his father. Four years ago he retired from active participation in the business, although he never lost his interest in it and was at the office of his son, Henry P. Havens, in West-st., almost every day. He was one of the oldest members of the Produce Exchange. He leaves six children, of whom a son and three daughters are married, and one son and a daughter are under age. The funeral will take place on Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Navy Department is informed that Paymaster A. A. Belknap, retired, died at Bellvale, near Warwick, Orange County, N. Y., on March 14. He had been an invalid for a number of years.

PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—Dr. Alfred L. Elwyn died suddenly at his home here to-day. He was born in Portsmouth, N. H., and was the grandson of John Langdon, the first Continental Governor of New-Hampshire, who gave his private means to General Stark to fight the battle of Bennington. He was the author of the first dictionary on "Americanisms" and also of a number of reviews published in *The North American Review*. He was a good classical scholar.

RUTLAND, Vt., March 15.—N. P. Simons, superintendent of the Marble Company, who was struck by the cars yesterday at Centre Rutland, died this morning. He was an ex-Senator, and prominent in business and social circles.

A SPECIAL SHOW AT BARNUM'S CIRCUS.

A select few gathered in Madison Square Garden yesterday afternoon after the large audience had been dismissed. They had been invited to witness the performance of the Nautch girls and several other inhabitants of distant climes. Several clergymen had been invited to form part of the audience, but their parochial duties must have detained them. When every one was seated, T. H. Davis, who acts as universal interpreter, led two tall, gaunt men to the central stage. They had long, shaggy, black hair and beard, and were wrapped in linen sheeting. Their names are Parathal and Kimeer, and they are Todas Indians. They stamped energetically about the stage in their stocking feet, and sang a mournful melody which Mr. Davis said was a "Syce's song." A "syce" is a grass-cutter. Then the Nautch girls stepped forward. Their names are Oomed, Hoosain and Annair, and they were dressed in close-fitting costumes of red, blue and green. There was more mournful singing in a minor key in unison, and a few steps of a slow dance. The Nautch girls were followed by a couple of Afghans, one whom, named Assan Chan, startled the elephants into bass trumpeting, and scared the audience by firing off a huge blunderous shot once a second. Mr. Davis had to jump on him to make him stop. In his native town he bears the reputation of being a "tough" citizen. A couple of scantily attired Zulus and thirteen Nubians who smacked somewhat of the San Francisco Minstrels, did a war song and dance, and then the entertainment was over.

A VESSEL BELIEVED TO BE LOST.

The schooner Almira Wooley, which left New-York on February 27 bound for Norfolk, Va., has not been heard from since March 3, when she was in distress, and it is believed that she has gone down with all her crew. On that day the vessel was sighted by the freight steamboat Vindobala, which has since reached Baltimore, in latitude 36° 9', longitude 69° 23'. The schooner had her sails furled and was flying a flag with the ensign down from her mizzen rigging. The schooner appeared to be leaking and all hands were at the pump, but no attention was paid to the offer of the steamer to take off the crew. Nevertheless the Vindobala changed her course and for three hours followed the Almira Wooley. A gale which was raging at the time increased to a hurricane and the schooner was lost sight of. She was commanded by Captain Rackett, an experienced navigator, and had six men in her crew. She was built in 1867 at Greenpoint and measured 224 tons.

GOING TO FIGHT THE "MACHINE."

PITTSBURG, March 15.—The mass-meeting of Independent Republicans to-night was one of the largest and most representative political assemblages ever held in this city. Spirited addresses denouncing the action of the Republican County Committee in attempting to insure the selection of Arthur delegates to the Chicago Convention were made by Representative Bayne, of the XXIId Congressional District; John Jarrett, ex-president of the Amalgamated Association, and others. At the conclusion of the speeches, a resolution was adopted declaring in favor of the proposition to fight the "Machine" on its own ground. A committee will be organized to carry on the work and to secure the election of Blaine delegates.

GOSSIP IN LONDON.

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entitled "Bleeding to Death" in which it says: "The life blood of Ireland is being drawn by vampires. Every one who has an interest in the country must gird his loins against this murderous union. The extermination of the Irish people has long been the traditional aim of the English rulers. The present Executive's will is set on actively promoting the murderous system which has already robbed the country of five or six millions of people."

The United Ireland devotes an article to the same subject which it entitles: "Killing a nation by inches." It says: "For all practical purposes Ireland is suffering a more awful drain of manhood than if engaged in a deadly conflict with a first class European power. She has lost since the Union more men than France lost in all the sanguinary wars of Napoleon. At least eight millions of people have been immolated in eighty years to the demon of English supremacy. Three millions of people, whose brawny frames supplied the physical force of the Repeal meetings, were missing in 1852 when the census enumerators came to count them. Two million nine hundred and thirteen thousand of the population, who were spared by famine, have been starved or transported since. The waste goes on faster and more furiously. Within the last year alone Ireland lost 105,000 emigrants, 71,000 of whom were single adults."

NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAN DOMINGO.

The Bullionist asserts that negotiations are proceeding with the Government at Washington for the lease of Samana Bay from San Domingo. The Government, it says, will give the bondholders of the Samana Bay Company the first claim on the money paid to San Domingo. The bonds will thus be guaranteed by the American Government.

CONTINENTAL TRIP OF THE QUEEN.

It is doubtful whether the Queen will be able to go to Darmstadt to attend the wedding of her grand-daughter the Princess Victoria of Hesse. Her condition is pronounced to be precarious. She is apparently in good health one day and the next she suffers extreme fits of depression. If she goes two physicians will accompany her, and she will be attended by a very limited suite, consisting only of the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby, her private secretary, one equerry and two ladies. A quiet retreat at Kronichstein, three miles from Darmstadt