THE OUTLOOK AT ALBANY.

GRANT'S HAND APPEARING IN OUR STATE POLITICS.

The Contest for the Speakership—The Story of Henry Smith of Albany—What the Syracuse Convention Did for him, and What Conkling Proposes to do—Old Salt to the Front.

Correspondence of The Sun.

ALBANY, Dec. 21, 1871.—The cry of the day is who shall be Speaker, and what shall be the policy of the Republican party toward New York city. If the Republican press were to chose the Speaker, it can hardly be doubted that Henry Smith of Albany would bear off the prize; but there are so many elements entering into the contest that at this moment it would be almost impossible to make a certain judgment. Here and at the north the name of Smith is alone heard. From the old members, and for a wide circuit about the home of ex-Gov. Alvord, that old and eminent war horse would seem to be the winning name, while no slight element would be pleased to see Mr. Hunted of Westchester occupy the place. Between all of those opposing elements Erie hopes to find entrance for its favorite son, and Mr. Alberger, speaking the canal interest, expects to see his way clearly between the warring factions.

GRANT'S HAND.

To help Henry Smith comes a great power, to be wielded by Senator Conkling, the leader of the Grant Republicans. The cause of this sympathy dates from the Syracuse Convention, where it was understood that Henry Smith had been promoted by Arthur-ship if he would make the speech that seemed necessary to unite the Grant Republicans, whose front was somewhat broken by the constant and repeated attacks of Mr. Fenton's friends.

Mr. Smith is a young man possessed of marked ability, and with a large personal following. It was not in his nature to take a responsibility so great without advising with his friends. He did advise with them, and the conclusion was that while he could afford to be beaten for the position of Attorney-General, he could not afford to be beaten for having taken sides actively in the conflict between men.

CRAFTING'S PROMISE AND SMITH'S REPORT.

Mr. Conkling, after understanding the result of his conference, called on Mr. Smith, told him that he knew he was sure to be renominated, and repeated, and sought to change his mind, and by doing this he left a legacy of him, secure the Attorney-Generalship for Smith, and Smith said, and he thinks he secured the promise to back up his word.

You will live to regret your action of to-day, Mr. Smith.

Of course the friends of the candidate for Speaker were very merry; but wisdom in no mean proportion is of a very young state of our young statesmen, and I wanted his time. A few weeks after the Syracuse Convention it became the duty of the Second Assembly District of Albany county to select a candidate for the Legislature, and in pursuance of a primary the delegates met and chose the Hon. Matthew Hale, late Senator, as such candidate.

TROUBLE.

But there was trouble here. Mr. Bischoff who represented the district in the last Assembly, and who had convinced himself entitled to a renomination, believed he had secured an election against a hostile majority of several hundred votes, and it was his intention to hold. This would be fatal, for only by dividing the Democracy and uniting the Republicans was success possible. In this emergency it was that a compromise was effected, and Bischoff proposed to support the ticket if Hale would withdraw, and Smith should be the candidate. Having effected this, every effort was made, and to the surprise of the Democratic candidate, the returns on election night showed that Smith was the victor. This success entirely changed the attitude of Mr. Smith. But a few weeks before he had left Syracuse with no prospect of again appearing in politics until the next National or State Convention, now, by a wonderful election in the county of Albany, he had succeeded in carrying a district strongly Democratic, and was one of the ablest of the men chosen to the new Assembly in which the Republicans had a two-thirds majority.

His dismissal at Syracuse was not over courteous. His present position made it necessary that that oversight should be remedied. Why not start him in the race for Speaker, and give him the entire strength of Mr. Conkling? He was conscious to neither Senator, and would perhaps unite the party in the state.

OLD SALT ON DECK.

There are also other powers working for him. The Capital Commission are friendly. The West Shore Railroad, whose owners propose to bond the city of Albany for $1,250,000, and give the city stock in exchange for its credit, are not adverse. Mr. Smith therefore goes into the contest with formidable backers, and it is not unlikely that he will win.

It may not be amiss here to speculate upon the power of his chief adversary, the Hon. Thomas G. Alvord. Mr. Alvord brings a period knowledge of the position, and the hereditary claim of having for two terms held the position. He is the senior member, and possessed of a promising capacity unequaled among the politicians of the state. It will be understood what an advantage this last acquisition gives him, when we consider that the position on committees are the prizes of greatest value to Albany, and that in the next House it will be necessary to satisfy ninety-our men with thirty-one Chairmanships. To do this so carefully that the numerous promises shall not reveal to each other the extent of their hopes, and so lead to angry discussion, is the task of the chief of the majority. It will require an adroitness and ability that I think it fair to say can only be found in the great and experienced.

HOW THE CLERKSHIPS AFFECT THE FIGHT.

Another strong point is the understanding that exists between Mr. Alvord and the reflected members of the last two Houses. They have worked together, they know many of each others secrets, and they naturally prefer an old friend to a new one. This will exert its influence.

Another power that has its influence for Alvord is the fact that Albany presents candidates for the clerkship of both Houses. In the Senate, the friends of Mr. Weed claim that before the election he had obtained the pledge of every Republican Senator. It is known that he had received from Mr. Adams of this district a written pledge, and it was only because of his careless exhibition of it, and its consequent entering into the local newspaper discussion of the election that it was given up. Mr. Weed still holds Adams to his pledge, but it is understood that the Senator refuses to fulfil.

THE ASSEMBLY CLERKSHIP.

In the House the name of Mr. Underwood, member of Assembly in 1861-2, is prominent. The circulars of Mr. Underwood are dated Auburn, N. Y., but as he has been proof reader for the firm of Weed, Parsons & Co. for years and lives in Albany, it is probable that the Auburn dodge will not greatly avail when closely examined.

A FLUTTER AMONG THE REPUBLICANS WHO TOOK TWEED'S MONEY.

Rumors of charges to be preferred against Senators and Assemblymen because of checks found among Mr. Tweed's papers, are flying in all directions. Five Senators and fourteen Assemblymen is the popular estimate at this writing. Of course, in the nature of things, no authentic list can be obtained. The report is circulated that two checks, one for $15,000 and another for $25,000, have been found in the Boss's bank, properly endorsed. As this blow is aimed at the most reputable of the old members returned, it is considered a roorback.

DEAD, AGED 105 YEARS.

The Wake of Mrs. Margaret Morgan—Dying at the Age of 105; and Sent to the Morgue—A Sad Scene in Cherry Street.

Early on Thursday morning Mrs. Margaret Morgan died at 22 Cherry street, aged 105 years. She was born in a rude mud cabin at the junction of the Camlin and Shannon rivers, county of Longford, Ireland, on the 4th of July, 1766, and emigrated to America with her youngest and only surviving child 6 years ago. George Morgan, her son, who is over 50 years of age, is the youngest of eleven children. He was last night visited by a SUN reporter, to whom he said that he had brought the said woman to New York when she was only 99 years of age. She was in full possession of all her faculties up to the time of her death, and though bedridden for the last six months, was in the habit of taking her tea and coffee regularly. He said that his father had died when he was a wee lad, and that all his brothers and sisters had died in the "cold dart."

Mr. George Morgan, ever since his sojourn on Alberta's shores, has been employed as a packer by the Great American Tea Company, Vesey street, but six weeks ago he was discharged. He thought the fact of his being out of work had hastened his mother's death.

On Thursday night the body of the aged Mrs. Morgan was waked in old country style, and only yesterday afternoon were the police notified of the fact. Last night Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, Jr., were sitting weeping from the effects of their debauch, and had to be awakened by the reporter to give the necessary information. They occupy a garret room, seven feet by four, in the tenement 22 Cherry street, and are without fire, furniture, or fuel. Several empty whiskey bottles, and empty black bottles probably containing porter, were lying about the room. The body was removed to the Morgue last evening.

The Disappearance of a Westchester Girl.

Four weeks ago yesterday Miss Christina Rankin left her brother-in-law's house in Tremont, Westchester county, to go to New York to answer an advertisement for a domestic. Since then no nothing has been heard of her. She was to return the same afternoon. Mr. Peters, her brother-in-law, has searched the city over, and has left a description of her at the Police Central Office. Miss Rankin is 20 years old. She had about $15, in a savings bank, but Mr. Peters does not know which bank. Not always fearful that bank books and information of her whereabouts can be rent to Tremont streets, Tremont Publication No. 82, or to the Police.

IN THE COILS OF A MONSTER.

A Stolen School Girl—A Bartender Forces her into a Carriage—Dosed with Chloroform and Destroyed—Shall the Wretch Escape under a Paltry $5,000 Bail?

One of the most infamous outrages which have been recorded for a long time came to light in the Yorkville Police Court yesterday afternoon. The following is the story: On Thursday night Capt. Gunner, of the Nineteenth Precinct, observed a young girl, apparently about 12 years of age, at the Rink on Third avenue, between Sixty-third and Sixty-fourth streets. She looked most dejected, and seemed to be suffering from physical and mental prostration. The Captain called her up, and asked her about her friends. She said her name was Carrie H. Moore; that she was 12 years of age on the 22d of May last, was an orphan, and resided with her aunt, Adaline Howe, 787 Sixth avenue. On Friday morning week, while she was on her way to Ward School No. 45, in West Twenty-fourth street, which she attended, she was accosted by William Dennis, a bartender employed in the store of Mr. Burns, 455 Sixth avenue, who told her that one of her schoolmates was in a carriage which was standing on the next block, and wanted to see her. Carrie went with Dennis to the carriage, and when he had the door opened he put a handkerchief, saturated with chloroform, to her face, and lifted her in.

The carriage was driven to Twenty-second street and Eleventh avenue, where it stopped, and Carrie, still half unconscious, was carried into an old shanty which was tenantless. She was kept there for five hours. Dennis remaining with her the time. She was then taken in the carriage to a dismantled house in Forty-second street, near Eleventh avenue, where, however, Dennis not allow Dennis to remain. He sent took her to 222 Sixth avenue, in Dennis's own bed, by Mary Ferguson, and there she was locked up. Dennis visited her Thursday morning, when she promised to elope.

On hearing the child's story, Capt. Gunner detained Officers Hamilton and McGowan to arrest all the parties concerned. They captured Dennis at his boarding house, 32 Bond street, and also arrested the women Ferguson and Williams. They were before Justice Dodge in the Yorkville Police Court yesterday. Dennis and the women Ferguson were locked up in different cells each for examination in a separate room. Mrs. Williams was brought in by her husband, Dr. Williams, who, however, would not allow Dennis to recognize her. He sent took her to 222 Sixth avenue, on instructions sent by Mary Ferguson, and there she was locked up. Detective John Thursday morning, when she promised to elope.

Dennis, the women Ferguson and Carrie