

LONDON.

PREMATURE DISCUSSION OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY—THE CONTINENT AND INTERVENTION.

INTEREST IN AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' FAIR—CHANGES IN THE ENGLISH BOOK TRADE.

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London, March 24.—The temporary pause in Lord Roberts's operations creates a transition period in political affairs, and provides the makers of rumor with employment. There has been a revival of various academic controversies in Parliament, while the public mind is preoccupied with issues of a different kind. The most important of these is the question of Irish university education, which upset the Gladstone Ministry in 1873. Mr. Balfour has a solution of his own for this vexatious question, but has not succeeded in converting either his colleagues or the rank and file of the Unionist party to it. He has explained his views in a sympathetic speech, and Mr. Lecky has dissented from the proposed scheme, preferring to endorse liberally the existing Roman Catholic university in Dublin, and advocating the claims of the Irish for higher education in an atmosphere peculiarly their own.

Mr. Balfour really goes only half way, and his proposals will not satisfy the Roman hierarchy. This Irish debate leaves the question unsettled; university education in Ireland will not be taken up by the present Parliament. The Queen's visit to Dublin will be of more practical benefit as a remedial measure than academic debates in which even the Nationalists themselves are not prepared to explain the definite terms of settlement that will be satisfactory to them.

The rumor mongers, meanwhile, have been disposing of the destinies of South Africa and formulating Lord Salisbury's scheme of pacification and future government. They have not stopped with this large undertaking, but have bravely explained in detail his scheme for imperial federation. All these tales are fictions. Lord Salisbury neither talks with newspaper correspondents nor provides leader writers with cues; he is never in a hurry, but broods over great questions in silence. He is not likely to adopt a definite scheme for the future government of South Africa when Lord Roberts is making Bloemfontein the centre of an effective military government and is aiming to repeat the experiment at Pretoria. When the war comes to an end there will be a long interval of military rule, during which political problems can be worked out with deliberation. Englishmen are not deceived by these premature reports; they know that Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Alfred Milner will arrange the settlement of the race question in South Africa in due time, and that Lord Salisbury and the Unionist Cabinet will leave the details to them.

Imperial federation without doubt has received a tremendous impulse from the war; it is no longer a vagary of political dreamland; it has become a question of practical imperial policy. But it remains a problem of immense difficulty, to be taken up cautiously. Mr. Chamberlain is the only statesman who is completely identified with it. He already represents the colonies and dependencies of a world wide empire. His constituency has been created and is loyal to him, and its interests will be supreme in the future of the British Empire. Anybody who supposes that his political influence is impaired and that his work has ended is laboring under a strange delusion.

Rumor also forecasts the dissolution of Parliament in the autumn, but there is no means of knowing the Prime Minister's mind on this subject. No decision can be reached until the war has been brought to an end and a practical method of dealing with the Dutch dependencies has been devised. The Liberals dread an appeal to the country at the close of the war, with imperialism as the leading motive of the Unionist programme. They are anxious to have the elections deferred until the spring of 1901, so that they can have time for pulling themselves together and reviving the religious question, which has been cast into the background by public interest in the military campaign. The Unionist whips are known to favor the dissolution of Parliament at the earliest possible date after the capture of Pretoria.

There is no longer any talk about foreign intervention, since it is clear that neither the nation nor the Empire will allow any interference with British plans in South Africa. There was no doubt about this when Lord Salisbury replied to Secretary Hay's friendly offer, or letter of transmittal, and New-Zealand has emphasized the determination of the united Empire to settle its own affairs precisely as Americans arranged their terms of peace at the close of the war with Spain. There are intrigues on the Continent who are hoping that the American Government will be drawn into a Dutch ambulance and will be ensnared into repeating the offer of mediation. A prominent diplomatist has said to me: "The Continental nations have not liked the era of good feeling between America and England. They are anxious to have the friendly relations between those countries disturbed and broken up, and are hoping that something like intervention will be attempted from Washington. They will be most careful to stay out themselves, but are eager to have England and America fall out."

I do not doubt that this is an accurate summary of Continental opinion.

There is no prospect of any disturbance of Anglo-American relations from the Delagoa Bay award, which is expected on Monday. The only effect of that award will be increased pressure upon Portugal to part with her possessions in East Africa and to facilitate the carrying out of the secret agreement between England and Germany.

The passage of an amendment to the Canal treaty will involve the necessity of obtaining the assent of the British Government to the new article, and this may lead to an unpleasant rebuff. Some American correspondents have naïvely suggested that the Foreign Office ought to be asked frankly whether it will accept the amendment or not, since the Senate will then know what to do. This is not practical diplomacy. The Foreign Office cannot be drawn in advance in this way; it will deal with the amendment only after the Senate has enacted it, and then it is likely, according to the best information at my command, to reject it and to fall back upon the Clayton-Bulwer convention. Its action, moreover, in rejecting the amendment will be applauded by the English press.

The financial embarrassments of American publishing firms naturally excite much interest in the trade here, which is not in a satisfactory condition. Mr. W. W. Appleton is well known in literary circles in London, and much sympathy is expressed for him. The reorganization of the Harpers's business has not made any difference in the relations of the firm here; the London office has been maintained, the royalties due English authors have been promptly paid, and no contracts with English houses have been disturbed. The failure of the Appletons is regarded here as a sign that important changes in the publishing business are essential to its welfare both in England and America. All the

dent Orville T. Bright, Cook County, Ill., and Supervisor Robert C. McFall, Boston. Colonel Parker is president of the School of Pedagogy, founded by Mrs. Emmons Blaine.

Cardinal Vaughan ordained his nephew, Herbert Vaughan, to the priesthood the other day at Courtfield, the Herefordshire home of his family. The place would have been the Cardinal's but when he went into the Church he made it over to his younger brother, Colonel Vaughan, the father of the newly ordained priest.

It is announced that the Prince of Wales hopes to be able to receive on behalf of the trustees of the British Museum the marble statue of the late Professor Huxley which the Huxley Memorial Committee has offered to place in the central hall of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. The inaugural ceremony is fixed for April 28, and is expected to be attended by every distinguished company of scientific men. It is hoped that Sir Joseph Hooker will have sufficiently recovered from his severe indisposition to be able to deliver a memorial address upon Huxley on the occasion.

Sir William Osmond Prentiss, the surgeon and Member of Parliament for the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews, is dying from cancer.

BISHOP BURGESS WANTS A COADJUTOR. Quincy, Ill., March 24.—The Right Rev. Alexander Burgess, the venerable Bishop of the Episcopal Church here, has for the third time asked for a coadjutor bishop, and has sent a letter from St. Albans, Vt., where he has been for some time, addressed to the clergy and people of the diocese, asking them to make the appointment at the annual diocesan convention at Peoria. The Bishop has been severely ill at Peoria, and has been unable to attend the convention. He is now at St. Albans, Vt., where he has been for some time, and is recovering from his illness. He is now at St. Albans, Vt., where he has been for some time, and is recovering from his illness.

EX-GOVERNOR STONE ILL. Holly Springs, Miss., March 24.—Ex-Governor John M. Stone, seriously ill at the home of his niece, Mrs. Ernest McKee, he arrived here on Sunday, ill and weak, and immediately went to bed, and has been more or less delirious ever since. His physician does not conceal his anxiety as to the final issue of the case.

MRS. BEVERIDGE AT DANVILLE. Danville, N. Y., March 24.—The wife of United States Senator Albert J. Beveridge, of Indianapolis, arrived last evening at a sanatorium here. She has been ill for some time, and has been at Asheville for treatment. It was feared that her condition was such that her removal to this place could not be safely effected, but she stood the journey well.

MRS. T. C. PLATT GOES TO ATLANTIC CITY. Washington, March 24.—Mrs. Platt, wife of Senator Platt, of New-York, left Washington to-day for Atlantic City. Her recent attack of illness caused her friends some uneasiness, and it is believed that her health will be improved by a visit to the seashore.

THE TALK OF THE DAY. Some time ago a Chicago man decided to name his infant daughter Eulalia, in honor of the Spanish Infanta. And having done so he thought it would be the proper thing to inform the Princess of the honor he had paid to her. He therefore wrote to her on a sheet of his office paper, and addressed it, "Infanta Eulalia, Spain, Europe," adding the word Europe to prevent the letter from going by mistake to Spain, S. D. In course of time he received a reply from the Infanta, which she graciously thanked him for, and which she had done her, which he had named her happiness, and at the same time desired that her assurance of distinguished and profound consideration might be conveyed to the people of Chicago. The letter was beautifully written on superfine paper, with the royal arms of Spain blazoned thereon in colors. It was the direction of the envelope, however, that most excited the admiration of all who beheld it. The address ran:

El Señor Don William Bikinson, Metal Lath and Finishing, Single and Double Expansion Bolts, Tel. Canal 9, 230, Factory Six Island Offices, 145 East Street, Chicago, North America, United States.

The secretary had evidently been instructed to leave out none of Don Bikinson's titles of honor.

Contributor—I have sent several jokes to your paper, none of which were printed and I never got any of them. I thought I would always indicate a stamp. Editor—That's all right. I considered the stamps part payment for the trouble I had in reading the jokes. The editor never said a word about it, and I can remit the balance any time you have the money to spare.—(Boston Transcript.)

"A pretty well known Philadelphia," says "The Philadelphia Record," "who is now at Atlantic City, likewise strives to attract the eye there by appearing in the hotels and cafes and on the Boardwalk every night with a chain around his neck, to which two big gray rats are attached. The rats, plain ordinary rodents, but tamed, wear gold collars, and the young man's gold chain is fastened to these. Up and down his back and waistcoat the rats patter, but usually they are seated on his shoulder, whispering in his ear. Sometimes he fumbles them or gives them bits of cheese and cracker. They seem to be quite clean, but a peculiar smell, somewhat like musk, irritates the nostrils if one comes too near the young man's pets."

"Friend," said the sanctimonious clergyman, "are you not ashamed to make your living playing poker?" "Huh! you and I are very much alike," replied the unregenerate man. "When we hold a good hand, we both accept a call unless there is a raise with it."—(Troy Times.)

Lieutenant Lang, a Maine boy in the Philippines, thus writes home: "Civil government is being established by the peaceful natives everywhere under the protection of our troops, and the country is becoming more prosperous than it ever was under Spanish rule. I fail to see how the Philippines can be considered other than a most valuable acquisition to the United States, both commercially and otherwise. The weather is most beautiful now, every day being clear and bright, with the thermometer standing between 60 and 70 degrees, and rather cool nights. This continues eight months out of the year, with the other four rainy. The unhealthiness of the climate is greatly exaggerated, although, of course, it is tropical, which affects some white people to a more or less extent."

One of the Other—"Doctor, what alls my daughter?" "Before I answer that question, let me ask if you have reason to think she has had a love disappointment of any kind?" "I think she has not."

"Then, madam, your daughter has the grip."—(Chicago Tribune.)

"I want you," said an old Georgia farmer to a teacher, "to give Bill about six dollars' worth of schoolin'—pervud you'll take it out in trade. For instance, I'll give you three bushels of corn; then, when that's out, I'll give you a couple of smokehouse hams; I'll give you a young heifer ter larn him writin'; an' a home raised cow ter beat siggers in his head."

"Do you want him to learn any of the higher branches?" "Well, after he climbs a locust you might throw 'bout a bushel or two of them, if you think fit; an' 'bout a quarter of a beef's worth."

Little Teasers.—Here is a little exercise in punctuation that will test you. It is not a puzzle, but it is not a simple thing. Look at the little confusion doesn't it? Simple though.

For quotation marks and two commas will fix it all right. For instance: "Here is a still simpler 'batch' that may bother you. 'All' or 'No' much in it, perhaps, but enough to make it troublesome. 'Too hard'?" "No, it's 'Nothing after all.'"—(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

Samuel Clough, who edited "The New-England Almanac" at the very beginning of the last century, was a good example of a prophet who intends to make no mistakes.

"Perhaps," says he, predicting the weather from January 15 to the 23d, 1702, "it will be very cold weather, if it freeze by the fire-side or on the sunny side of a fence at noon." In April he hazards: "Perhaps wet weather, if it rains. Now fair weather, if the sun shines. Windy or calm." And in July he ventures a small advertisement for the town of his residence: "If now the weather do prove fair. People to Cambridge do repair."

his choice between blasphemy and confession of a presumption that would have been blasphemous had it not been so ridiculous and contemptible.

IMMUNITY FROM MALARIA.

Recent announcements indicate that the mosquito and its relations to so-called malarial diseases are to be studied this coming summer with vigor and intelligence. It has already been shown that the peculiar parasite that is found in the blood of human victims of these disorders also lives in some mosquitoes. And the bite of a mosquito is sometimes followed by an attack of malarial fever. But it has not yet been proved that the insect in question is the only agent concerned in the distribution of the infection, nor, even if that should be true, is it clear how best to guard against the trouble. These latter phases of the matter are likely to receive careful attention this year.

One elaborate experiment which has just been planned is to be undertaken in that portion of Europe most afflicted with malaria, the marshes of the Roman Campagna. The London School of Tropical Diseases and the British Colonial Office will co-operate in the enterprise, the former supplying a commission of medical experts and the latter the money required. Two skilled observers and their servants are to spend their nights in a specially constructed hut from May to October. Inasmuch as the kind of mosquito that is believed to be responsible for the dissemination of the infection bites only at night, the conditions of the test will be enforced only from an hour before sunset to an hour after sunrise. The four persons will stay inside the hut during these hours, but will be protected by gauze doors, window screens and other provisions for excluding mosquitoes. If, in spite of all these precautions, one of the four persons should be attacked with malarial fever, the fact would prove that some other agency than the insect also has a share in the dissemination of the disease. If, on the contrary, absolute immunity is enjoyed, it will be a fair inference that the mosquito alone is to blame, and that safety in what are known to be infected regions is to be secured by suitable netting.

But it is desirable, furthermore, to know just how the mosquito acquires the malarial germ. Some light will be thrown on this question by another experiment that has been projected. This will be conducted in London. A quantity of mosquitoes will be bred in laboratories, and jealously guarded against accidental infection. Under careful supervision they will be permitted to bite persons whose blood contains malarial parasites, and afterward to attack men who are known to be absolutely free from this malarial fever, it will be evident how the mosquito became infected.

It will still remain to be shown, however, that the mosquito can acquire the germs in no other way, and also that it can transmit them only by inoculation. The latter is the more important of the two questions. If the mosquito is alone responsible for the distribution of malarial poison, but can disseminate it in more ways than the one here considered, then netting would be only a partial protection, and it would be necessary to fall back on a campaign of extermination. But if the insect works harm only by biting, the task of defence will happily be much narrowed and simplified. It is to be hoped that American investigators will devote some thought to this feature of the problem, and also seek to verify Surgeon Major Ross's belief that only mosquitoes of the genus Anopheles are able to communicate malaria.

The policy ring is jubilant, the prize ring expects to be, and a Republican Legislature will presently be asking the people to applaud its record.

The international chess match was conducted with perfect courtesy, developed great knowledge and skill and resulted in a manner entirely satisfactory to the American disciples of the illustrious Morphy. We take the opportunity to congratulate the winners and to assure the British experts of our hearty respect and friendship.

The weather predictions of rain, snow, hail and sleet for yesterday were not fulfilled, but we have heard no grumbling on that account.

Yesterday was a great day for New-York and for the Rapid Transit Commission. As for Tammany, which after long hostility finally surrendered to public opinion—well, that extraordinary institution will doubtless claim most of the credit and perhaps get more than it deserves.

It's a serious question whether the hissing at Quigg's portrait would not leze majesty.

If he had been true to Tammany traditions and practice the Mayor should yesterday have rallied bitterly against the construction of a "hole in the ground."

It is praiseworthy to raise money for the poor and suffering of Cuba and Puerto Rico, but there are others to consider. We have right here at home the widows and orphans of soldiers who gave their lives for the country in the recent war. We have had "absent minded beggars" of our own, and the case of those who are left without support is deserving of attention and sympathy.

Lord Roberts telegraphs to London "There is no special news to report." That probably means he is getting ready to send in some particularly special news.

The killing of the bill to prevent further pollution of the streams of this State with the refuse of factories was a step backward, or at least a refusal to take a much needed step forward. It is reckoned an infamous thing in war to poison wells and streams. Why is it any less bad to do so in time of peace?

The current complaints of compulsory over-study at the Girls' High School in Brooklyn may or may not be well founded, but they are assuredly not to be passed over lightly. They deserve the most prompt and earnest consideration. It is in our duty to make boys study hard, but the girls in the high school are at the most critical period of their lives, and any overtaxing of their nerves and brains may have the most mischievous effects. The girls ought to get as good educations as possible, but nothing could be more deplorable than for them to do so at the cost of lifelong invalidism.

PERSONAL.

General Henry Harnden, who died at Madison, Wis., the other day, was the commander of the detachment which captured Jefferson Davis. During the War of the Rebellion he had six horses shot under him.

Samuel Mother, of Cleveland, has given \$50,000 to the endowment for a contagious disease ward in the Lakeside Hospital, of that city.

This is the official designation of the British general commanding the expedition: "Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford, P. C., K. P., G. C. B., G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., V. C., D. C. L., LL. D." And yet he is the shortest general in the service.

Frederick Waterman, of Grafton, Mass., who has just celebrated his ninety-third birthday, has voted in nineteen Presidential elections, and walked one hundred and fifty miles to see the cornerstone of Bunker Hill Monument laid.

know that they are not without the Governor's sincere sympathy when they feel the squeeze of the two machines.

PROGRESS IN PRINTING.

When the industrial and scientific history of the nineteenth century is written it will contain no more interesting and impressive chapter than that which tells of the development of "the art preservative of arts," and especially, we may add, of the practice of that art in the office of the daily newspaper. The exhibition of printing appliances at the Grand Central Palace in this city, in May next, will set forth strikingly the present advanced condition of the craft, and illustrate the whole story of fifty years of printing. Elsewhere in this morning's paper we present a number of articles of expert authorship upon the subject. The tale they tell is as marvelous as any in all the romance of human invention. The railroad, the telegraph, all the bewildering applications of electric energy, are no more noteworthy than the development of the printing press from the hand press of Franklin's time to the perfecting press of to-day, and from the type case and composing stick to the linotype.

In this subject The Tribune claims a peculiar interest, for the reason that it has been the fortunate lot of this journal to be, not only in America but in the whole world, the pioneer in most of the great improvements that have been effected in the printing of daily newspapers. The period of fifty years, with which the articles printed elsewhere deal, and in which nearly all improvements have been effected, began in the early years of The Tribune, and its record and that of this journal are inseparably united and identified. It was The Tribune that, in 1835, bought and used the first of Mr. Hoe's giant ten-cylinder presses, the most efficient development of the old style of presses, and this paper was also one of the foremost in adopting the modern perfecting press. It was in The Tribune office that the first stereotyping of newspaper forms was done. It was here, too, that the linotype machine was developed into practical form and first put to actual use. Finally, it was The Tribune that first made practicable and satisfactory the printing of half-tone photographic engravings on a rapid perfecting press, so that it is now possible to take a photograph of an after dinner gathering in the evening, engrave it, print it at the rate of tens of thousands of copies in an hour, and place it upon a hundred thousand breakfast tables next morning in much better artistic form than most magazine and book illustrations could boast fifty years ago.

Our readers will find the chapters of printing history which we publish both entertaining and instructive. Perhaps, too, they will gain from them a more just appreciation of the magnitude, the complexity and the highly scientific character of the work involved in the mechanical production of a great daily newspaper.

POLICY AND PRIZEFIGHTING.

The anti-poll bill, which is meant to break up the meanest, most cruel and most demoralizing form of gambling that curses this city, and which is believed to be capable of accomplishing that object, has been amended in a manner entirely satisfactory to the policy ring. In short, the fate which we feared from the beginning, and which the gamblers confidently predicted, seems to have overtaken it by means of Republican votes in the Senate. The bill passed the Assembly by a large majority, because it was not thought advisable to make the lower branch the fighting ground. It was to the upper branch, with its narrow and uncertain majority, that the men who have grown rich by despoiling the poor resolved to trust their interests. They were prepared to buy what they wanted, and we do not suppose a single member of the Legislature doubts that they have bought it. It is conceivable that the bill may still be saved in a serviceable form, but it would be foolish to hope that Friday's shameful action will be reversed. It is altogether probable that the harpies of the policy shops will still be permitted to pluck their miserable victims in peace and contentment.

Is a similar record to be made with the Horton law repeal bill? Precisely that is what the brutes and swindlers of the prize ring are joyfully predicting. They are told that twenty-five votes to destroy their business have been secured in the Senate, and they hear that at least one more will be found in due time. But they think they understand the game, and are relying on the combined machines to save them. If the twenty-six votes necessary to pass the repeal bill should be absolutely pledged in advance, they would expect to see a good many more than the necessary number cast against them; for in that case nothing would be gained by requiring their hired servants in the Senate to proclaim themselves. But such is not the prospect that they see before them. They feel pretty sure that they have guarded every point, and can safely count on victory. Yet there is a little better reason to hope than that the rascals of the prize ring will be beaten that their brethren of the policy shops will find their occupation gone when the Legislature adjourns, and honest members, newspapers and citizens everywhere will be guilty of something worse than a mistake if they abandon the contest at this critical stage.

"CHRISTLIKE" ADVERTISING AGAIN.

We commented the other day upon the grossly scelerous character of an advertisement which appeared prominently in the paper which the Rev. Mr. Sheldon was conducting "as Christ would do it." The entire tone of the advertisement was utterly revolting not only to religion and to reverence, but to common decency. We have since observed that Mr. Sheldon himself does not approve it. He has, indeed, publicly apologized for the appearance of the advertisement. He says the wording of it was offensive to him as well as to his readers. It was, he adds, inserted "through an oversight," and as soon as it was brought to his notice its further insertion was forbidden.

We are glad to give Mr. Sheldon the benefit of this publication of his apology for one of the most irreverent utterances we have ever seen in a reputable print. In ordinary circumstances his explanation would be sufficient. Every newspaper man knows that, despite the utmost vigilance, errors will now and then creep into print, and advertisements of other matter which should not be permitted to appear. We believe such incidents are no more frequent in newspaper work than in any other business. When they do occur in a reputable paper all that is to be done is to confess the error frankly and thereafter exercise added vigilance against its recurrence.

But Mr. Sheldon and his journalistic enterprise stand in an entirely different light from any other, and in that light Mr. Sheldon's explanation is really the strongest kind of a condemnation of him and his whole undertaking. He set out to run that paper "as Christ would do it." And now he admits that he was guilty of an oversight, and that an improper advertisement thus got into the paper without his knowledge. Does he mean us to understand that Christ would have been guilty of an oversight in editing a paper, and would have let things get into it without His knowledge? He must either take that ground and describe the Son of God as ignorant and fallible—which would be blasphemous—or admit that he did not edit the paper as Christ would have done it, but as a mere fallible man would do it. He is welcome to

the Puerto Ricans would enjoy a great boon which they cannot have until Congress takes some action. The only people who should have any wish to put off the legislation are those seeking political capital out of the matter and conscious that their predictions, their constitutional arguments and their tearful indignation would not stand the test of time. They, of course, would prefer no action, so as to keep their grievance alive, even if Puerto Rico suffered.

AT LAST.

The exercises in the City Hall Park yesterday by which the actual beginning of a great public enterprise was celebrated inevitably suggested the rather amusing reflection that they were under the official patronage of the political organization which was for years the persistent and successful enemy of underground roads.

For reasons closely connected with both politics and business Tammany long applied all its resources to the process of baffling a Rapid Transit Commission which it could neither get rid of nor control. About a year ago the quarrel of its leaders with the Manhattan company disposed them to look with less disfavour upon the project for a new system of transportation, but still more influential was their tardy recognition of the fact that the people of this city were imperatively demanding rapid transit. The attitude of the city government began to change. The Controller, until then on friendly terms with his associates, suddenly announced his hearty approval of the plan for building underground roads on municipal account, and became at once the most efficient advocate of the arrangement for separating the city and county debts, by which alone such an investment could be made feasible. The Mayor at the same time began to indicate a change of policy if not of inclination, and, though the Counsel to the Corporation still withheld his approval of the form of contract, it was evident that the organization was preparing to execute a change of front. As the project approached a practical stage the municipal authorities, with a shrewdness which they do not invariably display, came forward as its conspicuous and confident supporters, and yesterday they recommended themselves to the gratitude of a forgetful public by appearing as the chief celebrants of the occasion. We take no pleasure in recalling incidents with which an interesting celebration was in striking contrast, but so much at least as this is due to the truth of history.

The people of New-York are to be congratulated upon the prospect of relief from onerous conditions of existence. They are likewise to be commended for the unanimity and persistence with which they have asserted their demands. They voted in 1864 by a majority of more than three to one "for municipal construction of a rapid transit road"—that is, for the plan which the Rapid Transit Commission created by the Legislature in that year was desirous of executing. The decision was conclusive as to their wishes, and from that day to this there has never been a sign of any change of opinion on their part. They have been a steady force behind the Commission, without whose constant though not always conspicuous pressure the Commission could not have overcome a long succession of obstacles and finally achieved a solid and brilliant victory. There has seldom been in our municipal history a more instructive example of the power which resides in an unchanging public sentiment. The inhabitants of New-York are going to get what they want because they have insisted on having it. This fact detracts nothing from the honor and gratitude in which Mr. Orr and his colleagues should be universally held, but it deserves to be clearly recognized as an incitement to civic virtue.

In saying that the people are going to get what they want we do not mean to imply that they are going to get it all in the near future. The completion of Mr. McDonald's contract will unquestionably be of great benefit to a multitude of individuals and to the community as a whole, but it will not meet the requirements of an immense and swiftly growing population. If it were necessary to suppose that the undertaking just begun would be the last of its kind there would be far less reason than actually exists for public rejoicing. It is because we confidently believe the original underground roads will quickly demonstrate the wisdom of building others that we contemplate the work initiated yesterday with unalloyed satisfaction. The processes of construction will be tedious and perhaps distressing, but they will introduce a new era of comfort and prosperity.

ROOSEVELT AGAINST RAMAPO.

It is probably too late now to pass the Morgan bill, much less to repeal the Ramapo act of 1865, but the Governor has put himself squarely on record in favor of both these measures which the two organizations have been working so successfully to strangle. He has given out for publication a letter written by him to President Grant of the Borough of Brooklyn, which would seem to cast doubts on the veracity of certain Republican leaders on the Assembly floor, who dragged doubtful members to oppose the Morgan bill by telling them the Governor was against it. In his letter Governor Roosevelt says:

I am very much interested in your letter. I favor the passage both of the Morgan bill and of the repeal of the Ramapo act of 1865.

This is good so far as it goes, and we desire to give the Governor full credit for his sympathy with the taxpayers of this city and his disapproval of Mr. Platt's methods of making the Republican party and the Legislature the promoters and servants of private corporations. He objects to the act of 1865, which Mr. Nixon put through, giving a company offered by Mr. Platt's friends and employing Mr. Platt's family law firm as counsel extraordinary privileges amounting to a monopoly. He objects to Mr. Nixon's activities in protecting that monopoly purchased from Mr. Platt by now refusing to give the city of New-York equal privileges in the condemnation of watersheds. Perhaps it is unreasonable to expect more from him than this. It is doubtful if one more emergency message would accomplish anything, and probably an unofficial announcement such as is made to Mr. Grant would be no more lightly ignored. Yet we think the Governor had it in his power to put the Morgan bill through. His simple expression of preference still leaves the pettifoggers able to trump up excuses. If he had frankly stated the case for the bill and the nature of the opposition he would have rallied every honest man in the Legislature to his side. If he had even stated publicly how bad it looks and how dangerous it is politically for Mr. Platt's organization to protect Mr. Platt's friends in a private monopoly given them by Mr. Platt's Legislature when the people of this city demand relief from that monopoly he would have aroused the party to refuse responsibility before the people for such jobbery.

That, however, might have involved unpleasant complications with the "organization." It might have scared or shamed the Legislature into doing right, but in a matter on which Mr. Platt and Mr. Odell were evidently so earnest it would probably have left hard feeling inconvenient at this time. So the people of this city should perhaps be content with the assurance that the Governor wishes them well and does not approve of Mr. Platt's sale to the Ramapo company of the privilege of furnishing them additional water at its own price. They may regret that he does not take the same view that he did a year ago of his duty to make direct and effective attacks on Mr. Platt's legislative jobbery. Still, they may be comforted to

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Business Notices.

Good liquors and good mineral waters go together. See where CARL H. SCHULTZ'S Mineral Waters are sold, and you will find the best goods.

New-York Daily Tribune.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1900. THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Lord Roberts reported the killing of one British officer and the wounding of three others who had ridden nine miles from Modjibbe in Natal, where the Boers are strongly entrenched. Free Staters continue to enter the British lines and surrender. General Woodgate died at Modjibbe Hospital of wounds received in the battle of Spion Kop.

DOMESTIC.—Secretary Hay said that so far as he knew there was no foundation for Sir Frank's pending Puerto Rican bill sent back to committee, in order that the tariff and civil government features may be separated; a bill providing for the appointment of a commission to investigate and report on the Modjibbe and Japan was passed; resolutions accepting a statue of Oliver P. Morton from the State of Indiana were adopted, tributes to Mr. Morton's memory being paid by Senators Fairbanks, Allison and Beveridge.

CITY.—Stocks were strong and active. The ceremony of beginning work on the rapid transit tunnel took place in City Hall Park; addresses were made by Mayor Van Wyck, President Orr of the Rapid Transit Board and others; the Mayor and each of the Commissioners turned up a spadeful of earth. Three firemen were drowned in a basement by the collapse of the floor above, which contained a heavy load. The cable chess match was won by the American players by the score of 6 to 4.

RELIEF FOR PUERTO RICO. The Puerto Rican Relief bill, which finally passed yesterday, will not open up the markets of the island or bring the prosperity for which there is such urgent need of legislation. Its value is an assurance of goodwill and generosity as a provision for the carrying on at once of public work which will promote the permanent welfare of the people and also give them remunerative employment during the period of recovery from the effects of the hurricane. It should, however, be followed by speedy action to open up the avenues of commerce and give Puerto Rico a profitable market.

This can most quickly and surely be done by the passage of the House Tariff bill by the Senate. There has been much difference of opinion over this measure and a vast amount of misrepresentation by its opponents, who have talked as if it meant the raising of a Chinese Wall between the United States and Puerto Rico, instead of the lowering to practically nominal rates of the present legal barrier. Whether it is exactly what some people want or not, all must confess that it is a substantial measure of relief which will enable Puerto Rico to send its products here at a good profit and take from us what they want at reasonable terms. It is possible to understand opposition to this bill on constitutional and political grounds, though if the Democrats are so sure it is unconstitutional it might be thought they would be glad to see the Republicans pass it to be discredited by the Supreme Court. But how anybody pretending concern for Puerto Rico can strive to block action is beyond explanation. At present the Dingley tariff is operative against Puerto Rico, and there is no power in the President to remit its duties. It is asserted by some that it ought not to apply, but the interpretation of the law adopted by the Administration is one that Chief Justice Taney himself promulgated, and even if it is not correct, it cannot be set aside without a Supreme Court decision some time in the future. Meanwhile the Government must apply the law as it believes it should be applied until Congress by legislation changes it. So for practical purposes it is the Dingley tariff or such law as Congress can be got to pass. It must be evident to even the advocates of no tariff that the conversion of Congress to no tariff at this stage of affairs would be a long and tedious process, even if it could be finally successful. Of course, they can rail at their opponents, but that does not alter the fact. Perhaps the friends of the bill are deep dyed villains, but a conviction of their wickedness does not make the passage of another bill any easier. The House bill can be passed, and at once, if the people anxious to help Puerto Rico will accept the situation. By trying to delay its enactment they will simply keep Puerto Rico shut off from our markets by the Dingley tariff.

The people who do not like the House bill and want to make political capital of it would if it passed have liberty to do so until the certain revival of prosperity under it discredited their walls and vindicated its wisdom as a practical measure of administration. Those who believe we must adopt Puerto Rico into the Union as a constitutional necessity would look forward to a decision to reward or blast their hopes. And