SERMONS WORTH KEEPING.

XIX.

PRACTICAL VIEWS FROM A UNITARIAN.

THE REV. MERLE ST. CROIX WRIGHT IN THE LENOX AVENUE CHURCH.

Unitarians are sometimes charged with simply holding the ground they have had for years, while other denominations are keeping pace with the growth of the country, and in not a few cases exceeding it. But there has been a notable exception to this rule, if it be one, in this city. Five years ago the Rev. Merle St. Croix Wright, a young man twenty-eight years old, came to this city and began a work in Harlem. Since then he has gathered a flourishing congregation and erected a fine church building. His aim has been not to have a "seventh day" church so much as a "seven days'" church, and he has been remarkably successful in his undertaking. His people entered their new structure a year ago last October, and in addition to their Sunday services they have many collateral activities—a gymnasium, a young people's society, a working-girls' club, a ladies' aid society, etc. At the morning service yesterday the church was filled, as usual, when Mr. Wright began his sermon.

THE REV. MERLE ST. C. WRIGHT.

He first referred to his sermon of last Sunday, when he spoke upon "Who Are the Believers?" He gave a resume of that discourse, and then announced that the day's sermon would be a continuation of that theme—"a theme," he said, "so practical and necessary both to our own self-respect and to our position in the community, and to the reanimation of our courage as fighters in the great battle of life and righteousness."

The text chosen was: "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil." He said:

A French critic has said that the hatred of evil is the indispensable complement of the love of life. A man cannot strongly desire a thing, and found his strength and well being upon its assurance and security, and not hate and instantly rise up in warfare against anything which shall imperil or assail it. If weakened from any cause, be it the body of our best friend weakened by sickness, we rise up against that which is to us an evil, though not necessarily a moral one, and call in the physician to combat it. In this case we have no hatred against the

LENOX AVENUE UNITARIAN CHURCH.

thing in itself, but we employ every means to drive it out. Here, then, is the distinction which I would emphasize between hating the evil and loving the one in whom it is found. No matter how low and degraded a villain a man may be, still it is our duty to discriminate, to hate the evil, but to love, with that love which is enduring and beneficial, the personal being who is the instrument and bearer of it, believing that through this long-suffering love such a one can be brought to a new plane of life and there established as a true man.

That is, in some measure, the meaning of the text, as well as of those passages in the Psalms where it is said we hate the wicked. Though in old times, doubtless, the hatred referred to was carnal and worldly, we can understand it now in that way which shall make it tolerable and a discipline to us, being angry and grieving not, maintaining our integrity as divine human beings, and at the same time against every spot of evil from without.

To love the Lord and hate evil should be the right and the left hand of Christian manhood. We are not to be one-sided. Every affirmation implies its negation. That is the vindication and the explanation for all apparent negation in larger affirmative belief. That shows how a man may sometimes emphasize the negative and sometimes the affirmative side. If he emphasize the negative, it is because he lives by a larger affirmative. But if he lives the affirmative, it is because he is above all negation.

The first things which present themselves in life, in history and in the individual being are error and evil. Not from their own standpoint; only as viewed from the standpoint of us who have passed beyond and can comprehend and criticise that standpoint. Since we are all of us imperfect beings, the first view must be a limited and defective one. We were never perfect, orthodoxy to the contrary! We started ignorant and innocent at the best. Ignorance is not a safeguard against vice. It is not a prophylactic against error. The moment we advance from these two positions we are most liable to step into error. Given innocence and ignorance, and this pushing, active, blind life in us which sends us into exercise and affirmation, we hardly know where we step into error and into evil. That is the origin of that mythological statement about the Fall of Man. Then come criticism, reflection and consideration, and the error is parted from the truth. Not perfectly again, but according to the insight and strength of men. And once more a new start is taken, and that little germ of evil and error which lay there begins to ferment and to leaven the lump, and once more there is a tumid excrescence, and error and evil make themselves manifest, and there are reform and excision.

My reason for making that statement is that those things being first in the field, and truth and goodness in their beauty and completeness being last in the field, if there shall be any progress and advance at all the man who makes it must first begin, at least implicitly and tacitly, by a denial, an operation, an excision, a removal of the error in order to have room for the new. The first aspect of any faith, religious, or political, or scientific, is to deny and renounce that which of late was bad, but to deny only in the interest of a larger affirmation; to denounce only that it may announce. That is the characteristic of that Old Testament and New Testament Book which we call our Bible, and whence many of the sects derive all of their truth. Jesus, despite the statement that He came to fulfil and not destroy, did virtually destroy the old forms by filling them too full, so that there was a new faith and life after He had got through with it. It is impossible to be so wholly and exclusively affirmative that no signs of negation can appear. Negation has its place, and is entirely correct if we balance and weigh it by a greater affirmation. That is the only safeguard and commission of the radical, that he shall know what he is doing. The only justification needed is not to forget the end in the means. We deny only in the interest of the larger affirmation. That is the duty, liberalism, and that is the virtue we claim, which lie explicit or implicit in it.

There were never such unbelievers, in the popular gaze, as the Christians in the first centuries of our era. They were called atheists and irreverent. They had a field so expansive and continuous and complete that the mind of the pagans could not grasp it. Every one of the great movements of Christendom has started as a negative movement. Protestantism is the religion of protest; dissent is the religion of dissent; non-conformity, something which did not agree to the accepted canons and conventions. The only method of advance and progress and reformation, the only safety and salvation of the race, the only hope of humanity lie not in those who with clinched fists conserve in that old-fashioned way what has once been delivered to the saints, but in those who have penetration of mind sufficient, and resolution and will sufficient, to see the evil in a thing and come out from it to condemn it, rebuke it, blast it, wither it; to say that it is false and that there is a larger truth which they hold and state. Such men are the leaders, the reformers, the pioneers of the race—the men who lead into the new "promised land," which soon shall be left for the "promised land" of the future, greater yet in the provision of God's providence.

The speaker then read a number of extracts from the writings of Canon Freemantle, to whom he referred as "so free and yet so reverent," and commented upon each in passing, saying among other things:

This authority declares: "There is a saying that criticism founds nothing; that fanaticism alone is cheated. There is an impression that there's more danger from the negation of truth than from the affirmation of error. . . . It is at least doubtful whether it is worse to deny the truth altogether than to affirm it in a form which, by exaggeration, perverts it."

Both questions are equally false. Criticism is judgment, is examination, is self-scrutiny, is the regulating principle in every affirmation and action. Although things are rarely founded by criticism, still the guiding of that creative power is criticism and always must be. Fanaticism is merely the name for this activity or creative force when exaggerated and distorted. Fanaticism, if it does found, founds things which must be taken down, block by block, and stone by stone oftentimes. Take Brahmanism, with its iron ceremonial; Pharisaism, with its external authority; Romanism, where the spirit is nothing and the letter is all, where is that room for the swelling of divine dissatisfaction? There is none. So men expand themselves and thrust out their elbows in the press and throng of things until they can breathe and their voices may be heard.

It may be said, with truth, that the greatest founders have been also the greatest destroyers. There are a great many people who let the tares grow with the wheat till the last day. But the farmers do not. They had rather have a quarter as much good seed in their seed-plot and no tares than twice as much of tares and wheat. Which means that men of progress would rather have a minimum of affirmation and remove all exaggeration than to have the contrary prevail. Truth may be likened to a stalwart forest tree, around which is clinging the vine of superstition, which is gradually sapping away its life juices. Negation is often directed against the integument which ought to pass away, and not against the truth which is destined to remain.

Consider the actions of a child and of a man arrived at maturity. The child is impulsive; knows nothing about the things of the world; everything seems simple and easy. All its passions are quick; its imagination is warm and fresh. It moves by an exaggeration, this way and that, perpetually oscillating and jostling in its life. How is it with a man at maturity? He has been through that experience. He sees others going through it. He studies self-control; plans in advance; looks into the past in order that he may foresee the future; keeps wisely within the lines of what is practical and real; criticises himself at every step; does not knock his head against the wall, but feels for the wall and goes through the narrow passage at the side of it. He spends less power than the child, but it is more effective.

That is exactly the way it is in religion. There are emotions which are explosive and noisy; feelings which must go off in song and fume and smoke; gestures, dances, all sorts of expressions. These are not confined to the lower orders of mankind, but we see them about us every day. Then there are emotions which are tenacious and intense, but silent; the affections of the home; the pieties of the natural life; the feelings lifted up toward God and nature; things which are more powerful, by far, than those cries and gestures, which befit those who have been disciplined and trained, which show themselves by the fulness of power poured into those moulds and forces, from which shall result truth and righteousness and the repose of institutions and the creation of character and the salvation of men. These men deny, if they do deny, only the superfluities, the exaggerations and the excrescences, but they do conserve the power in its purity. That is the vindication of negation in that sense, and of criticism in that sense which is alone true, because it refines, guides, controls, purifies the life, prevents outward waste and multiplies inward power.

That is the exact parallel to the new theology and thought about God. So I urge you not to be afraid of your negations; not to be afraid of the critical spirit, but only to know that this must be countervailed and supplemented by a positive construction. There are times when it is better to tear down, even if we have nothing to put in its place, because what is torn down is strangling and choking out the life. But generally we should have something to replace. We should know what we are doing; we should have the life as large as the criticism, or larger; but, having it, fear not for any form of words; but, having it, stand up and strike the blow, knowing that though death itself is at the end of it, it shall, by the mystery of divine power, be made life, both to yourself and the one who is stricken, by doing it humbly and in the spirit of the Divine.

THE CHILDREN ALONE ARE HAPPY.

MRS. KIERSEY NOW FULLY REALIZES HER GREAT LOSS.

Mrs. Kiersey, the wife of Joseph Kiersey, who in his delirium on Thursday last killed himself by pouring kerosene oil over his body and setting fire to it, is just beginning to realize the loneliness of her condition. She had been kept up by the excitement before the burial of her husband on Saturday. When she returned with a brother-in-law from the new-made grave in the Lutheran Cemetery to her sad home she realized that a kind and loving husband and father had been taken away. She bore up bravely under the kindly consolation given by the Rev. Gustave Somers, who has been in constant attendance since the sad tragedy.

The children, who do not realize their mother's and their own loss, laugh and romp about the small apartments, happy in the thought that they have at last warm clothing and sufficient to eat, through the charity and kindness of the many persons who have helped the family in their sore distress. Gifts of food and clothing have been received in plenty, while the money subscriptions continue to pour in. As each additional token of sympathy comes to her the poor woman is touched to tears and pours out her feelings in words of gratitude. Her hands, which were badly burned, still give her great pain, but she heroically continues to take care of her sick infant, Willie, who also had a narrow escape from cremation.

Through the aid of the subscriptions Mrs. Kiersey purposes to secure comfortable apartments, and, when able, obtain employment.

FOR A CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH.

At the meeting of the Neighborhood Guild held last night under the auspices of the University Settlement Society, at Lafayette Hall, No. 26 Delancey-st., nearly 100 members of the guild listened to an address by Abraham Cahan, of the "Arbeiter Zeitung," on the subject "What Can Philanthropy Do?" According to Mr. Cahan, the best form of philanthropy was a constant dissemination of ideas looking toward the establishment of a co-operative commonwealth. This, he said, was the doctrine taught by such men as William Dean Howells, Dr. Edward Everett Hale, William Morey Morris, John Brisbane Walker and others. Dr. Frank S. Sharp presided at the meeting.

YOUTHFUL THIEVES ARRESTED.

Maurice Birn, of No. 228 East Ninth-st., complained to Captain Doherty, of the Fourteenth Precinct, Friday last, that his stable had been broken into on the previous night, and 1,900 cigars, an overcoat and a medicine chest had been stolen. Detectives Hock and Mallon, Saturday evening arrested William Hoffman, an eighteen-year-old lad, of No. 231 East Tenth-st., who had been discharged from Birn's service. Hoffman confessed the theft, and also implicated John Nelson, twenty years old, of No. 183 Bowery; George Fair, nineteen years old, of No. 298 Elizabeth-st., and Frank McPhee, eighteen years old, of No. 328 Sixth-st. He, in company with the other boys, had entered the stable by means of a key which he had failed to return to Birn when he had been discharged. They had disposed of the goods. Justice Koch, at the Essex Market Police Court, yesterday remanded the boys for examination to-day.

THE BOYS WERE HAVING A GOOD TIME.

Policeman Cronin, of the Madison-st. station, was patrolling his beat on South-st. about 4 o'clock yesterday morning, when he saw a horse and wagon, driven by two small boys, coming toward him. As soon as the boys saw the policeman they began using the whip, and acted as if they wished to get away as soon as possible. The officer's curiosity was aroused and after a short chase he overtook them. They gave their names as Frederick Marquardt, eleven years old, of No. 656 Flushing-ave., Brooklyn, and Herman Freese, fifteen years old, of No. 53 Maujer-st., Brooklyn. They said they had found the horse and wagon, which was one of "The Brooklyn Eagle" delivery wagons, standing in front of the Roosevelt Street Ferry, without any driver, and that they had simply jumped on the driver's seat and were taking a ride "just for fun," intending to return it to where they had found it.

Justice Koch, in the Essex Market Police Court, yesterday morning committed them to the care of the Gerry Society until to-day, when they will be examined.

RUSSELL B. HARRISON'S CHILD IMPROVING.

Marthena, the five-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Harrison, is reported to be improving under the electrical treatment of Dr. William J. Morton. The scarlet fever, which made her a prisoner in the White House for six weeks, left her in a condition of nervous prostration, and she was scarcely able to use her limbs. She is able to walk a little now, and it is expected that she will entirely recover in a few weeks. Her parents are with her at the Gilsey House, and will take her West as soon as she is sufficiently recovered.

STEPHEN J. O'HARE SERIOUSLY ILL.

Assistant District-Attorney Stephen J. O'Hare is seriously ill at his home, No. 309 East Thirty-seventh-st., from pneumonia. He has been confined to his bed since Monday last. Dr. Janeway examined the sick man yesterday and gave some hope for his recovery.

New-York Central's Limited trains present all the conveniences of the best-appointed hotels.

IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.

TO MODIFY THE MAGAZINE GUN BOARD.

CANDIDATES FOR PROMOTION IN THE ARMY—A REPORT ON THE MONTEREY'S BOILERS—INCREASE OF THE RETIRED LIST.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 26.—It is learned at the War Department that a request has been filed with Secretary Lamont that orders be issued modifying the Magazine Gun Board so that a majority of its members will be officers who did not serve on the board which recommended the adoption of the Krag-Jorgensen (Danish) rifle. Such a step on the part of persons interested in the American gun which will be presented to the board for tests was predicted in these dispatches a few days ago. Up to yesterday afternoon Secretary Lamont had taken no action in the matter, however. The Secretary has been assured by several members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations that the committee was particularly earnest in the wish that an American gun should be adopted, provided one could be found which met service requirements. Secretary Lamont manifested much interest in the subject, and promised to give early consideration to it. It is stated by officers of the Army that there is no opposition to an American gun, but that the impression prevails that no gun now ready for trial is equal to the Krag-Jorgensen in many practical particulars. Few of these officers have seen the Lee, White or Durst gun, however, and it is believed that a surprise is in store for them. The fact that steps to manufacture the Krag-Jorgensen gun have been taken is also urged by certain officers as a reason why no other gun should now be adopted. This reason is not a sound one, it is claimed by American inventors, who assert that the sole object is to secure the best arm regardless of the few preparations already made to put in the hands of troops the Danish rifle. Whatever gun is finally adopted must be of 30 calibre, which has been found to be the most desirable, all conditions considered.

There are vacancies in the grades of brigadier-general, paymaster and assistant quartermaster in the Army, and it is understood that Secretary Lamont will shortly recommend to the President three officers to fill these places. It is generally believed that President Cleveland will not act favorably upon the application of General Carr to be restored to the active list. Nearly all of the senior colonels of the Army appear to feel certain that General Carr's case is finally settled, and have entered the contest to succeed him. President Cleveland is fortunate in having a large list of eligibles from which to make a selection. The senior aspirant is Colonel W. R. Shafter, 1st Infantry, who retires in 1899. Next in rank and second in order of seniority is Colonel E. S. Otis, 20th Infantry, whose nomination for the present vacancy by President Harrison failed of confirmation by the Senate. Colonel Otis does not retire until 1902. Third in rank and seniority is Colonel W. T. Carlin, who retires in 1896. This officer entered the Army several years before those mentioned. The next five colonels in order of rank are M. M. Blunt, P. T. Swaine, H. C. Merriman, Z. R. Bliss and J. W. Forsyth. Colonel Forsyth appears at present to be the favorite in the race, and is strongly urged by political friends of the President and Secretary Lamont. If the selection were made at once there is little doubt that this officer would be chosen. Colonel Forsyth is a gallant officer with a brilliant record, and if Colonel Otis, President Harrison's creditable selection, is not named again, no fitter or more popular appointment could be made. Colonel J. M. Wilson, of the Engineer Corps, who was recently transferred from West Point to Washington at the request of the President, is thought by many to be a "dark horse" in the race. Colonel Wilson is an able and popular officer. No officer of the Engineer Corps has been made a general officer in the line since the war. Colonel Cecil Clay, a gallant ex-officer who lost an arm in the Rebellion, is prominently mentioned for the vacant paymastership. He is at present chief clerk of the Attorney-General's Department.

Inquiry at the Navy Department elicits the information that published reports that the boilers of the Monterey were so damaged on her recent trial trip as to make them dangerous for future use are without any foundation in fact. The official report of the board of officers on the Monterey during her acceptance trials effectually disposes of any such erroneous statements. This report is signed by Chief Engineers Kutz, Trilley and Burnap, three experts in their specialty. The further report that Ward boilers were placed in the Monterey against the advice of Engineer-in-Chief Melville is also incorrect. Commodore Melville particularly desired coil boilers put in the vessel, his chief reason being to economize in weight to permit an increase to be made in the ship's armor and armament. The revenue cutter Manhattan has used coiled boilers with much success for five years, and two more are in course of construction for the cutters Calumet and Hudson. Commodore Melville has recommended to the Secretary of the Navy that the Monterey be sent on a cruise to Honolulu or some other distant port, in order that her boilers may be thoroughly tested.

"The Army and Navy Register," in its current issue, publishes an interesting table showing the growth of the Army retired list since 1889, and the results of the recent laws relating to retirement. In 1889 there were on the retired list one general, five major-generals, twenty-seven brigadier-generals, eighty-seven colonels, twenty-five lieutenant-colonels, fifty-five majors, 180 captains, eighty-one first-lieutenants, thirteen second-lieutenants, and sixteen chaplains; in all 490 officers. From 1889 to the present time the number of officers on the retired list has steadily increased. In 1890 the number was 504, in 1891, 548, in 1892, 583. On January 1 of the present year there were 607 officers on the retired list—three major-generals, thirty-two brigadier-generals, ninety-four colonels, thirty-three lieutenant-colonels, sixty-eight majors, 247 captains, ninety-one first-lieutenants, seventeen second-lieutenants, and twenty-two chaplains. The number of retired officers will increase from now on, and within the next eight or ten years many officers who entered the Army during the Rebellion from civil life will be forced off the active list on account of age. Of the 607 officers now on the retired list of the Army, only seventy saw service in the Rebellion.

The new drill regulations of the Army have been in force one year. It was the intention of the War Department that these regulations should be revised at the end of the first year's trial. It has been impossible in this short period, however, to make the thorough practical test thought necessary to determine their merits and demerits for actual services. Further and fuller experiments in field work are desirable, and the War Department has issued an order directing that trials of the regulations be extended through another drill season, at the end of which period expressions of opinion from officers on the advantages and disadvantages of the system will be considered. The reports of companies and post commanders are to be submitted to department commanders, who will forward them, with observations, to General Schofield. It is expected that many practical suggestions as to needed changes in the regulations will be made by members of the National Guard, who now use the new system prescribed for the Army.

The attention of the Navy Department has again been called to the necessity and means of destroying derelicts near the Atlantic coast. The recent wreck chart issued shows that in the last five years there have been about 950 wrecks and an equal number of derelicts. From other information, it is learned that the average number of derelicts which constantly menace shipping on the Atlantic is sixteen, and that experience shows that half of them actually cause disaster. Before the loss of the Despatch, the Navy Department frequently sent that vessel to sea to blow up derelicts, but more recently no Government ship has been available for this service. A few days ago it was suggested that the Dolphin would be a useful vessel for this purpose, and the suggestion seems to have been favorably received. Some time ago Commodore Folger advised that, either a new vessel designed for the purpose or an old one fitted up for the service should be employed in the work of testing new inventions in ordnance, torpedoes, etc., and if such a vessel were so assigned it could also be available as a destroyer of ocean derelicts.

THE FIRST ONE HE ASKED ACCEPTED HIM.

Alexander Samuelson landed at Ellis Island Saturday, accompanied by his bride of a month. Alexander is sixty-one years old, and his wife, Emma, is eighteen. He had long, gray hair, which hung about his shoulders, and he appeared to be a strong, hardy man. He said he had lived in this country for forty years, during thirty of which he had been a cowboy in the West. He saved some money and bought a farm in Wisconsin, which is well stocked. He felt a longing for female companionship, but wanted a young and pretty face. He went to Sweden two months ago, resolved to ask the first maiden he should meet in his native village to marry him. Emma Gustavson was the first, and to her he proposed, dilating on the beauties of his home in America. After some modest objections she accepted him.

THE OPENING OF NAVIGATION ON THE HUDSON.

Kingston, N. Y., March 26 (Special).—The resumption of navigation at this port will probably begin to-morrow. The ice is moving out of the river rapidly, and the first tow of the season, consisting mainly of ice, cement, and brick-laden barges, will be dispatched then. The steamers Baldwin and Romer, of the New-York night line, are expected to make their first trip on Tuesday, and the Newburg and Albany line will begin operations in a day or two. Nearly all of this fleet will be officered and manned much the same as last season. The Mary Powell is now in the painters' hands, and she will be made ready for duty some weeks earlier than usual, but will not resume her old route until May.

IN THE POLITICAL FIELD.

Thoughtful Republicans do not view the result of the special election in the IXth Senate District last week with much complacency. To say that they were surprised at the smallness of the Republican vote as compared with that of Tammany is to express their feelings in mild terms. No one supposed for an instant that Mr. Montgomery would overcome the 12,000 Democratic majority. That was out of the question. But there was a decidedly strong feeling that he could cut it down materially, and that he certainly would do so. But the only severe cutting down was of the Republican vote; it was lopped off in the most astonishing way. Many well-informed politicians in the district declared before the polls closed that if Cunningham received 6,000 majority he would do well, but his majority was within about fifty of that given for Hagan against the Bohemian, Pesik, whose small vote was attributed to the fact that nobody knew him in the district. This argument could not be used in the case of Mr. Montgomery, but nevertheless he received only about one-fifth of the support given to Pesik. His vote was 2,053; Pesik's 10,192, while Cunningham received 14,806 votes, or only 8,183 less than Hagan.

Nothing could be more striking than the contrast between the way the two parties worked at the polls. The Tammany machine was in absolutely perfect condition. Every wheel and cog moved noiselessly. The same care was exercised in bringing out the voters that would be used ordinarily in a close contest or at some State or National election. The importance of the contest was appreciated by the Tammany leaders, and the advantage to the organization of polling a large vote in the face of all the criticism that has been lavished upon the Wigwam was seen and utilized. The Republicans, on the other hand, in most of the districts seemed to be in a state of demoralization. There were exceptions, but, as a rule, no vigorous, much less concerted, effort was made to bring out the voters. The reason for this is not hard to find. Notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, the defeat last November had a depressing effect upon the organizations in the various Assembly Districts. In most of them the actual voting element, the captains of the election precincts, are Federal office-holders. They run the machine. The majority of these look forward to early decapitation, and those who would like to hold on for the sake of their families feel that they cannot do so if they are unduly active in a partisan way. Hence they are indisposed to court dismissal by special activity in a hopeless contest, such as this Senate fight was. There are comparatively few Republican leaders in the IXth District who can afford to lose a day from their work, and fewer who can afford to hire others to work at the polls. Compared with the horde of municipal officials and contractors that looked after the Tammany candidate's interest, they were, in street parlance, "not in it."

Naturally the question arises, Is this contest a fair illustration of what is to be expected in the future? Is Tammany so strongly intrenched as to make opposition to it hopeless, and is the Republican party in this county to continue in its present feeble condition? There are, to be sure, grounds for taking a pessimistic view of the matter, but the most far-sighted politicians in the city are optimistic on this point. While the Republican party cannot be for the present anything more than a protesting power in local politics, yet nevertheless it has broadened its foundations so as to appeal with more force than ever before in its history to the great body of independent voters who are anxious to see built up in New-York in opposition to Tammany Hall a party of principle and genuine reformatory purpose. A decided step in this direction has been the adoption of the new constitution, under which to every member of the party is afforded the opportunity of identifying himself with active Republican work in the various Assembly districts. It is now proposed to supplement this step with a comprehensive effort toward getting into the county organization every reputable Republican on Manhattan Island—solid citizens, men of standing and substance, who will give tone to the district associations and contribute strength and support of a material kind. Some of the more progressive district associations have already taken the initiative in this matter, and it is believed that all the rest will follow sooner or later. One thing is certain, that something of this kind must be done; and as a rule in this country, and particularly in the Republican party, when anything has to be done it is done, and done well.

The death of Colonel Shepard caused a general expression of regret throughout local Republican circles. With all his peculiarities, no one can deny that the Colonel was an active, zealous member of the party, and one of the most generous contributors to its campaigns. It was difficult, if not impossible, for him to resist an appeal in the name of the party, and while advantage was taken of this, and many unworthy projects were foisted upon him, yet in spite of all that he gave excellent service; and had he lived there is little doubt that he would have carried out his favorite idea—that of building a permanent Republican headquarters in this county. Of course this project will not be abandoned in consequence of his death, but the committee in charge of it will certainly miss his hearty co-operation.

Senator Hill's friends explain his failure to oppose the confirmation of Maxwell and Whitney by saying that he has adopted a new policy in his opposition to the President. This policy, which they think was suggested by Mr. Croker, is that of the old-fashioned waiting order; that is, Mr. Hill will simply wait, instead of continuing, as he has since election, to fight Cleveland openly. He will now allow Mr. Cleveland to have full swing, permit him to appoint as many Anti-Snappers as he chooses throughout the State, until there is a reaction on the part of the old-line Democrats, and when this reaction comes the wily Senator expects to go to the front again. Mr. Croker, it is understood, believes that the President will not go too far in the matter of appointing to office those who are opposed to Tammany, and if he does it will then be time enough to begin war. Meantime, however, Mr. Cleveland continues to follow the dictates of his own strong will, as the case of poor Curry attests.

Another week has gone by, and a Republican is still in charge of the Custom House. This is not the fault of Mr. O'Donohue. He and his friends have worked hard, but somehow they do not make much headway. They still talk with confidence, but with less assurance of his success. There is more talk than ever of a dark horse for the place, another Risley, as it were.

Friends of Mr. Fassett who read of the losses he sustained in consequence of the failure of his brother's firm last week are warm in their expressions of sympathy. It is not yet definitely known how much he is involved, but whatever it is he accepts the situation with the same philosophical composure and unfailing good nature that he has shown in his political reverses. "Somewhat disfigured, but still in the ring," are the words of a telegram he sent to a personal friend here. The latest reports from Elmira show that the failure was fully as bad as it was believed to be at first.

REORGANIZATION OF NAVY SQUADRONS.

The officers of the several vessels at the Navy Yard are doing a good amount of mental speculation, for on Saturday reports reached them from Washington that there would be a general distribution of ships and a shifting about of high commands immediately after the naval review. Rear Admiral Gherardi will hand down his flag of command immediately after the official ceremonies attending the naval review. He will probably go to Washington on special duty and remain there until his retirement next year. Rumor has it that the command of the Navy Yard here will be offered to him. It is possible that he would not decline this.

Secretary Herbert's plan of distribution has not yet fully developed, but there is talk of reviving the European Squadron. Several years have intervened since there was an organized squadron in European waters, although Commodore Walker was there on a cruise with the Squadron of Evolution three years ago, and a year later the Baltimore made a European cruise. If the squadron is revived Commodore Walker is said to be slated for the command, except that he can have the choice of Chief of the Bureau of Navigation. If he gets the bureau ship it is probable that Commodore F. M. Ramsay, now at the head of the Bureau of Navigation, will receive command of the European station.

Rumor also says that Rear Admiral A. E. K. Benham, commandant of the South Atlantic Squadron, will be transferred to command the North Atlantic, and Commodore Henry Erben, now at the Navy Yard, will receive command of the South Atlantic. But he would hold this command only about sixteen months, as he will retire in September, 1894. In the meanwhile he would have the rank and title of rear admiral. It is also rumored that the South Pacific Squadron will be revived, and that Commodore Richard W. Meade will have command of it.

If this scheme is carried out the New-York will probably be the flagship of the North Atlantic; the Charleston of the South Atlantic; the Philadelphia of the European; the San Francisco of the North Pacific and the Newark of the South Pacific.

GRAND ARMY BUGLE NOTES.

FARNHAM POST'S RESOLUTIONS AGAIN.

THEY ARE SEVERELY CRITICISED BY SOME VETERANS—VARIOUS TOPICS.

The resolutions regarding pensions adopted by Noah L. Farnham Post, No. 458, at a recent meeting have been the subject of a great deal of comment in Grand Army circles. These resolutions criticise certain speeches made in defence of the pension laws as ill-considered and calculated to injure the reputations of the survivors of the war and members of the Grand Army. They say that the only veterans who are entitled to pensions are those who became permanently disabled by wounds or incurred disabilities in the service which prevent them from earning a living. The growth of the pension roll is looked upon as putting upon the country unnecessary burdens.

Rankin Post, No. 10, of Brooklyn, disagrees radically with the views expressed by the Farnham comrades. Commander Alfred T. Wilson, of Rankin Post, has addressed a letter to Farnham Post, in which he says that at a meeting of Rankin Post held on March 17, at which 185 comrades (about half of the roster) were present, the Farnham resolutions were unanimously condemned. The following are extracts from the letter:

"This post has arrived at the very just conclusion that retrenchment should not begin with the declining years of the men who served their country in the hour of its dissolution, and that your post, perhaps, composed of many men holding appointments under the city of New-York and elsewhere, and being paid very high wages for their services, and being retired on the taxpayers of New-York City, do not care to swear that they are in needy circumstances and unable to perform hard manual labor, under the provisions of the law of June 27, 1890, covering such cases so stipulated. Noah L. Farnham Post has exceeded to an unreasonable extent, and in an unfraternal spirit, the principles of the soldier element of the Union of the United States.

"I have also to inform you that by a rising vote of this post your political tirade against the soldiers, sailors and marines of the Republic, and against the widows and orphans, covered by the law of June 27, 1890, has been forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, with the request to have your post admonished, and to command it to mind its own business, and if your post will not desist in its unmanly and unfraternal proceedings against the Nation's heroes and their widows and orphans, this post has requested the disbandment of Noah L. Farnham Post, No. 458, Department of New-York."

Farnham Post sent copies of its resolutions to the President, United States Senators and members of Congress and to various posts in the department of New-York. Among the latter was Lafayette Post, No. 140. At its last encampment the subject was considered and a resolution was adopted creating a special committee to consider the questions raised. Commander A. G. Mills appointed the following comrades, who are to make a report to the post at the first encampment in May: Generals Francis C. Barlow and Egbert L. Viele; Colonels Floyd Clarkson, F. C. Loviland and William A. Copp; Majors George P. Edgar and George W. Pancoast; James A. Blanchard, William S. Coggswell, Meredith L. Jones, J. S. Thompson, Joseph J. Little, Alfred B. Villeplait, V. M. Wilcox and David B. Wright. The committee held its first meeting at the Grand Union Hotel on Saturday evening.

The thirty-first anniversary of the battle of Shiloh, fought on April 6 and 7, 1862, will be observed at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., on April 6. The excursion to the battlefield will be in charge of Colonel E. T. Lee, of the 41st Illinois Infantry. Exercises will be held at the grave of the "Drummer-boy of Shiloh," and addresses will be delivered by Colonel Lee, ex-Speaker W. G. Cochran, of the Illinois Legislature; D. M. Hammond and president of the New-Albany (Ind.) Business College. Mrs. Telo Jemason Miller will recite a poem. It is intended to utilize the occasion for starting a movement looking to the proper preservation of the battlefield and to perfect a plan for marking permanently the positions occupied by the various commands under Generals Grant and Buell in each of the two days' battles.

Major-General Josiah Porter, Adjutant-General of the National Guard, State of New-York, has issued a general order amending Regulation No. 818 so that the National Guard armories "may hereafter be used by posts of the Grand Army of the Republic or other veteran organizations of honorably discharged Union soldiers and sailors of the late war." The order of General Porter grew out of controversies which have arisen regarding the use of the armories of the National Guard by the regimental veteran associations. Some regiments ungenerously refused to allow the veteran corps of their regiment to have apartments for holding their meetings in their armories. Such exceptions to the uniform courtesy and respect which have actuated the regiments of the National Guard in their bearing toward the war veteran organizations have been rare. General Porter's order will make the armories and their splendid drilling halls available for Grand Army receptions when they are needed.

Louis Bieral, of John A. Dix Post, No. 135, was admitted to the Soldiers' Home at Hampton, Va., last week. While Comrade Bieral was in prison, having been sentenced for assaulting with a pistol Hans S. Beattie, then surveyor of the Port, Bieral alleging that Beattie had unjustly secured his removal from the place of customs inspector, the post took care of his family and after his release gave assistance to the unfortunate comrade. As he was over eighty years old when he was discharged from prison, he was hardly fitted to keep up the struggle for a livelihood, and his friends advised him to give it up and go to the Home. Comrade Bieral was a Captain in the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteers and commended for bravery at the battle of Ball's Bluff.

The Society of the Second New-Jersey Brigade, made up of the survivors of the 5th, 6th, 8th and 11th New-Jersey, the 2d and 120th New-York, the 26th and 115th Pennsylvania, the 1st and 11th Massachusetts, the 1st Maine Battery and Clark's New-York Battery, will observe its sixth annual reunion at Atlantic City on Monday, April 10. Generals Daniel E. Sickels, Joseph B. Carr, Joseph Dickinson, William J. Sewell, E. Burd Grubb and William J. Stryker, who will be the orator of the day, are to be present.

Lafayette Post is soon to give another of the receptions for which its handsome post room in the Masonic Temple has become noted. The next one will be for the purpose of welcoming the new Department Commander, Joseph B. Cleary, and his staff, and will take place on Friday evening, April 21.

Colonel Bruce Ricketts, a prominent Grand Army comrade, is being urged upon the President for Commissioner of Pensions. The appointment would give satisfaction to many veterans of the war. Comrade Ricketts's famous Pennsylvania Battery, with Weiderich's New-York Battery, held Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg on the evening of July 2, 1863.

Henry Miller Post, No. 28, only one year old, has now seventy-six members.

Comrade James H. Jenkins, cashier of the United States Custom House, has been elected senior vice-commander of Farnsworth Post, No. 170, Mount Vernon, the vacancy caused by the death of Leonard Tice. W. M. Willson, commander of Farnsworth Post, will be one of the delegates from this department to the next National Encampment in Indianapolis.

Devin Post, No. 148; Winchester Post, No. 197, and Henry Ward Beecher Post, No. 620, have unanimously placed Past Commander Joseph W. Kay in the field again for Department Commander.

General Nicholas W. Day, of John A. Dix Post, No. 135, treasurer of the New-York Memorial Committee, has received his commission as aide-de-camp on the staff of National Commander Weissert.

Comrade George A. Price, of U. S. Grant Post, No. 327, has been appointed Adjutant-General and Chief-of-Staff by Grand Marshal James D. Bell, of the Kings County Memorial Committee.

Cameron Post, No. 79, will give its twenty-fourth annual reception and entertainment at Turn Hall, East Fourth-st., on Wednesday evening, April 5.

The Abraham Lincoln War Veterans, No. 1, of Kings County, held an entertainment at their headquarters, Tompkins and Park aves., Brooklyn, on Saturday evening. The hall was crowded with veterans, including delegations from the War Veterans' Associations of the Eastern District. James McKenzie presided, and E. B. Spooner was secretary. Letters of regret were read from Howard M. Smith, William C. Wallace, J. Aspinall and others. Colonel John W. Jones made an eloquent opening speech, which was followed by Messrs. Natman, J. C. Abiel, of the 115th New-York Regiment; Captain H. Shute, president of No. 2 War Veterans, and H. C. Dunham, president Seventeenth Ward War Veterans' League. Music, recitations and speeches were given by Messrs. Dunham, Pipe, Bremer, Burke, Martin and Taylor, after which refreshments were served.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS.

BREVOORT—Professor S. P. Langley, of Washington, D. C., and Thomas Baring. FIFTH AVENUE—Lieutenant William H. Emory, United States Navy, and Mile. Nikita. HOFFMAN—Holmes Cummins, of Tennessee, and Congressman W. Bourke Cockran. HOLLAND—Ex-Governor A. B. Fleming, of West Virginia, and Delin Sanchez, of Mexico. MARLBOROUGH—Captain Evan P. Howell, of Atlanta, Ga. WINDSOR—Professor Josiah Royce, of Cambridge, Mass., and Marie Tempest.

On second floor may be found an exhibition of SOLID SILVER-WARE which, in the attention given to beauty of form and appropriateness of ornamentation, is distinctively different from any other stock to be seen in New York. All who are interested in artistic table furnishing—BUYERS OR NON-BUYERS—are invited to inspect it.

THEODORE B. STARR, 206 Fifth Ave.—Madison Square

A BIG LABOR WAR BEGUN.