

From The New-York Tribune, February 7, 1885.

AN OLD CHALLENGE WIDENED.

THE TRIBUNE made a quiet statement of circulation the other day. It disappeared, nobody questioned nothing, and no one has been saying, and given no advertiser access to absolute sworn proof of the accuracy of its own statements. We are not at all proud to see that the Tribune has brought great distress upon the New-York Times, which exhausts itself in an effort to show that there must have been an enormous number of circulation of THE DAILY TRIBUNE, a three-cent newspaper, averaged during the rest of the week after election, over 200,000 copies per day than the highest of the two-cent New-York Times ventured to claim for its highest day; the advantage of pressmen, paper-makers and carriers, proving that it was an exhibition of the New-York Times for one week as announced was 1,202,110 copies, and the returns for the week were less than three per cent!

If anything more is wanted, this thing can be brought to a head very soon. We hereby offer to give a perfectly fair and impartial committee, the president of the American News Company, the president of the Adams Express Company, and either the Editor of The Sun or of The World, as The Times may prefer, full access to our books and records with full right to examine employees and other witnesses to ascertain the exact number of copies from this date, provided either the last week of month from this date, provided The Times will do the same, on the sole condition that their report as to the circulation of each paper shall be conclusively printed for one week or one month at the head of the editorial columns in both.—Tribune of Nov. 14, 1884.

The above was published in answer to the enormous effort by The New-York Times to depreciate THE TRIBUNE'S circulation. The Times did not dare to meet the challenge. It was published in a dozen or more issues, but THE TRIBUNE could not be goaded into accepting our offer.

We believe the disparity in the circulation of the two papers to be much greater now than it was then. The new year brought a great increase to THE TRIBUNE, and much of it seemed to come directly from former readers of The Times. Our belief is that at present the regular circulation of THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE is more than five times that of The Weekly Times; of THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE four times that of The Semi-Weekly Times; and of THE DAILY and SUNDAY TRIBUNE double that of The Daily and Sunday Times. We shall gladly open our books and press-room to the impartial committee above named, on the same terms above stated, for an authoritative decision of the question.

Index to Advertisements.

Table with 3 columns: Advertisements, Page, Col. Includes entries for Amusements, Announcements, Auctions, etc.

Business Notices.

ANGOSTURA BITTERS has been for over fifty years the acknowledged standard regulator of the digestive organs—the sure way to get the genuine article.

LELAND HOTEL.

The best location in New York.

PILES—PILES—PILES.

Cured without pain. Dr. Cassin, 11 East 20th-st.

THE BRINKERHOFF SYSTEM OF CURING PILES.

Address: 11 East 20th-st., New York.

TRIBUTE TERMS TO MAIL SUBSCRIBERS.

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ADVERTISING RATES OF THE TRIBUNE.

Daily: 10c, 40c, 60c, \$1 and \$2 per line.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, FEB. 8.

TWELVE PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Nothing definite from the Sudan regarding Gordon. The seizure of the Lower Congo by Portugal formally announced.

MASS.—Joseph Grinnell, at New-Bedford, Mass., William Forrester, in Baltimore, the mother of Lieutenant Schwaka, in Illinois, are dead.

CONGRESS.—The bill to authorize a retired list for privates and non-commissioned officers passed in the Senate. The House considered the Herd and Harbor bill.

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pliable in view of the excellent training of all the company's employees. Then the dripping of the burning oil both into the river and to the streets beneath the high bridge kindled an extensive conflagration, such as New-Brunswick has seldom or never suffered from before. So far as the fire is concerned it is impossible to see how any amount of precaution on anybody's part could have prevented it. Doubtless an interesting legal question will arise as to the railway company's responsibility in damages to the manufacturers whose property has been indirectly destroyed by it.

The threat of the Democratic Senators to remove Commissioner Squire from the Aqueduct Board, unless he gives them patronage, is almost too silly to be worthy of consideration. Republican Senators would do well not to allow themselves to be used to pull Democratic chestnuts out of the fire. No such bill is likely to become a law. But if the Senators are really desirous of passing a measure concerning the Department which the public interests demand, they should repeal the law allowing the Commissioner of Public Works to spend \$1,000,000 a year in increasing the water supply. If such an expenditure is needed in addition to that made under the Aqueduct Board it should be made under the approval of the Board of Estimate. The million referred to is now expended under an old Tweed law without any other supervision than that of the department head. The Senate should also adopt a law making it impossible to let contracts on unbalanced bids.

If American yachtsmen just now cannot be trimming their sails and making everything snug below and above, on account of the winter weather, they should at least be preparing to get about this work early in the spring. The America cup, won by the schooner yacht America, at Cowes, in 1851, is in danger. At least English yachtsmen are making vigorous preparations to take it from us this summer. Two model boats will sail from England presently to contest for this trophy in our waters. There is some talk among Americans of building a new yacht to struggle against the British sailors, and if that is decided upon, it should be done quickly. It is possible, however, that Englishmen of all grades will be so occupied in defending England's honor in Egypt and elsewhere for the next year or so that they will not have time to enter into friendly contests for anything this summer. It will be remarked that the owner of one of the English yachts is a Lieutenant in the British Navy.

THE SUDAN CRISIS.

Public indignation in England against the Ministry is not abating. Our special cable dispatch shows that the Nation has been profoundly moved by the fate of General Gordon. The semi-civilized races among which he has labored have often ascribed to him supernatural powers. The short walking-stick with which he directed the movements of his soldiers in China was transformed into a magician's wand. His rapid camel-rides and intrepid bearing in the Western Sudan startled the Arabs and convinced them that he was a weird genius of the desert. His name now seems to be one to conjure with, even in sober-minded, steady-going England. The mystery enveloping his fate imparts intensity to public admiration of his heroism and genius. The sudden disappearance of that commanding figure from the ramparts of Khartoum is accounted a National disgrace and a catastrophe. If a British army had been massaged the imagination of the people would not have been more powerfully swayed. The Nation as one man imperiously demands a vigorous prosecution of the war and is merciless in its censure of the Government. General Gordon is either to be rescued or his death avenged. Thousands of lives are to be hazarded and millions of treasure expended in this crusade of retributive justice against the modern Saracens. And the English people have practical instincts, too, and ordinarily dislike to shed the blood of barbarous race and are careful to count the cost of a campaign in pounds sterling!

MR. CONWAY ON BUDDHISM.

Mr. Moncreuf D. Conway gives an interesting sketch of Ceylon Buddhists in to-day's TRIBUNE. His conversation with the Cinghalese priests on points of Buddhist doctrine resulted in his discovery of an archaic proof of liberal views on the part of the founder of the religion, though it will hardly do to assume that this is news to students, since the breadth and catholicity of Buddha's doctrine have been commented on by many writers. The Cinghalese priest's statement about Nirvana must also be taken with several grains of allowance. There is no good reason for doubting that the view of Nirvana held by the best informed Buddhists postulates a conscious existence, but under conditions, or absence of conditions, absolutely inconceivable to a finite intelligence.

In fact the Nirvana of esoteric Buddhism really occupies a position analogous to the "Unknowable" of the Agnostics. Mr. Conway found no difficulty in entangling the Cinghalese priests in dialectical difficulties in regard to the Buddhist doctrine about animal life, but after all they appear to have sustained themselves with a good deal of ingenuity, if not with much rationality. The paper will be found interesting as containing fresh information about a little-exploited people, and a faith which has attracted much attention of late in Europe.

THE ROLLER-SKATING CRAZE.

Roller skating is becoming the national vice. The craze over it is spreading rapidly, and is seizing every class of the community. A great army of stunted men are coming money by providing facilities for it; while a goodly percentage of the public have forsaken all other forms of amusement and cleave to roller skating only. A literature, ephemeral but voluminous, has sprung up to give voice to the passion; and the funny men of the comic papers have stopped joking about spring poets and mother-in-law while they illustrate in prose and poetry the humors of "rinking." The use of the last word reminds us that the craze has evolved its vocabulary as well as a literature; and no reader of the news of the day can miss seeing frequent references to "graceful rinkers," "skating ability," "a good roller town," "a rinkulating public," etc.

Roller skating has many objectionable features, as THE TRIBUNE has already shown; but its growth into a sudden popularity has a humorous and grotesque side as well. The clergy have probably enough called attention to the evils incident to it; though unfortunately their zeal has sometimes been greater than their discretion, as when one of them a few months ago informed his horrified congregation that had it not been for skating rinks thousands of young people would never have fallen. He had heard casually that young people frequently fell in these places, and supposed that a fall into an was meant. It is also a well-attested fact that the clergy have unwittingly done much to advertise the pastime by preaching against it; and many rinks in country towns have attained their popularity largely in this way.

We read of an old man in Michigan eighty years of age learning to skate, and thus getting rid of numerous diseases that had threatened to shorten his days. The teachers and pupils of a large school in Illinois adjourned in a body the other day, and went to one of the rinks of the town, where they found the trustees already on rollers, "rinkulating" to the inspiring strains of a local brass band. The citizens of Milwaukee are said to have forgotten the taste of beer in their eagerness to learn roller skating; and the latest details about a fresh dynamite outrage or Mr. Cleveland's Cabinet do not excite as much attention as the record of some star of the rink. An Arizona editor describes the advance of the popular craze into that peaceful Territory, and calls upon all loyal citizens to oppose the epidemic. "We can fail," he durs, "easily enough now, without getting on these damned tenderfoot machines."

NO GROUND FOR ALARM.

Professor Ely, of Johns Hopkins University, is quoted as saying, in reference to the recent dynamite crimes: "I believe we are just beginning to enter on a terrible era in the world's history—an era of internal and domestic warfare such as has never been seen, and the end of which only 'the Almighty can forestall.' It is a pity that Professor Ely should have said this, if he did say it, because the utterances of men occupying prominent positions are apt to produce a serious impression, and also because there is really no ground for any such gloomy and sensational forecast. As, however, many timid people are liable to be alarmed by the signs of the times and by such dark predictions as the above, it is worth while to show the unreasonableness of all grave apprehensions concerning the future.

The current of civilization is a broad and powerful stream, fed by innumerable tributaries of inherited tendency, and flowing with incalculable weight and force in the direction of aggregated present social evolution. Now present social evolution, being the sum of social efforts at advancement, shows clearly the lines of greatest energy. The great mass of men are plainly working up toward better conditions by thoroughly peaceful, legitimate and natural methods. Development, in fact, is the characteristic of modern civilization; and since education is more diffused than ever, and since because of this the common mind is less conservative and more receptive of new ideas, the obstacles to necessary reforms are feeble, and change for the better is so easy as to justify all reasonable expectation.

This is why there is no ground for alarm in the present symptoms of discontent and disorder appearing here and there. These symptoms merely indicate a surface disturbance. Trade and industry all through the world have been depressed for a considerable period. As a consequence there has been much suffering, and this has bred discontent, and some turbulence. But whoever desires to comprehend fully the significance of this surface agitation should study English history from 1815 to the passage of the Reform bill. During that period all England suffered from disturbances which in these days would seem to imply hopeless anarchy. There was no dynamite then, but incendiaries did more mischief than dynamite has ever done. Famine, riots, organized outrages, brigandage, epidemic disease, made the country seem a Pandemonium, and this continued for years, and grew worse instead of better, until the timid had some excuse for thinking that a general breaking-up of society was imminent. But all that condition of disorder passed away so quickly with the return of prosperity that if we had not historical records to inform us we might doubt the facts.

The great current of civilization went steadily on, unaffected by the foam and the ripples and swirls which agitated the surface of the stream. And just so will it be with all the present disturbances. Civilization is too firmly planted in the hearts and natures of men to be shaken by the lawlessness of a few restless people. These may make a good deal of noise for their numbers, but they cannot upset anything. Evolution, not revolution, is the process by which all necessary changes will be made. Dynamite will play no important part in the future, unless it be as the servant of engineering science. There is no basis for apprehension. The world will go on in its slow but sure way to improve its conditions, and it will neither be bullied nor hurried into the adoption of abnormal methods. And in the future, as now, the influence of American institutions, the spread of democracy in Europe, will prove invaluable in preventing dangerous explosions.

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wires that a Michigan young woman has threatened to commit suicide unless her father allows her to go roller-skating. She rejects with scorn her sire's offer to compromise by letting her go to all the minstrel shows that come into the town, and declares that the issue is roller-skating or death. With this spirit abroad in the country it is not wonderful that the travelling theatrical companies are doing a poor business, and that many ambitious actors have been obliged to come back to the "Rialto" in this city "on their uppers."

In the midst of all this hubbub the verdict of the physician and the moralist on the evil results of roller-skating is unheeded, and the fun goes merrily on. All this is not particularly creditable to the good sense of the American people; but the reaction will probably come some day. The rinks with their high-sounding and bizarre names will be turned into theatres, churches, or cheap museums; several millions of roller-skates will be cast aside in garrets or woodsheds, and the shifting miscreant people who now patronize the seductive rink will throw all their abounding enthusiasm into some newer craze.

A paragraph the Democratic press never tires of quoting conveys the information that Mr. Cleveland has not been too ill a day in his life to respond to the call of duty. If Uncle Sammy Tilden sees nothing personal in this, we shall not be mean enough to point it out.

The public "wanted that badly"—the convenient clock in front of the Fifth Avenue Hotel in Madison Square—and are proportionately grateful for its restoration.

How the dry bones shake! The man who watches the recent resurrection of those long-forgotten Bourbon mummies need not draw on his imagination to believe the legend of Rip Van Winkle.

We learn from The New-Orleans Times-Democrat that "the Tomb Committee of the Army of the Tennessee" have secured Carl Schurz to deliver a lecture "for the benefit of their tomb fund." The tomb in which lies buried Mr. Schurz's reputation for candor and self-respect might serve him as a subject for a decidedly interesting lecture, if he would give the tomb its due.

General Stone makes a shrewd comment on the Arab nature in the hope he excited the British army of a safe retreat from Metemah while El Mahdi's forces are plundering Khartoum. The Republican party is in a position similar to that of the British troops in Egypt. Treacherously defeated at one point by a dishonest defector, it has the opportunity of rallying while the Democracy fills its aching void with the spoils of its victory. Democrats are a good deal like Arabs, and we are obliged to General Stone for suggesting this interesting comparison.

Mr. Robert Capper, the disillusioned Britisher who recently published an account of his travels in America that instantly exposed him to merciless ridicule, has made a very lame defence in the columns of The Fall Mall Gazette. He admits very reluctantly that his personal impressions of the width of Broadway and the area of Central Park may have been totally wrong, but insists that they "represent an individual experience." He says that he spent two Sundays or three weeks in the United States, using his time discreetly, and seeing all there was to be seen; but he concludes that a great deal depends upon the kind of spectacles a man has on when passing through a new country. In Capper's case the fault did not lie with the spectacles, but with the eyes. He brought his spectacles to the United States on a very green pair to be sure, but still good spectacles; but unfortunately he left his eyes at home and could not see through his glasses.

A telegram from Washington states that quarters have been engaged in that city for 1,000 Tammanyites who purpose to attend the inauguration ceremonies. It is unnecessary to add that the delegation will take its Jeffersonian simplicity straight, with a piece of lemon peel and a dash of bitters.

After some more dozens of indictments are found against James D. Fish, perhaps the old idea of trying him will strike the authorities.

Mr. Carroll D. Wright, the new Commissioner of Labor, in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior accepting his appointment, states very sensibly his idea of the course which the Bureau should pursue in order to attain the highest usefulness, which is, substantially, that which has made the reports of the Massachusetts Bureau so valuable and so highly respected by men of all shades of opinion. He appears to be the right man for the place.

The people of Suffolk County are unhappy because Kings County has purchased a large farm there on which to erect branch lunatic asylums. There seems to be no good reason for this opposition. The asylums are not a source of danger in Kings County, and there is no reason to suppose that they will be any more dangerous in Suffolk County. The advantage of housing the insane in separate buildings on a large farm is now generally recognized by insanity experts. An opportunity was made two years ago for the purchase of such a farm for New-York; but there has been an unaccountable delay in making the purchase.

Of making many sects there seems to be no end. Two new ones are announced. One, in Russia, is that of the "Jerusalemists." Each of its members wears constantly on his breast a card bearing a printed dispensation from the Patriarch of Jerusalem, and is pledged to visit that city at least once in his life. All religious gatherings of the sect are held at night and with no other light than that of faith. The other sect is in Paris. Its members call themselves "Anti-Deists," and are pledged to do their utmost to suppress the name of the Deity in all languages, even to the word "adieu"; also, to attend the death-beds of their fellows and see to it that they die uttering renouncing every idea of God and future existence. They have published a book of hymns, and parody all Christian rites, such as baptism, marriage, the Lord's Supper, etc. Their motto is "Dieu vous fennemi." But they evidently find difficulty in accomplishing themselves to the requirements of their alleged faith, for one of their "preachers," asked if he really intended to devote his life to the abolition of the Deity, replied: "Certainly I am an Anti-Deist all through, by God!" Certainly it was not a very consistent answer. Probably the greatest evil of such sects here in the world is to show that infidelity is just as bigoted and just as fanatical as any system of theology.

If Commissioner Rollin M. Squire is fond of extreme changes in weather, metaphorically speaking, he has no reason to complain of his Democratic friends. They have met him with a torrid sun of battery and kindness, and frozen him with an Arctic chill of ill-treatment. It is certainly embarrassing to be forced to choose between two such unorienting enemies as the Tammany crowd and the County Democracy.

A rich widow of Quebec, following the edifying example of the rich widow of Staten Island, has married her young and gallant coachman. In the interest of their domestic felicity we trust the coachman will not rudely terminate their mutual happiness by dying off, after the manner of his insular brother. But if he does, we advise the authorities to institute a post-mortem examination. If there is a lodestone of fascination concealed anywhere in the organism of a coachman, the public ought to know it.

It would appear that the Jews of Damnat, a city and province of Morocco, are having a pretty hard time. Until recently it had been their custom to pay backsheesh to one or more of the wandering tribes of the vicinity, who in return furnished them with fairly good police protection. But the Governor of Damnat, being in a state of chronic hardness, smote his beard when he heard of this arrangement on the part of the Jews, and declared that it was a shame to waste good backsheesh on a lot of wandering tribes. He therefore issued a decree that hereafter he would protect the lives and property of the Jews himself, and ordered them to pay him for this service. The Jews obeyed this

command willingly enough, and paid the Governor every week in advance. But the Governor, who knew a good thing when he saw it, soon ordered his police to break into the shops of the Jews at night, and seize for him a goodly portion of the contents. In vain the Jews protested against this; the Governor has persisted in his course of spoliation, knowing that the general unpopularity of the Jews would prevent his being called to account. The Jews now look back with longing to the time when they were protected by barbarous but honest tribes

PERSONAL.

Duncan C. Ross, the athlete, says the story of his intention to enter the military is all nonsense.

Daniel Stewart, of Allegheny City, Penn., says he is the oldest brother of General Stewart, the hero of Abu Klea and Shebaat Wells.

The Rev. Charles F. Thwing just chosen president of Grinnell College, Iowa, is a descendant of Stephen Hopkins, the Pilgrim, who came to Plymouth in the Mayflower in 1620. Mr. Thwing's great-great-grandfather, Prince Hopkins, was born at Harwick, Mass., in 1739, and moved to New-Sharon, Me., in 1804, driving his sheep and cattle before him through what was then a most a wilderness.

Mr. Moody,