The Sun.
It Shines for All.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1871.

Amusements To-day.

Association Hall—Concert.
Booth's Theatre—The King of the Commons. Matinee.
Bryant's Opera House—864 st., between 4th and 5th ave.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Saratoga. Matinee.
Fourteenth Street Theatre—The Fifth Star. Matinee.
Grand Opera House—Three Operas. Matinee.
Lina Edwin's Theatre—Hunted Down. Matinee.
Niblo's Garden—The Black Crook. Matinee.
New York Circus—14th st., opp. Academy of Music. Matinee.
Olympic Theatre—Richelieu. Matinee.
Stadt Theatre—Jane Eyre.
San Francisco Minstrels—585 Broadway.
Tony Pastor's Opera House—Female Minstrels, &c. Matinee.
The Beach Pneumatic Tunnel—Open to Visitors.
Wallack's—The Clandestine Marriage. Matinee.
Wood's Museum—Lucretia Borgia. Matinee.

Cause of the Decadence of the Republican Party.

Gen. GRANT has now held the Presidential office about two years. The Republican party had never been so strong at any previous period of its existence as when he entered the White House. It had just come out of a protracted contest with ANDREW JOHNSON, whom it had completely prostrated, and out of a sharp and severe struggle with the Democracy, winning a triumph so signal that it seemed to have well nigh accomplished their ruin.

Where stand the two parties to-day? The Republicans have lost nearly all their strongholds in the Southern States, while six of the States in the North and West that voted for GRANT have gone over to the Democracy, and with the apparent intention of staying there. In Congress, as well as out of it, we see the party widely divided on cardinal measures, while its eminent leaders seem quite as eager to make war on each other as to combat their common foe. We hear of serious divisions in the Cabinet on questions of great moment, and the country believes that nothing prevents its breaking up except the fear that this would be followed in March by an organization of the new House of Representatives by means of a coalition between the Democratic members and those Republicans who are avowedly hostile to GRANT's renomination, or who dissent from some leading measures of the party.

How does it happen that the Republican party is in this perilous position? The reason is obvious. It has been compelled to traverse a critical stage in its career under a leader whose incapacity to guide its course is only equalled by his indifference to the disasters that flow from his blunders. When passing through the transition period between the old slavery controversies and the new issues sure to spring up after their settlement, it was essential to the continued supremacy of the party that a clear head and a strong hand should direct its affairs. At this supreme juncture it was a great misfortune that the party found itself burdened with a President incapable of broad views of public questions, destitute of all experience as a politician, and unwilling to call to his Cabinet those who could supply his own deficiencies. The crisis demanded a statesman of comprehensive vision like HENRY CLAY, who could strike out a new series of measures suited to the exigency; or a chieftain like ANDREW JACKSON, who by his personal qualities could win to his side a liberal share of the intellect of the country, and inspire the masses with enthusiasm for his leadership.

But GRANT was not merely incompetent to perform such work as this; he had not the slightest disposition for attempting it. His tastes lay quite in other directions. In this crisis of the Republican party, instead of marking out for it a new policy, and aiming to harmonize and consolidate its ranks, he has seemed intent upon indulging petty spites against its independent members, supplying fat offices to the endless retinue of his poor relations, sliding through Congress some slippery job for the gratification of panders to his vanity, accepting valuable presents with one hand while bestowing lucrative places upon the donors with the other; but never for one moment rising to the level of his high position, nor feeling the pressure of its weighty responsibilities.

It looks as if GRANT himself had begun to see that he must do something to retrieve his waning hold upon the Republican party, and hence his dash at San Domingo, and his special message to Congress tending to rekindle the smouldering embers of sectional animosity in the Southern States. But all such despairing efforts to restore his lost prestige distract rather than harmonize the Republican party, and cover with a darker cloud its prospects of success in 1872. That GRANT as a statesman is a lamentable failure nobody doubts. Whether he will succeed in altogether ruining the party that elevated him to power remains to be determined.

Taxation in New York—Mr. Wells's Report.

Messrs. DAVID A. WELLS, EDWIN DODGE, and GEORGE W. CUYLER, Commissioners appointed by the Legislature to examine the subject of taxation of property in this State, have just made a long and elaborate report. It is no disrespect to Messrs. DODGE and CUYLER to attribute the authorship of the document to Mr. WELLS alone, since it evidently bears the impress of his mind, and embodies views which he has already in other ways laid before the public.

The report begins by mentioning facts respecting the inequality and injustice of our present method of taxation, with most of which, in a general way, every taxpayer is acquainted. Real estate, it is well known, is never assessed in this State at its real market value, nor upon any uniform scale. As to personal property, not one-third of it pays taxes as the law requires, and many owners of it escape altogether. The burden of supporting the State and local governments is distributed, not scientifically and in just proportions, but at haphazard or with unfair favoritism. All this the report makes plain beyond question.

Another evil which the report descants upon is the injury to the prosperity of the State caused by the excessive taxation imposed upon capital invested in undertakings liable to competition from abroad. For instance, a steamship company or a manufacturing company, located in this city, has to pay, in addition to the taxes imposed by the United States upon all the materials it employs, an annual tax upon its capital to the State and city of 2 27-100 per cent., while similar concerns in Europe or in another State may be quite or nearly exempt. The effect is to drive such enterprises away from us altogether. Again, the liability even to being taxed at a high figure upon their personal property induces many wealthy citizens to remove from this State into New Jersey and Connecticut, thus depriving the State of the advantage of their annual expenditure and the trade that expenditure involves.

The Commissioners propose as a remedy for these and other evils of our existing tax system a plan involving three principal measures. First, they would tax the capital stock of only those persons or corporations doing business within the State, which cannot possibly transfer themselves or their operations elsewhere, such as gas companies, banks and bankers, railroad companies, fire insurance companies, omnibus and ferry companies, and the like. To meet the case of railroads running through several counties, they recommend that some State officer be authorized to assess annually at a given rate the corporate franchise of each company at a value equal to the aggregate market value of its stock and funded and floating debt, less cash on hand, and that, in consideration therefor, the company shall be exempt from all other taxation. The tax thus received would of course have to be distributed among the various counties on some just principle of division.

Secondly, the Commission recommend that land be taxed exclusive of the buildings upon it at a uniform valuation of 50 per cent. of its market value. The adoption of this arbitrary standard is on account of its relation to the third branch of the new scheme, which the report gives as follows:

"Tax the house or building as real estate separately, at the same rate of valuation as the land, that is, 50 per cent.; and then assuming that the value of the house or building, irrespective of its contents, be such contents furniture, machinery, or any other chattels whatsoever, is the sign or index which the owner or occupier puts out of his personal property, tax the house or building on a valuation of 50 per cent. additional to its real estate valuation, as the representative valuation of such personal property; or in other words, tax the land separately on 50 per cent. of its fair marketable valuation, and tax the building apart from the land, as representing the owner's personal property, on a full valuation, as indicated by the rent actually paid for it or its estimated rental value. Or, as a substitute for the above third provision, the following:

"Tax buildings conjointly with land as real estate at a uniform valuation; and then, as the equivalent for all taxation on personal property, tax the occupier, be he owner or tenant, of any building or portion of any building used as a dwelling, or for any other purpose, on a valuation of three times the rental or rental value of the premises occupied. Tenement houses occupied by more than one family, or tenement houses having a rental value not in excess of a fixed sum, to be taxed to the owner as occupier."

That is to say, abolish all taxation of personal property as now managed, and substitute for it the taxation of the capital of only such persons and corporations as cannot leave the State, and of every occupant of a building at a given estimate based on the rental or absolute value of the building. Real estate shall be taxed, not as now upon the assessed value of the land and buildings together, but upon one-half the market value of the land alone. All other property is to be exempt. The scheme commends itself by its simplicity and directness, but it needs and will undoubtedly receive a thorough discussion before it is adopted.

The Situation in France.

The determination of the French National Assembly to establish a provisional republican government is nothing more than was to have been expected. While the Republicans must of necessity aim at such a conclusion, it is evidently for the interest of every class of conservatives and pretenders to the throne of France. These people must all desire that the odium of signing the treaty which recognizes and consecrates the humiliation of the country should be borne by republican officials. That the authorities to be charged with this most unwelcome duty should represent a republic was accordingly a foregone conclusion.

The recent election having determined, by the large conservative majority sent to the Assembly, that the extreme Republicans of the school of GAMBETTA shall no longer remain in power, and that peace must be concluded upon the best terms that Prussia will concede, there can be no question that the proposal to select M. THIERS for President and JULES FAVRE for the head of the Ministry is a wise one. THIERS especially merits this confidence and this distinction. He is one of the few conservative statesmen of France who never bowed the knee to the late Emperor. He earnestly and ably opposed the war which has brought the country to ruin. His services in attempting to negotiate after the surrender of Sedan were also of great value; and though he is now well stricken in years—he will be seventy-four on the 16th of next April—there is no man in France better qualified than he to extricate the nation from its present calamities and to lay the foundations of a better future.

After peace is concluded and the Germans have withdrawn, the French people will be called upon to determine, by universal suffrage, what kind of a permanent government they wish to have. This is also a judicious measure. Since the great revolution of 1793—and a more just or a more sublime effort is not recorded in the history of man—seven different forms of government have existed in France. Two of these have been destroyed by foreign invasion, and five by domestic revolution. In this period the governments of longest life have been the monarchy of July and the empire of VERHUEL NAPOLEON, each having stood a little less than eighteen years. Even the empire of the great NAPOLEON lasted but eleven years. In such a land of changes there can be only one way of establishing a government which can give internal peace and secure the permanence of public order, and that is by referring the question to the people themselves. That there will be an honest election, and that every opinion will be allowed to express itself freely at the polls, is sufficiently guaranteed by the names of the men who are to compose the provisional administration.

The questions to be decided at this election must be substantially the following: First, shall France be a republic? Secondly, shall it be a constitutional monarchy, with a prince of the Orleans family at its head? Thirdly, shall it be a constitutional monarchy, with the Count DE CHAMBORD, the heir of the old Bourbon line, for King? Fourthly, shall it be an empire, with the Prince Imperial as its future Emperor, and the Empress EUGENIE as Regent? These four questions cover the whole ground; and it is our opinion that the response of the French people is more likely to be in favor of the republic as their permanent political system than in favor of either of the others.

More Disasters on the Hudson River Railroad.

Why is it that extreme casualties so follow each other on the Hudson River Railroad? A third happened near Greenbush on Thursday night. Two cars were thrown from the track, rolled down the bank, set on fire and burned up. The passengers escaped through the windows, though some of them were slightly burned.

What is the reason why such repeated and such terrible disasters occur upon that railroad?

Among the results of the European war is the prospect of a general overhauling of the antiquated military establishment of England. The manner in which the Prussian army walked over France set JOHN BULL to thinking; and the bragging naturally indulged in by the officers of the victorious German armies, picked up, embellished, and sent home by English special correspondents, served to add to the general uneasiness caused by the progress of events. The cable has brought intelligence that Mr. CARDWELL has recommended an entire reorganization of the army, and the construction of extensive defensive works. Among the changes urged by the advocates of army reform are the abolition of the sale of commissions, and a material alteration of the existing arrangements at the Horse Guards, where the unpopular Duke of CAMBRIDGE now rules supreme, to the great detriment of the service, as it is generally believed.

The Rev. FRANCIS VINTON, D. D., has written a letter to the President which somebody has caused to be published. He addresses his distinguished correspondent as "My dear General," and prays that God's blessing may prosper his plans for the annexation of San Domingo. It seems that Dr. VINTON has been down at Nassau with his wife for her health, and one reason why he wants San Domingo is to have a place in the West Indies where invalids can go in the winter and still be under the stars and stripes. He thinks San Domingo would make a wonderful *sanitarium*; but he says this motive is secondary. He has talked with Gov. WALKER, of New Providence—he has been there forty-one years, and was a great friend of the United States during the rebellion, when Nassau was thick with blockade-runners—and Gov. WALKER has convinced him that if we could get San Domingo, American civilization and culture would redeem the society of the West Indies! Dr. VINTON has also learned from a sea captain that in case a canal should be made through the Isthmus of Panama, the direct route from Asia to Europe would have to pass on the one side of San Domingo or the other; and accordingly he thinks that if we don't take the island, some other people of the Caucasian race will. Dr. VINTON does not seem to have heard of the effort of the Spaniards—a Caucasian people—in this direction a few years ago. They annexed San Domingo, and after spending fifteen millions of dollars and losing twenty thousand soldiers there in an effort to subdue the natives and beat the yellow fever, they finally quit and went home again. Dr. VINTON addresses his letter "To His Excellency President GRANT." The reverend Doctor apparently labors under the impression that this is the proper title of the President. He evidently still has a good deal to learn.

Brevet Major-Gen. DON PIATT thinks President GRANT is getting to be just the least bit imperial in his ways, and cites his action in paying marked and unusual attentions to Secretary CRESWELL immediately after the exposure of the CHORPENNING fraud, and the fact that the White House for the first time in its history is overrun with liveried flunkeys, as instances in point. The stolid indifference to public opinion manifested by the President may probably be attributed to his peculiar notions of propriety rather than to any aspirations toward imperialism. It is not likely that he has ever suspected how offensive the contemptuous attitude he has assumed toward the people appears to those who put him where he is, and who have the power to elect a successor in his place.

The statement showing the quantities and values of foreign merchandise entering into consumption in the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, issued by the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics on Commerce and Navigation, is curious as well as valuable. From it we glean a few items, which may be appropriately classed as among the curiosities of commerce. During the year we imported sardines and anchovies to the value of $1,009,354; diamonds and gems, real and imitation, set and unset, $1,769,828; human hair, manufactured and unmanufactured, $487,452; catgut, $14,946; Cologne water and other alcoholic perfumery, $177,003; ornamental feathers and artificial flowers, $1,366,508; dolls, $298,958; canes and walking sticks, $35,991; railroad iron, made to pattern and fitted to be laid down, $9,678,505; dried bugs, $40; dried blood, $1,701; horseshoe nails, $4,055; silk ribbons, $4,936,312; old scrap iron, $8,168,898; raisins, $1,800,727; calomel, $6,305; bristles, $651,390; chickory, $98,389; horns and bones, $36,219; flocking, $34,034; soap, $297,185. The total amount of foreign merchandise imported for use in the United States during the year was valued at $452,875,665.63, upon which duties were levied to the amount of $101,513,974.45.

Mrs. ERNESTINE L. ROSE, who used generally to take a prominent part in the various progressive movements which have attracted popular attention in this city, is now staying with her husband in the dignified old town of Bath in England, where she created quite a sensation recently at a public meeting concerning the new School Board by mounting the rostrum and making a speech on the woman question. The occasion which called forth Mrs. ROSE's display of eloquence was the reading of a letter which had been written by Miss BURDETT COUTTS reproving the female aspirants for places on the Board. The effort of Mrs. ROSE was decidedly successful, and resulted in revolutionizing the sentiment of the meeting.

There has been quite a panic in England on the subject of vaccination. A few years ago Dr. SPENCER HALL, an eminent physician, propounded a theory that vaccination injured the constitution. Another set of physicians argued that though vaccination with pure matter might be good, it was impossible to procure pure vaccine matter in England, and that the matter used was liable to carry into the blood all the diseases and hereditary taints of each person through whom it had passed. Anti-vaccination meetings were held and a general crusade instituted against the practice. In consequence of this agitation, parents refused to comply with the law rendering vaccination compulsory, preferring to pay the penalty of one pound imposed for non-compliance; and the result is that they are having in London a frightful smallpox epidemic, ninety per cent. of the cases proving fatal where vaccination has been neglected.

THE QUESTION OF QUESTIONS.

A Refutation of Darwinism.

The most effective reply to Darwin that has yet appeared has just been published in London. It is *The Genesis of Species*, by ST. GEORGE MIVART, F. R. S., a distinguished English naturalist. He treats Mr. Darwin with courtesy and candor, admits his great services to science, and the plausibility at first sight of his theory of natural selection when lies at the basis of the whole Darwinian system. He then proceeds, with evident mastery of the subject, to suggest objections and to produce facts in opposition to natural selection, which leave that theory hardly anything to stand upon. He admits, it is true, that to a certain extent natural selection exists and acts; but he maintains that in order that we may be able to account for the production of known kinds of animals and plants, it requires to be supplemented by the action of some other natural law or laws as yet undiscovered; also, that the consequences which have been drawn from evolution, whether exclusively Darwinian or not, to the prejudice of religion, by no means follow from it, and are in fact illegitimate.

If the theory of natural selection can be shown to be quite insufficient to explain any considerable number of important phenomena connected with the origin of species, that theory, as an exclusive explanation of the subject, must be considered as provisionally discredited. If other causes than natural selection can be proved to have acted—if variation can in any cases be proved to be subject to certain determinations in special directions by other means than natural selection—it then becomes probable, *a priori*, that it is so in others, and that natural selection depends upon and only supplements such means, which conception is opposed to the pure Darwinian position.

Natural selection, simply and by itself, is potent to explain the maintenance or the further extension and development of favorable variations, which are at once sufficiently considerable to be useful from the first to the individual possessing them. But natural selection utterly fails to account for the conservation and development of the minute and rudimentary beginnings, the slight and indefinitesimal commencement of structures, however useful those structures may afterward become. Nor does it account for the fact, that of many species of the same order, one alone is developed in a peculiar manner, by circumstances which operate with equal force on all the other species of that order.

Take, for instance, the case of the neck of the giraffe, the development of which is considered by the Darwinians to be accounted for in the most satisfactory manner by their theory. They allege, what is true, that in the country inhabited by the giraffe severe droughts occasionally occur, in which all grass and other ground vegetation is destroyed, and only trees survive. They say that in such droughts only those individuals of the species which developed into the giraffe, who could reach high up to the branches of trees, were preserved. The short ones starved to death. The next generation, whose parents were all tall, inherited long and high-reaching necks. The next drought again killed off the shorter ones, and the tall ones alone remained to illustrate the survival of the fittest, and to transmit to their offspring their still lottier stature; and so the process went on from period to period, through ages and aons, till the giraffes acquired their present length of neck, all the individuals tending to revert to the ancient shorter type of body being ruthlessly destroyed at the occurrence of each drought.

Now against this it may be said, in the first place, that the argument proves too much; for, on this supposition, many species must have tended to undergo a similar modification, and we ought to have at least several forms similar to the giraffe developed from the different ungulata or hoofed animals inhabiting South Africa, such as oxen, deers, antelopes, sheep, goats, hogs, horses, asses, zebras, and quaggas. These animals abound in that region, and were just as liable as the one which developed into the giraffe to be starved during droughts; and yet none of them show any trace whatever of unusual length of neck, or of "high-reaching" propensities. Nor have they acquired such a development as to allow them to rise on their hind limbs and graze on trees in a kangaroo attitude, nor a power of climbing, nor, as far as known, any other modification tending to compensate for the comparative shortness of the neck. Yet when the severe droughts necessary to Mr. Darwin's theory occurred, the ground vegetation must have been exhausted, and the other hooded animals must have taken to leaf-eating or have starved; and thus they must have had any accidental long-necked varieties favored and preserved exactly as the long-necked varieties of the giraffe are supposed to have been favored and preserved. In South Africa there is a great number of species of vegetable-feeding animals, all of which present minute variations as to the length of the neck. If, as Mr. Darwin contends, the natural selection of these favorable variations has alone lengthened the neck of the giraffe by preserving it during droughts, similar variations, in similarly-feeding forms at the same times, ought similarly to have been preserved, and so lengthened the neck of some other ungulates by similarly preserving them during the same droughts.

It may also be objected that the power of reaching upwards acquired by the lengthening of the neck and legs must have necessitated a considerable increase in the entire size and mass of the body (larger bones requiring stronger and more voluminous muscles and tendons, and these again necessitating larger nerves and more capacious blood vessels); and it is very problematical whether the disadvantages thence arising would not in times of scarcity more than counterbalance the advantages. For a considerable increase in the supply of food would be requisite on account of this increase in size and mass, while at the same time there would be a certain decrease in strength; for, as Herbert Spencer says, "it is demonstrable that the excess of absorbed over expended nutriment must, other things being equal, become less as the size of an animal becomes greater."

There is another very curious structure, the origin or the disappearance of which it seems impossible to account for on the hypothesis of minute indefinite variations. It is that of the mouth of the young kangaroo. In all mammals, men included, the air passage from the lungs opens in the floor of the mouth behind the tongue, and in front of the opening of the gullet, so that each particle of food as it is swallowed passes over the opening, but is prevented from falling into it, and thus causing death by choking, by the action of a small cartilaginous shield (the epiglottis) which at the right moment bends back and protects the orifice. Now, the kangaroo is born in such an exceedingly imperfect and undeveloped condition, that it is quite unable to suck. The mother therefore places the minute, blind, and naked young upon the nipple, and then injects milk into it by means of a special muscular envelope of the mammary gland. Did no special provision exist, the young one must infallibly be choked by the intrusion of the milk into the windpipe. But there is a special provision. The larynx is so elongated that it rises up into the posterior end of the nasal passage, and is thus enabled to give free entrance to the air for the lungs while the milk passes harmlessly on each side of this elongated larynx, and so safely attains the gullet behind it.

Now, on the Darwinian hypothesis, either all mammals have descended from marsupial progenitors, or else the marsupials sprung from animals having in most respects the ordinary mammalian structure. On the first alternative, how did natural selection remove this at least perfectly innocent and harmless structure in almost all other mammals, and, having done so, again reproduce it in precisely those forms which alone require it, namely, the cetacea? That such a harmless structure need not be removed any Darwinian must confess, since a structure exists in both the crocodiles and gavials which enables the former to breathe themselves while drowning the prey which they hold in their mouths. On Mr. Darwin's hypothesis it could only have been developed where useful, therefore not in the gavials, which feed on fish, but which yet retain, as we might expect, this in them superfluous but harmless formation.

On the second alternative, how did the elongated larynx itself arise, seeing that if its development lagged behind that of the material structure the young primeval kangaroo must be choked, while without the injecting power in the mother it must be starved? The struggle by the sole action of which such a form was developed must indeed have been severe!

Mr. Darwin explains the brilliant plumage of the peacock or the humming bird by the action of sexual selection; the most brilliant of the males being selected by the females to become the fathers of the next generation, to which generation they tend to communicate their own bright nuptial vesture. But there are peculiarities of color and of form which it is exceedingly difficult to account for by any such action. Thus, among apes, the female is notoriously weaker, and is armed with much less powerful canine tusks than the male. When we consider what is known of the emotional nature of these animals, and the periodicity of its intensification, it is hardly credible that a female would often risk life or limb through her admiration of a trifling shade of color, or an infinitesimally greater though irresistibly fascinating degree of wartiness! In fact, the keeper of the Zoological Gardens in London informed Mr. Mivart that at their sexual periods the female apes admit with perfect readiness the access of any males of any species. This fact alone is quite conclusive against any such sexual selection as would account for the local coloration referred to.

In poisonous serpents we have structures which at all events at first sight seem positively hurtful to those reptiles. Such are the rattle of the rattlesnake, and the expanding neck of the cobra, the former serving to warn the ear of the intended victim, as the latter warns the eye. It is true we cannot demonstrate that the victims are alarmed and warned, but on Darwinian principles they certainly ought to be so. For the rashest and most incautious of the animals preyed on would always tend to fall victims, and the existing individuals, being the long-descended progeny of the timid and cautious, ought to have an inherited tendency to distrust among other things both "rattling" and "expanding" snakes. It is certain, however, that many of the smaller animals are not terrified by the presence of snakes, though the snakes habitually prey upon them.

Mr. Mivart declares that he was not disposed originally to dissent from the theory of natural selection; but he has found after many years of careful examination and consideration that it is wholly inadequate to account for the preservation and intensification of incessant specific and generic characters. That minute fortuitous and indefinite variations could have brought about such special forms and modifications, as Mr. Darwin maintains, seems to contradict reason and common sense. In spite of all the resources of a fertile imagination, the Darwinian pure and simple is reduced to the assertion of a paradox as great as any he opposes. In the place of a mere assertion of our ignorance as to the way these phenomena have been produced, he brings forward as their explanation a cause which is demonstratably insufficient. The theory of natural selection is inconsistent with a vast multitude of facts in natural history, as well as with the first principles of the philosophy of the Divine government of the universe. Mr. Darwin has attempted to sustain it by a skilful collection of the facts which seem to serve his purpose; but the facts he has ignored disprove his theory, and with the explosion of that theory of natural selection his whole scheme falls to the ground.

It should be stated, however, that Mr. Mivart does not wholly deny that natural selection acts to some extent in the organic world. But its action is not supreme, as Mr. Darwin makes it, but is only secondary and subordinate to other forces. Mr. Mivart undertakes to prove, and we think does prove:

That natural selection is incompetent to account for the incipient stages of useful structures.

That it does not harmonize with the coexistence of closely-similar structures of diverse origin.

That there are grounds for thinking that specific differences may be developed suddenly instead of gradually.

That the opinion that species have definite though very different limits to their variability is still tenable.

That certain fossil transitional forms are absent, which might have been expected to be present.

That some facts of geographical distribution supplement other difficulties.

That the objection drawn from the physiological difference between species and races still exists unrefuted.

That there are many remarkable phenomena in organic forms upon which natural selection throws no light whatever, but the explanations of which, if they could be ascertained, might throw light upon specific origination.

Mr. Mivart, in short, maintains that the development of species has been brought about not wholly by natural selection, but by an internal power which has controlled and continues to control the universe—in other words, by Divine power.

A CRY FROM THE BLIND WORKMEN.

Mr. Kellock's Statement Corrected—Unjust and Partial Distribution of the Legislative Charity—Blind Peter Spragg's Estimate—How a Blind Man Writes.

To the Editor of The Sun.

SIR: We would be very thankful if you would allow us to correct a statement made by Mr. Geo. Kellock, Superintendent of the Out Door Poor, in relation to the donation of $25,000 distributed to the blind by the Commissioners of Charities and Correction. This statement appeared in the *Tribune* of 2d and *Post* of 3d inst. Mr. Kellock says that last year the blind were divided into three classes: the first class receiving $100 cash each; second class, $75 cash each; third class, $50 cash and two tons of coal each. We do not know how many got their money last year, but we do know that the majority of us got no coal at all; and what few did get coal only got one ton each, except one person that we know of. Mr. Kellock says further that this year the blind were divided into four classes: the first class, having five children under 16 years of age, $80 each; second class, having three children, $70 each; third class, having one or two children, $60 each; and all the rest, single persons, $40 each.

Now, we will mention a few instances out of many, to show how wrong Mr. Kellock is in his statements. We will commence with George S. Kniver, a widower, with one child, $60; George Sterritt, a widower, with one child, only $40; Peter Nugent, a widower, with one child, $60; Peter Mooney, a widower, with one child, only $40. The following are married men, having no children of their own under 16: James Thompson, $40; James McKenna, only $40; John McLarky, $60; James Vale, only $40; Henry Andrews, $60; Michael Kelly, only $40, &c.; Eugene Finnegan, two children, $60; James McAninny, $40; Samuel Pheller, two children in Orphan Asylum, $40; William Elliot, two children in Orphan Asylum, $70, &c.

Here we might add a long list of names of married persons whom Mr. Kellock classes as single persons, and some single persons he has classed as married persons; but it would take up too much space in your valuable paper. Blind persons having seeing wives get a larger sum in proportion to the number of children they have, while blind persons having blind wives receive no additional sum in proportion to the number of children they have. Mr. Kellock, to sustain what we sincerely think his unjust action and partial distribution of this legislative charity, asserts that the minimum sum of $40 was adjudged to most of us on the grounds of our unworthy use of money, implying—in fact, flatly stating—that we were intemperate, &c., which statement we utterly repudiate as false, and made by him to cover and give a plausible reason for his unjust action.

We believe and think that we can substantiate to an impartial public that his action takes root in the influence of Mr. Alexander Frear, Chairman of the Committee on Cities and Villages in the present State Assembly, and a Commissioner of Charities and Correction, who from the fact that we have unflinchingly opposed him in his political views for the the past five or six years, knowing from intimate acquaintance with him his true character as a mere political sewer and tool, through which Mr. Sweeny trickles and acts; while others of our unfortunate class, who like dogs kiss the filthiest hand that caresses them, have sustained him, and they receive a larger sum than we.

By publishing this statement, you will benefit a large number of blind persons, and place the saddle on the right horse. Respectfully yours,

PETER SPRAGG,
on behalf of his blind friends.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13, 1871.

Garroting the Poor to Reduce the Debt.

To the Editor of The Sun.

SIR: Will you have the kindness to call the attention of the Representatives in Congress from our city that the poor are daily garroted for the purpose of reducing the national debt. Thus: A poor devil who is obliged to enter a pawn shop for the purpose of procuring a loan of $1 on his coat is handed ninety-five cents! Being the first time he ever entered a pawn office, he naturally asks: "Why is this thus?" The pawnbroker answers, "Five cents for revenue stamp." "Whose next turn?" says the pawnbroker. "Please wait upon me, Jim, I am anxious to get home to my children, as Jane has gone with her father's dinner." "Ah, Mrs. Smith, excuse me, I did not notice you. How much?" (turning over and examining minutely a woman's brown merino dress). "Two dollars, if you please." "A dollar and a half; will that do, Mrs. Smith?" "Yes, yes; please let me have the money, and keep the ticket till I call again." One dollar and forty-five cents is handed her; she has evidently been there before, and contributes another five cents for the purpose of reducing the national debt! God only knows how many times she has contributed five cents for the purpose of reducing the debt of "the best Government the sun ever shown on." This matter is of very serious moment; and I trust our Representatives in Congress will insist upon it "that from and after this date" no revenue stamp shall be required on any pawn ticket where the article or articles pledged is for a less sum than $10.

JEROME.

IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITY.—Deposits made on or before March 1 will draw interest from that date. Mutual Benefit Savings Bank, Sun Building.—*Adv.*

THE CROWNING OF THE EMPEROR.

A Splendid Pageant in Versailles—The Realization of Bismarck's Dream—The Unification of Germany.

Correspondence of the Boston Journal.

VERSAILLES, Jan. 19.—The ceremony, or rather pageant, yesterday, in Versailles, merits preservation in immortal fame, and 'tis a pity Germany has no poet worthy the task. The day was a strange mixture of damp, cold, and warm sunshine, the rain occasionally weeping a little over the heroic dead, and then the sun chasing away the tears, as unworthy of so grand an occasion. Toward 10 o'clock a very brilliant throng began to assemble in the palace yards, and increased steadily in brilliancy and volume until the stroke of 12, when the King, preceded by guards and outriders, drove furiously to the door of the Salle des Glaces.

Entering the courtyard from the Rue de Reservoirs about 11 o'clock, I found drawn up in line the King's body guard, taken from all the best regiments of the army, and glittering like a rainbow in the hundred colors which were so strongly contrasted together. Throughing past them were the invited guests of higher rank, lastly returning the salutations of hundreds of hands from every direction, which embodied with the accustomed servility the expression of their humbleness. The Bavarian, Saxon, and Würtemberg officers who had been distinguished by the presentation of orders were very numerous, and, although very different in type from the now so well known Prussian, would still compare very favorably with him. The Bavarians were especially brilliant in their bright blue uniforms and shining helmets; and many were men of most majestic presence. The Würtembergers were wretchedly dressed—hardly a single officer even attempting at elegance. The Saxons were, as usual, *au fait* in appearance, and were easily distinguishable, aside from their uniforms, by their jaunty carriage and mellow accent.

It was evident that all the officers of distinction, from all sections of the army, had left their posts to assist at this ceremony. The tall, gigantic men of the Garde corps—stalking about like ghosts, in their white uniforms; the dark-haired, short, stalwart Brandenburgers; the real Berliners, with spectacles on nose and crease under the arm for bookcarrying; the strapping cavalry man, with the iron cross at his breast; and the slender youth, with long hair combed back under his casque, and sword buckled on his thighs; all hurried forward to the hall, where the greatest Prussian ceremony of modern times was to occur.

Presently the guests began to arrive pell-mell. There was no attempt at glory of equipages, as in campaigning it is difficult to obtain. Moltke came in a post carriage showing that it had undertaken recent journeys; Bismarck in a little caleche, hardly large enough to hold him; the Crown Prince in his usual very modest carriage; and dozens of officers were compelled to make their entree through a rain, which suddenly visited us, in full toilet, on foot. Wagons of all kinds were used. Half a dozen barons would dash in in an omnibus, which they had happily discovered; and the immortal furniture van, which had such a jolly role at the time the delegation from the Reichtag presented the address to King William, again came into play. Great precaution seemed to have been taken for the safety of the King. There were even landwehr men wandering carelessly about in the crowd, with their guns held as a huntsman holds his when he hears the deer breaking cover. How did the Prussians know how far French fanaticism might go?

Large masses of troops were disposed on the Avenue de Paris and the Place d'Armes about 11 o'clock, and toward 12 the King left the Prefecture and proceeded leisurely through the line of soldiers, who saluted him with deafening shouts of "Hurrah for the German Emperor." When one of the chateau gate, the royal carriage drove rapidly through the seething mass of soldiers, strangers and civilian Germans, and alighting as the chateau clock struck the hour of noon, entered the Salle des Glaces by the grand staircase, along which were arrayed, two and two, the guards composed of picked men from the various regiments.

In the middle of the grand hall, and with its back to the windows which open on the park, a grand altar was erected. Upon this altar, which was tastefully decorated, lighted candles were placed, and at each side stood three pastors, clothed in the sonorous habiments of their order and asserting the support of the church to the new Empire. Further down the hall was another and smaller altar, and in front of this were arranged the standards of all the regiments of the third army. Between the two altars, also, were ranged Bavarians and other soldiers. In front of the principal altar were several soldiers who had in times past or in the recent campaign received the iron cross, and two of them had their heads bound up, and showed other marks of recent wounds.

On the platform at the other end of the gallery there were many soldiers stationed as the standard bearers. The King, preceded by the marshal of his household and the Court Marshal, the Counts of Pückler and Perponcher, and followed by his brothers, Prince George of Saxony, the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and the majority of the hereditary princes. Beside these, as they took their places in front of the grand altar, were also the Crown Prince, Prince Charles of Prussia, the King's brother, and Grand Master of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The Grand Dukes of Saxe-Weimar, Oldenburg, and Baden, the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, the Duke of Saxe-Altenburg, Princes Luitpold and Otho of Bavaria, Prince William and Duke Eugene of Würtemberg, Leopold of Hohenzollern, the Duke of Holstein, and many others. The aged King, bolt upright, and from time to time gazing with an almost child-like curiosity upon the scene before him, listened intently to the sermon which one of the division preachers delivered with much grace and eloquence. The sermon touched upon the historic and religious character of the ceremony now in progress, and elucidated its mysterious influence on the hearts of the German nation. It was a splendid tribute as well to the new subject of adoration, the venerable hero-soldier; and the King was deeply affected by it.

Bismarck and Moltke, meantime, one on each side of the platform, winked sleepily and wickedly, and seemed inwardly much amused at this parade and trappings. Gen. Blumenthal, who was also near at hand, with the commanding Generals, and officers of all grades grouped around him, was grimly silent, and seemed to consider the whole thing a waste of time. In long rows, down each side of the gallery, were all the distinguished military and civil personages. Prussian and foreign, of which the Fatherland boasts to day. England was represented by her Commissioner, Gen. Beauchamp Walker, and America had a representative of her army present in the person of Brig. Gen. Duff of Illinois, formerly of Grant's staff.

The sermon finished, a general buzz of congratulation was just springing up in the grand hall when the King suddenly advanced to the platform, and there, surrounded by the standard bearers of the First Guard regiment, he pronounced his address to the Princess, in which he declared his intention of accepting the Imperial German crown. After, with faltering voice, he had finished his vow, Bismarck advanced tranquilly to read the proclamation to the German people. This was the culmination of the war, the object of the crafty man who now held the proclamation in his hands. The unification of the German people under the rule of one man, was accomplished. No wonder such a titanic task has made a diplomat already ripe in years look as old as his master.

After the reading of the proclamation the Grand Duke of Baden (who seemed to have been adopted as *deus ex machina* on most of these occasions), hailed the King as Emperor of Germany. A "three times three," which sent echoes to the national flag, and woke the echoes which had been lying perdu for two centuries, answered, and the Crown Prince hastened to embrace his father and to affectionately grasp his hand. His example was followed by all the members of the royal family and all the princes and dukes present. When the ceremony was finished there were tears on the old King's face, and many of the lookers on were visibly moved. Amid the waving of standards, flags which had been in all the early battles of the present war, and the echoes of the national hymn and triumphal marches the brilliant assembly broke up, and filtered away in its hundreds of carriages, splendid and shabby, to the duty of eating the dinner in celebration of "orders day." At the Reservoirs and other fashionable restaurants there was the most riotous merriment, and the word "Kaiser" echoed through the streets, and in all places where uniforms were seen until long past midnight.

How a Snob Tried to Cheat an Actress and was Cheated.

From the Boston Post.

A New York correspondent tells a nice story of a pretty English actress, who, on a tour through New England, took by storm a young scion of a rich old family, and was by him pursued. She was of course accompanied by a "black alpaca mother," who bewailed that "her hoffspring 'ad been deluded by a villainous Hamerican." The actress proposed to her lover a sham marriage, "just to make mother comfortable," and, he considering it a capital idea, the plot was carried out. The bridegroom enchanted the supposed minister for "doing the thing so well," and invited him to come and "crack a bottle," when he discovered that the "supposed" minister was one indeed, and that he was really a married man, taken in and done for.

Mr. Greeley as an Actor and Dramatic Author.

From the Albany Argus.

It is well known that in early life Mr. Horace Greeley had a decided liking for the stage, and at one time regarded the life of an actor as peculiarly suited to his genius. Circumstances beyond his control drove him from the stage on the first night of his appearance as "Mat, of the Iron Hand." Afterward, while a printer, he composed several plays, and set them up at leisure moments, but experienced some difficulty in getting them put on the stage on account of their profanity, a defect which he could not remove at the request of any manager, and at the same time retain his self respect. But this repulse did not sour his disposition, and he retains his love of actors and the drama to the present day.

Did Gen. Grant Try to be a Sutler?—The Story Reiterated.

*From the Cincinnati In