THE DIVIDED DEMOCRACY.

WM. C. CONNER, SHERIFF BRENNAN, AND SAM COURTNEY TALK.

Mr. Conner Stands by John Kelly—Sheriff Brennan Declares that the Apollo Hall Men must Repent and Get Back into the Traces—Remarkable Interview with Sam Courtney—He says John Kelly's Machine is Too Big for John Kelly to Handle.

"I don't know that it will be worth while for you to mention me at all," said Mr. William C. Conner to a SUN reporter who had called to learn his views in regard to the proposed fusion of the Tammany and Apollo Hall organizations. Mr. Conner was in his office in the type foundry at 28 Centre street.

Reporter—Your views would be of interest to the public.

Mr. Conner (pleasantly, and curling his handsome moustache)—Well, step inside the railing.

The reporter walked in and took a seat at the desk.

Mr. Conner—I have not been in Tammany Hall since the election. All I can say is that I have heard of no proposition coming from Apollo Hall which would look to a fusion.

Reporter—Are you in favor of uniting with Apollo Hall?

Mr. Conner—I am, provided they are not too exacting, provided they do not want to place on our committee some of their men with whom we could not possibly affiliate.

APOLLO HALL DRIFTING TOWARD TAMMANY.

Reporter—Will this be the principal question in case of a fusion?

Mr. Conner (in his frank, open way)—I think it would be. My idea is that the rank and file, that the mass of voters attached to Apollo Hall will voluntarily attach themselves to Tammany Hall. I have spoken with many prominent Apollo Hall men, and they all told me that they intend to cooperate in future with Tammany Hall.

Reporter—Do you think that Apollo Hall is "played out"—as the slang phrase goes?

Mr. Conner—They begin to think that there should be but one organization. They see that there is no use of their contending with us so long as we can poll a far much heavier vote than they did at the last election, and you must bear in mind that Tammany Hall is really at present a new organization.

Reporter—So this is all that will induce them to forsake Apollo Hall?

Mr. Conner—They saw also that the opposition elected their different candidates for city offices by this very division. Last year they (the opposition) elected by division their candidate for Register; this year they elected by division their candidates for District Attorney, for the judicial offices, for Aldermen, Assistant Aldermen, and Assemblymen; and next year they will probably elect other officers if this division continues. They see how necessary it is for the Democratic party of the city to be united.

THE BAD ELEMENT IN APOLLO HALL.

Reporter—Do you think there is a bad element in the Apollo Hall faction?

Mr. Conner—I think Mr. Kelly's remarks are pretty nearly right all the way through. Of course, it is the desire of Tammany Hall to receive none but the good men of Apollo Hall, the men who are sincerely in favor of reform.

Reporter—Are there many men of this class in Apollo Hall?

Mr. Conner—Yes; they have many men who would be desirable acquisitions.

Reporter—Is there a strong faction in Tammany Hall in favor of fusion?

Mr. Conner—Mr. Kelly says in THE SUN that he knows of none, and I am sure if he knows of some—he, who is the head and front of the organization—nobody else could know of any.

Reporter—Has any one spoken to you about it?

Mr. Conner—No; none of the members of Tammany Hall have broached the subject to me.

Reporter—What do you know of the corrupt bargains of Apollo Hall?

Mr. Conner—I know very little about it. I have understood that they have assessed their men very heavily, but I could not tell you what use they made of the money. Mr. Kelly knows all about that, for he was in Tammany Hall day and night, and received all the information about it.

Reporter—Will Tammany Hall be compelled to sacrifice many men to effect a fusion?

Mr. Conner (speaking his mind freely)—I think that some of the men who are now in Tammany Hall will have to be left out before it will be possible to unite the two organizations. This will have to be done before the formation of the new committee, then there can be no fusion. Apollo Hall who will have to be sacrificed also, because the committee would not be satisfied to remain with them in one organization.

Reporter—For what reason?

Mr. Conner—They are not the class of men we should like to associate with. There is an element in Apollo Hall which Tammany Hall would not under any circumstances receive into its General Committee.

NO FUSION, BUT A STAMPEDE.

Reporter—If Apollo Hall refuses to sacrifice this element?

Mr. Conner—I do not think that it would prevent the two organizations from coming together. I might say right here that I do not think there will be a fusion in the strict sense of the word. I think the best men of Apollo Hall will naturally come into Tammany Hall. They will withdraw individually.

Reporter—Can you give me some names?

Mr. Conner—I should not like to do that, but many have expressed this to me. (Heartily.) Of course all men who are good and true will receive the right hand of fellowship.

Reporter—Do you think Apollo Hall made any money out of the last election?

Mr. Conner—I have no means of judging whether they really made any money. They raised large amounts, and much of the money they spent for O'Brien.

Reporter—Do you think that Apollo Hall will ever regain its prestige?

Mr. Conner—No, I think it is dead now, and I do not think that it can revive. If the great mass of its adherents attach themselves to Tammany Hall—as I feel sure they will—there will be no support left for it. I think this election has used most of them up in point of money as well as in everything else.

Reporter—Then Tammany Hall could not gain much by a fusion?

Mr. Conner—No, if you understand by fusion to give them an equal representation in the General Committee in each election district, so as to merge both committees in each district into one. Tammany Hall would not gain anything by such a fusion, and I think there is no probability of its ever being effected.

THE BEST MEN FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Reporter—What will be done?

Mr. Conner—I think the gentlemen who will have withdrawn individually from Apollo Hall will be able to arrange with the Tammany Hall organization in each district for admission into our new committee. That is, the good men will be able to do this.

Reporter—How many of these men will Tammany Hall place on its General Committee?

Mr. Conner—Oh, I could not tell you that; of course that will depend on circumstances.

Reporter—How many will withdraw from Apollo Hall to join Tammany?

Mr. Conner—I believe that two-thirds of the members of the Apollo Hall organization will be working next year in harmony with Tammany Hall. I really could not tell you how many will be taken on the General Committee; I suppose a fair representation of the best men in each district. That's the intention in our ward—to take the best men on the General Assembly District Committees.

Reporter—Will the Democratic party of the city be strong enough next year to elect its candidates?

Mr. Conner—I think there is no doubt about it. There is a Democratic majority of 50,000 in this city if the work is done in a right manner. They polled 180,000 votes at the last election, if you add the Tammany vote to the Apollo Hall vote.

O'BRIEN AS A TAMMANY MAN.

Reporter—Do you think O'Brien will join the Tammany Hall organization?

Mr. Conner—I should not like to answer this question. It would be looked upon as coming from the organization.

Reporter—Does he want to join?

Mr. Conner—I could not say anything positive about that. I have seen him only once, and then I did not speak to him.

Reporter—If Tammany Hall should have to choose between O'Brien and Kelly, which one would be sacrificed?

Mr. Conner—O'Brien. We should certainly not allow Kelly to withdraw if he should signify his intention to go out of Tammany Hall rather than stay with O'Brien in the organization. He says in THE SUN that he is anxious to go out of politics, but we shall not allow him to go out of politics.

Reporter—And if O'Brien should exact the retirement of Mr. Kelly?

Mr. Conner—Oh, I should leave the organization myself rather than submit to such dictation.

Reporter—Will it depend on Mr. Kelly whether O'Brien is placed on the committee?

Mr. Conner—Undoubtedly. You see Mr. Kelly and Senator O'Brien are both in the Eighteenth District, most of which is in the Twenty-first Ward, and Mr. Kelly is at the head of the local committee. By courtesy it would be left to him to decide whether Mr. O'Brien should be placed on the committee. We could not very well interfere with him.

Reporter—Could the two gentlemen be reconciled?

Mr. Conner—Well, there has been a little feeling between them for many years—a decidedly bitter feeling. I don't know if it is possible to reconcile them, but you may be assured of one thing.

Reporter—What is that?

Mr. Conner—Tammany Hall would not allow Mr. Kelly to retire for the purpose of letting Mr. O'Brien come into the committee.

Reporter—Did O'Brien spend much money in the last election?

Mr. Conner—O'Brien must have spent at least $50,000. He had money and he got money from his friends.

Mr. Conner here entertained the reporter with some spicy bits of history of the last election, after which the reporter bade him good-bye.

A Talk with Sheriff Brennan.

Sheriff Brennan was in his office in the Court House when the reporter called on him. The Sheriff, who was in his usual good humor, received the reporter cordially.

Reporter—Do you think the fusion will be effected, Mr. Brennan?

The Sheriff (seating himself opposite the reporter)—No, sir, nothing of the kind. If these people who went against Tammany Hall want to come back, they will have to go into the traces and work up so that we can see whether they can again be trusted. If they are trustworthy they will be trusted; if they are not trustworthy they will not be trusted.

Reporter—You are opposed to fusion?

The Sheriff—I certainly am opposed to it. I think the men who worked against Tammany Hall did great wrong, and ought to be made to serve apprenticeship, before they are received on equal terms.

Reporter—Are not many members of Tammany Hall in favor of fusion?

The Sheriff—What? in favor of allowing them to have as much to say as the purest man of Tammany Hall have to say? I don't think any of the honest men in Tammany Hall are in favor of any such thing. I should strike to-morrow from Tammany Hall, and I never was anywhere else.

THE SHERIFF THINKS THEY CAN'T BE TRUSTED.

Reporter—What are your objections to the Apollo Hall men?

The Sheriff—I don't think they are worthy to be trusted—men who worked as they did at the last election. I don't think they should be trusted unless they are first required to work up.

Reporter—Have you received from any of these officers to join Tammany Hall?

The Sheriff—No; nothing except some casual talk in the street, when they have said, "We ought to come together." I don't think that treacherous members of a family who have left the house should suddenly want to come back, should be allowed on the same footing with the other members of the family. They should be held in probation a while.

Reporter—Do you think O'Brien wants to come back to Tammany Hall?

The Sheriff—If he had the chance of becoming a leader, I think he would want to; but there is no such chance. I have not seen him since election.

Reporter—Will a good many withdraw individually from Apollo Hall to join Tammany?

The Sheriff—Why, they are telling me that every day. "What fools we have been," they are telling me every day. They see that they have been deluded, deceived.

Reporter—Would it not be well to harmonize the two divisions?

The Sheriff—It would be a good thing for the Democratic party if the Apollo Hall men could be made to work honestly.

Reporter—Would they not work honestly?

The Sheriff—Yes, if they are made to work in the traces. I think they can learn to be honest.

THE FUTURE OF TAMMANY HALL.

Reporter—Do you believe in the future of Tammany Hall?

The Sheriff—I do. I think Tammany Hall has a better foundation now than it has had for fifteen years past. We know every sore spot, and can remedy it with ease. We have trusted some men who will never be trusted again.

Reporter—Are you determined to leave Tammany rather than let some of the Apollo Hall men in?

The Sheriff (energetically)—They will never come in on terms of equality—never. It is too foolish to think of it. Why should they? I tell you Tammany Hall was never so strong as it is now.

Reporter—What are the sore spots in Tammany?

The Sheriff—There are certain wards in which the Tammany Hall men were not honest, and we know them. This can and will be remedied next month when we reorganize for 1873.

Reporter—In what wards do they have been dishonest?

The Sheriff—I'll tell you. Take for instance some districts where candidates for Aldermen, Assistant Aldermen, and Assemblymen ran—they would sell us everybody for their particular friends. These men cannot be trusted, and they will never go again into the committee.

Reporter—I don't know that I fully understand you.

The Sheriff—For instance, I'm a candidate and you're the candidate of the opposition. You help me and I'll go your ticket. That has been done. Suppose I'm the Tammany candidate for Assemblyman; you are the candidate of the Grant party. You say to me, "Work for whom you please for all the Tammany candidates, if you will—but see that I get all the votes." That has been done to my personal knowledge.

PETER CULKIN, THE MAN WHO WAS STRUCK WITH PARALYSIS.

Reporter—Did Tammany lose many votes in this way?

The Sheriff—Yes, we lost a great many in this way. Grant got the benefit of it, and O'Brien got the benefit of it.

Reporter—And in regard to the corrupt bargains of Apollo Hall, of which Mr. Kelly speaks?

The Sheriff—I think they made many corrupt bargains, but I could not trace them. By the by, what Mr. Kelly said of a man who, after having had his assessment, found that he was not electioneered, and was struck with paralysis, is true. His name is Peter Culkin. He had to borrow $2,000 to pay his assessment; he had made several heavy bets, and when he went that night to Apollo Hall and heard the result, he was struck with paralysis. He lies in bed now.

Reporter—Was O'Brien paid by the Grant party?

The Sheriff—I know about that only from rumor—they say he got some money. I have no proof of it, though.

Reporter—Do you believe he was paid?

The Sheriff—He must have had aid from somewhere. He and some of the leading candidates on the Republican ticket were very intimate, and from the very fact that he never endorsed the Democratic State ticket and voted for Grant, I should infer that there must have been some arrangement.

O'BRIEN? NEVER!

Reporter—Are you willing to take him into Tammany?

The Sheriff—What! The same as anybody else? Never. What—a man who gets office from a party and then turns tail! No, I never trust such a man a second time. If a man does me a wilful wrong he will stay away from me in the future.

Reporter—Then you think that the two factions are irreconcilable?

The Sheriff (smiling)—Oh, I think there will be but one party next year. They will never impose on the people again. I don't think people will ever be foolish enough to invest in them again, or to believe in them again. (After a pause, and with a shake of the head.) It is a pretty hard matter to have a third party.

Reporter—Will there be any decided changes in Tammany Hall within the next few months?

The Sheriff—I hope that Tammany Hall will be a purified organization, and that we shall turn out every man who has done wrong. I believe a man has a right to say what he pleases as long as the majority has not decided, but when a vote has been taken I believe that he must do what the majority does.

THE DISHONEST TAMMANY MEN.

Reporter—In how many districts have you found dishonest men?

The Sheriff—What I have told you about the betrayal of Tammany Hall by its own men has been done in two or three places, and in five or six districts a thorough reorganization will be necessary. I think we'll do this; I know this is also Mr. Kelly's idea.

Reporter—Do you think most men in Tammany are disinterested, and mean the public good?

The Sheriff—Most men in Tammany Hall don't seek office and don't hold any. I hold one, but still I have the interest of Tammany at heart. I am working only for the good of Tammany, and I don't expect any return; they could not help me so far as my office is concerned.

Reporter—And in regard to the alleged assessments of Apollo Hall?

The Sheriff—I have never heard of such a thing as an assessment of a minor candidate—a candidate for Assistant Alderman, for instance—by the party. They are generally assessed for the ward. When it comes to candidates for the office of Alderman, then it is but right that they should be assessed by the party.

Reporter—Do you think these assessments were actually levied?

The Sheriff—It's stated so, and is not denied. I guess O'Brien won't deny that fact. It's generally understood, and has never been denied.

Reporter—Is it true that there are many gamblers in Apollo Hall?

The Sheriff—Well, there are many sporting men. It's made up in part of that class. They favor O'Brien, he being a young man.

O'BRIEN AS A MAYOR.

Reporter—Would O'Brien have made a good Mayor?

The Sheriff (bursting into a peal of laughter)—I don't think he has the first qualification for the office. The idea! after having had such men as Hoffman, Hall, Opdyke. You must not compare O'Brien with them.

Reporter—Would many of the leaders of Tammany leave if O'Brien were to join?

The Sheriff—I think several men like Kelly would not hesitate to go right out of it if such a thing were to occur.

Reporter—O'Brien will always have a strong personal following, will he not?

The Sheriff—I don't think so. He is so situated that they have nothing to look for. They have nothing to look forward to; he's lost everything. He was at one time a very strong man, but now many persons think they injured themselves by going for him. I have heard several say so.

Reporter—Is it true that you assume a dictatorial power in Tammany?

The Sheriff—I'll tell you how I feel about Tammany Hall. I never go on the General Committee or any committee if I can get out of it. Anybody who says that I assume a dictatorial power ought to know that I could always get on the committee if I wanted to, and that I have not been on the committee since Fernando Wood's time. I was on the committee in 1867 and resigned, and since then, with one single exception, I have never been on it.

Reporter—Then it is not true that you sway the sceptre of an absolute ruler in Tammany?

SHERIFF BRENNAN NOT A DICTATOR.

The Sheriff (his face flushing, and speaking with vehemence)—I have never, never presumed to do such a thing. What I have done I have always done for the best of the party, and everybody knows that I have never interfered in the deliberations of the organization. I am not a politician; I never was one, and I never will be one. I would not be a politician for anything in the world—that is, what people call a regular politician—for I could not go round all the year through to be dictated to by everybody. Everybody knows that I am willing to give way any time.

Reporter—How much money did Tammany Hall spend in the last election?

The Sheriff—They spent less than they ever spent before. You may regard that as positive.

Reporter—And Apollo Hall?

The Sheriff—They pretend to say that they had a heap of money. I know one thing; they paid their workers most liberally.

Reporter—How much?

The Sheriff—I believe nothing less than $10 was paid, and (the Sheriff laughed) that is considered a good deal, for they had a good many. A man used to consider himself pretty well paid in my young days, ten or twelve years ago, if he got $2.50, and $3 was considered extra.

NO FUSION TO BE PROPOSED.

Reporter—Do you think the proposal of a fusion will come up in any of your meetings?

The Sheriff—I don't think it will come up seriously. I don't think any friend of Tammany will make any such proposition.

Reporter—Would it be scouted?

The Sheriff—I don't think the honest men of Tammany Hall would ever countenance any such thing. These men who left Tammany Hall in the manner in which they did, should be made to come in as new men and compelled to work themselves up.

Reporter—Will none of the Apollo Hall men who may come back be placed on the committees?

The Sheriff—If the ward organizations choose to take some of them in they will do so. There are certain men whom I want to see back in Tammany Hall, men who were deluded by false promises. Many a man who went away from Tammany Hall is sorry for it.

Reporter—Did you anticipate such an overwhelming defeat of Apollo Hall?

The Sheriff—It was just what I anticipated—just exactly.

Reporter—Did you anticipate the defeat of Lawrence?

The Sheriff—No, but I think that if he had been nominated right away—if they had not delayed nominating him for ten days as they did—there would have been no stopping his election.

O'BRIEN HAS SHOVED HIMSELF TOO FAR.

Reporter—Senator O'Brien said in THE SUN the day after the election that he was a young man and could wait.

The Sheriff (with a smile)—He's a young man, and has been a successful young man; but young men should not shove themselves too far. I think he has shoved himself too far.

Reporter—He said his political advancement would be retarded for two years only.

The Sheriff—It may last much longer than that (with a laugh). Two years! It may last a great deal longer than that.

Reporter—Do you think Tammany Hall is in good hands?

The Sheriff—I think if Mr. Kelly and his associates continue to take the same interest in Tammany that they have taken so far, if they work in the future as hard for its good as they have until now, that there can be no doubt of our success next year. By that time Tammany Hall will be in such a condition that there will be no such thing as failure. Mr. Kelly is as honest, upright man. He has worked hard for the best interests of the Democratic party, and for no selfish purposes, for he is wealthy and stands alone. If we had a few men like him there would be no doubt of our success.

Reporter—Do you think Senator O'Brien will ever be Mayor of this city?

The Sheriff (with a significant smile)—He won't be a young man when that comes—that's my opinion—unless he mends his ways a good deal.

Reporter—Do you think he will ever again occupy a prominent position in the city government?

The Sheriff—He won't be a young man when that comes. No, sir.

Reporter (taking his hat)—I am obliged to you, Mr. Brennan.

The Sheriff (in his heartiest manner)—Not at all. I am always glad to give you my views, such as they are.

A Talk with Sam Courtney, Esq.

The reporter next called on Mr. Samuel G. Courtney, who was reclining on the sofa in his law office, 37 Park row.

Mr. Courtney (remaining in his easy position)—Sit down. I'll answer any questions that you want to ask me.

Reporter—You are very kind. Do you think the fusion will be effected?

Mr. Courtney—Well, that's a pretty hard question to answer just now. If Tammany Hall—just put that down as I say it—intends in good faith to assist in combining all the reformed elements in the Democratic party of the city, I have no doubt that the leading men in Apollo Hall will meet them more than half way.

Reporter—Do you think there is such a spirit in Tammany Hall?

Mr. Courtney—Just put down the question. Now put down what I'm going to answer. (Slowly.) But if the object is to permit the men now controlling Tammany Hall to dictate terms, nominations, and so forth, and to continue to be, as it has been, a one-man power, there is very little hope that any fusion can be effected.

Reporter—Who is the one man to whom you have referred?

Mr. Courtney—Did you put down that question? Just put it down, and I'll give you my answer. (After a pause.) Answer—It has been apparent to every one that all the nominations—except those for Aldermen—made by Tammany Hall were dictated by Mr. Kelly. In one or two of them Mr. Brennan acquiesced, but the real and vital power of Tammany Hall is and has been Mr. Kelly. Full stop. Have you got a full stop?

Reporter—Yes.

HONEST JOHN KELLY MUST CURB HIMSELF.

Mr. Courtney—Although I have the highest opinion of the integrity and honesty of Mr. Kelly, yet I do not believe that the Democratic party of this city will submit any further to his dictation.

Reporter—Does he use this power for his own interest, or for the benefit of Tammany?

Mr. Courtney—Have you got that question down? Well, go on. (Dictating his answer slowly.) I think Mr. Kelly means to be honest in endeavoring to advance the interests of Tammany Hall, and means to purify the party as far as he can personally, but I still believe—put that down, still I believe—that the bad feeling and ill will which exists between Mr. Kelly and several of the leading men of Apollo Hall will so far influence him as to oppose any coming together of the two factions.

Reporter—Will his opposition be sufficient to prevent the fusion?

Mr. Courtney—Have you got that question down? All right, go on. Answer (here he paused)—Mr. Kelly is rich, has no particular business to attend to, and can afford to remain in the minority in this city for many years to come. The question is whether Democrats here are willing to take passage in the same boat with him. Well, I believe that notwithstanding his opposition the Democracy of this city will in a short time be united under one organization.

Reporter—May I ask you what—

SAM PUTS A QUESTION AND ANSWERS IT.

Mr. Courtney—I'll give you a good question to put down. Suppose, then, that the feeling and ill-will between Mr. Kelly and Senator O'Brien to which you allude? Have you got that down?

Reporter—Yes.

Mr. Courtney—All right. Answer (here Mr. Courtney halted)—Senator O'Brien and Sheriff Kelly have been for many years bitter personal enemies. As far back as the time when Senator O'Brien was elected Alderman of the Twenty-first Ward, where Kelly resides, the latter opposed his election. Kelly opposed his nomination for Sheriff, and, I have no doubt, voted against him. He has continued his opposition up to the present time. Of course, Senator O'Brien reciprocates this friendly feeling. Have you got that down? reciprocates this friendly feeling—and a reconciliation seems impossible. (After a pause.)

Reporter—So that a fusion will be prevented by the personal feelings of the two men?

Mr. Courtney—Go on. You have got that down? Answer (here Mr. Courtney halted)—However, if both these men continue in this frame of mind the party will no doubt be obliged to get along without both of them in the future.

Reporter—Could that be done?

Mr. Courtney—Well, put down that question.

Reporter—I've got it.

Mr. Courtney—Answer: That's the only trouble. Now put down to do it (after a pause). Still, I have no doubt that both Mr. Kelly and Senator O'Brien will see the propriety of harmonizing their variances. The good of the party and the success of true reform will ultimately compel them to cease squabbling.

ANOTHER QUESTION AND ANSWER.

Reporter—What do you think of—

Mr. Courtney—Just excuse me for one moment. I just want to look over THE SUN for a minute. Now, put down this question. Question—What have you to say, Mr. Courtney, in regard to the "destructive" element of Apollo Hall, of which Mr. Kelly has spoken? Have you got that down?

Reporter—Yes.

Mr. Courtney (very slowly)—Answer (here Mr. Courtney stopped)—If Mr. Kelly means to be understood that the leading men in Apollo Hall are bad or corrupt men, or gamblers, or thieves, he has been led away by his passion and prejudice, and is evidently winding under his utter want of success in electing his nominees at the recent election.

Reporter—I suppose so.

Mr. Courtney—I challenge Mr. Kelly to name any leading man in the Apollo Hall organization who has been connected in any shape or manner with any disreputable act or deed, or who has ever been suspected of being engaged in or conniving at—put that down: being engaged in or conniving at—

Reporter—I have it.

Mr. Courtney—Or conniving at any of the frauds which have been so much commented on of late. (There was a pause.) Now, have you got any more questions?

Reporter—Yes. You said before that Mr. Kelly failed to elect his nominees. Were they his nominees?

Mr. Courtney—Put that down. I'll answer the question. Have you got it?

Reporter—Yes.

Mr. Courtney—Answer (a pause)—All except Mr. Lawrence were the nominees of Mr. Kelly. Mr. Lawrence was more properly the candidate of Mr. Brennan. Mr. Kelly nominated the District Attorney and the rest of the judicial ticket. It is a well-known fact that Mr. Kelly defeated the nomination of Judge Garvin for District Attorney.

MR. COURTNEY'S OPINION OF TAMMANY HALL.

Reporter—Do you think that Tammany is really a reformed organization?

Mr. Courtney—There are a few men like Mr. Kelly, Mr. Tilden, and Mr. Cooper in it who really mean reform; but the main body of the Tammany Hall organization is, in my opinion, almost as bad as it was under the *regime* of Tweed, and only assumes the mask of reform for appearance's sake. It was the Apollo Hall organization that raised the standard of the reform movement and gave it its impetus and success in this city and throughout the State. It was the Apollo Hall candidate for Mayor who furnished to the people the undoubted evidence of the great city frauds, and without his organizing power, great energy, and determination the reform movement last fall would have been a failure. (Here Mr. Courtney drew a long breath.)

Reporter—Have you finished, Mr. Courtney?

Mr. Courtney—No; go right on. Tammany Hall then with the same men who are in it now, supported Tweed as the candidate for the Senate, even when the city frauds were publicly known and exposed. It did nothing to aid the cause of reform, and now, among the leaders of the present organization, are men who made speeches for and assisted materially in the reelection of Mr. Tweed. Before Tammany Hall can claim to be a reformed organization, such men must be ostracised and more men like Cooper and Hewitt admitted.

A DELICATE MATTER.

Reporter—What men must be ostracised—will you be so kind as to give me the names?

Mr. Courtney—No, this is a delicate matter, and I should not like to mention any names. Now I will give you a good question to put to me: Mr. Courtney, what do you understand by the "bad element" of the Apollo Hall organization, of which Mr. Kelly speaks? Eh? Have you got that down?

Reporter—Yes, I have it.

Mr. Courtney—I do not think that there is what is known as a bad element attached to all organizations, but that this is more prevalent in Apollo than it is in Tammany Hall I deny. Mr. Kelly, from what he says, evidently has a better knowledge of this element than I have. He, at least, should be the last man to complain of it, and now—when he is out of office and not a candidate—to ignore it, as this same bad element aided him very materially in his election as sheriff of New York, and once as member of Congress from a district embracing the Fourth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Wards. (Mr. Courtney laughed).

Reporter—The main strength of Apollo Hall does not lie in this element?

Mr. Courtney—The main strength of Apollo Hall consists of the laboring and working people, and Mr. O'Brien had been elected but for a certain thing which is as well known to Mr. Kelly as it is to myself, and which Mr. Kelly in his particular position—it is currently understood—took advantage of.

Reporter—What was it?

Mr. Courtney—I could not say anything more definite. Mr. Kelly will understand it and a good many more will. Please read the first part of your notes to me, for this is a very delicate thing. (The reporter did so, and Mr. Courtney declared himself satisfied.)

APOLLO HALL ASSESSMENTS.

Reporter—Is it true that Apollo Hall assessed its candidates in very large amounts?

Mr. Courtney—I have no personal knowledge of the matter. I have heard, however, that the different candidates were assessed as is always the custom and rule with all political organizations, but I would wager at least a hat with Mr. Kelly (Mr. Courtney laughed and seemed to enjoy the joke) that the nominees of Tammany Hall were not assessed any more than the amounts he imposed [Mr. Courtney emphasized the word he] upon the Tammany candidates.

Reporter—Were the amounts stated by Mr. Kelly correct?

Mr. Courtney—Go on. I have not yet finished. (A pause.)—As for the amounts stated, I have no knowledge whatever.

Reporter—If there is no disposition on the part of Tammany to join with Apollo Hall, what will you do?

Mr. Courtney—Apollo Hall, and by that I mean the men in it who mean reform, will make every effort to combine the entire Democratic reformed vote in one organization. If it fails in that, and Tammany Hall is the obstacle in the way, Apollo Hall will immediately reorganize, cut off the barnacles, purify itself as far as possible of its bad men, of its bad elements, and make an *organization more powerful and more successful than any other in the city.* Tammany Hall must then take the consequences of keeping up a divided Reform party. Just read that over to me.

THE NEW APOLLO HALL.

Reporter (after complying with this request)—How could Apollo Hall become so strong?

Mr. Courtney—The Democratic masses, outside of place hunters and politicians, are utterly opposed to Tammany Hall. Its very name is odious to them, and they believe that a large portion of its old corrupt elements still exists in it. They will flock to any organization which is really and openly opposed to Tammany Hall and in favor of reform. In addition to this, the great popular strength of Senator O'Brien, the belief in the community that he is a true reformer and in the Legislature stood faithful among the faithless, will give such an organization a tremendous one-man power, there is very little hope that any fusion can be effected.

Reporter—Who is the one man to whom you have referred?

Mr. Courtney—Will, I'll answer you this. Just put down the question.

Reporter—I have it.

Mr. Courtney—Answer (a pause)—Senator O'Brien. I have reason to believe he is fully satisfied with his present honors and with the result of the last election.

Reporter—Is he?

Mr. Courtney—Yes. He will not aspire to any leadership, but if he is in the organization his advice and counsel will be much heeded. He no doubt will continue an advocate of the great reform movement that was started last fall, and will perhaps be instrumental in developing other facts as startling as those which were exposed by him in 1871.

Reporter—What frauds, Mr. Courtney?

MORE FRAUD TO BE EXPOSED.

Mr. Courtney—Oh, it will all come out by and by. I can't say anything more just now.

Reporter—Are you one of the men who are said to be willing to go over to Tammany?

Mr. Courtney—Well, just ask me that. Put that down? Have you got the question?

Reporter—Yes.

Mr. Courtney answered. I have stated frequently and openly that I was in favor of consolidating the Democratic Reform party, but that I never would consent to enter Tammany Hall until its present General Committee was changed, for the reason that I believe the old element of the Tweed dynasty still remains there, and that these men are really the workers of the Tammany machine.

Reporter—Is that the feeling of most of the leaders of Apollo Hall?

Mr. Courtney—It is of a large portion of them. There are a few self-constituted leaders who desire to keep the Democratic Reform party divided for their own selfish purposes. Now I'll tell you a question to ask me. Question—Mr. Courtney, what are your relations to Mr. Kelly? Have you got that down?

Reporter—Yes.

KELLY RUNNING A MACHINE TOO BIG FOR HIM.

Mr. Courtney—Answer (a pause)—Mr. Kelly and myself are on the most friendly terms—I may say on the most intimate terms. I esteem him as a high-toned, honest, honorable gentleman, but I think he has undertaken to run a machine entirely too big for him, for even a faction of the Democratic party is far too much for one man to dictate to and to attempt to lead. The people are becoming more and more intelligent, and if they rebuke anything at all it is personal dictation. The whole trouble in both organizations is this: There is too much one-man power. That is the great trouble of the Democracy of this city.

Reporter—How can a fusion be effected if Apollo Hall will not sacrifice Mr. O'Brien and Tammany will not sacrifice Mr. Kelly?

Mr. Courtney—I think after the first excitement they will come to their senses and become reconciled to one another. If this is impossible I think both will be thrown overboard rather than allow them to keep up the division in the Democratic party of this city.

Here a visitor was announced, and the reporter thanked Mr. Courtney for his kindness and took his leave.

AMUSEMENTS.

Announcements at the Theatres.

Three of Shakespeare's plays are to be performed here this week—"Romeo and Juliet" and "As You Like It" at Booth's Theatre, and "The Merry Wives of Windsor" at the Fifth Avenue. Miss Neilson will appear to-night as *Juliet*, and at the matinée on Saturday as *Rosalind*. If we may believe the English press we shall find her certainly a beautiful woman and probably a superior actress. Mr. Charles Fisher, at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, is to play *Falstaff* for the first time on Tuesday evening.

The opening of Barnum's menagerie and circus on Fourteenth street will take place to-night.

Important Decision in Supreme Court Chambers.

An important decision, involving the right of Mr. George Wood to sell tickets and distribute presents to purchasers of tickets for the grand presentation concert at the Academy of Music, was made in supreme Court Chambers on Saturday. Mr. Wood was prohibited from selling tickets for this concert by Capt. Burns of the Fifteenth Precinct. The case was carried to Supreme Court Chambers on a writ of *certiorari*, and the court, after brief argument, decided that Mr. Wood in selling his concert tickets and distributing his presents to purchasers had not infringed the law. The case was dismissed and Mr. Wood discharged. Acting under advice of counsel, Mr. Wood will to-day resume the sale of tickets at the elegant store, 687 Broadway, which has been fitted up exclusively for this purpose. The concerts will be first-class and equal to any that have ever been given at the Academy of Music. The tickets are one dollar each, and the presents distributed range from one dollar to one thousand dollars.—*Adv.*

NEWS FOR JEWEL-SEEKERS

THE FRIENDLY INDIANS OF THE DIAMOND FIELDS.

Villages of Civilized Indians in the Western Diamond Range—A Race Superior to the Surrounding Tribes—A Devout, Peaceable, and Pastoral People.

From the Sausalito (Cal.) Herald.

Not far eastward of the source of the Little Colorado, on the great trail from Fort Mohave, on the Colorado, to Albuquerque, on the Rio Grande, and over a day's journey from the northern extremity of the great diamond range, now attracting attention, there are ruins of Aztec settlements and three villages inhabited by Indians. They are called the Zuni villages. Each contain probably 2,000 people. An intelligent officer, who has been among them, thus describes them:

They are a race differing essentially from the Indian tribes around them. The Navajos are their neighbors on the northwest, the Apaches south. Their physiognomy and their stately bearing, as well as their pride of dress, show them to belong to a race far superior to the surrounding tribes. The Zuni women are comely. They are remarkable for the modest fulness of their dress. They wear skirts of black woollen cloth, and a scarf gracefully folded over the breast. These goods are of their own make. Their hair, neatly braided, forms a head-dress. Their houses are clean, and their cooking is not to be despised.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIANS.

The Zuni Indians are more than half civilized. They are essentially a pastoral people. They have fields of corn, wheat, and vegetables. They have flocks of sheep and goats. They raise horses, horned cattle, and asses. They corral their stock at night in high stone enclosures. They use all their animals for food, but a fatted ass is their favorite dish. They keep fowls. They spin their own wool and weave it. They have a grand frolic at threshing time. The grain in sheaf is taken to a broad, flat, rocky place, and thirty or forty horsemen canter and caper about on this threshing floor till the grain is well separated. It is then winnowed by raking the straw and tossing the chaff in the wind. After this they close the day with a general horse race, after the fashion of our agricultural fairs.

As our diamond hunters are about to people the neighboring country, it is interesting to know that these Zuni Indians are friendly to white men, and that supplies can be had there. The Valley of the Rio Grande is well settled with Mexican farmers and herdsmen. These and the Zunis will make common cause with the miners against the plundering Apaches.

The Zuni Indians never make war of aggression. They stand on the defensive. But outside Indians fear them because of their superior organization and means of defence. Therefore, their quietude is seldom disturbed.

The well-watered soil is a dark gravelly loam. They have at all times been secure, due to the use of which travellers entering the diamond region by the way of Santa Fé and Albuquerque are made welcome, on payment of a moderate charge. The houses of these Zuni villages are well built of stone. They are three stories high; each succeeding story recedes, so as to make a terrace in front.

THEY WORSHIP THE GREAT SPIRIT.

These Zuni Indians are truly devout. Their interior temples and altars, their priesthood and ceremonials bear relationship not remote from ours. Traces of missionary influence are evident, but the leading faith of the Aztec religion has not been changed. It is an error to say they worship the sun. They worship the Great Spirit who resides in that fitting centre of light, life, and purity, to which are invisibly traceable all earthly blessings, and beyond which even imagination finds no tracing.

To this earth and its brother worlds the Great Spirit is an All-Seeing Eye, omniscient and omnipotent; and though our sight penetrates the universe and scans the heavens, yet we discern not one nor all these suns combined stands to us in so intimate and so all-creative and omnipotent relationship as the sun, which is Father to us alone—and our system knows no other, nor knows of any beyond. We have dogmas less sensible than this revelation to those primitive worshippers of the Most High.

This visible presence promoted devotion unknown to prayer-book worship. Nothing is more touching than the prostrate reverence they pay to the Great Spirit at rise and set of sun. There is a living earnestness in it to us utterly unknown and inconceivable.

THEY CLAIM DESCENT FROM MONTEZUMA.

They claim descent from the subjects of Montezuma. It will be remembered that the court and the temples of the city of Mexico were found by Cortez rich in gold and precious stone. The sources of gold are known; but where they got the precious stones has been a mystery. It seems probable that the descendants of the present Zuni Indians were employed by Government in gathering the jewels which were so profuse in Mexico, and on the downfall of Montezuma some remained.

There is such a tradition among them. In the history of Cortez's conquest we are told that there was a prophecy in their sacred records that pale-faces would invade and conquer them. The Zunis have a tradition resembling it. They quote it with some variation, viz.: that a pale-faced man, with a white, flowing beard, would come from the east and restore them to a kingdom of refinement and happiness. The tradition intimates that the pale-faces will come, not to take their lands, but to gather stones and minerals; and that the Great Spirit will lead them by this attraction; that they come and learn the true Deity, and where is the new home in whose brightness they are to dwell with Him after their pilgrimage on earth. They are not very communicative about precious stones, but they intimate that the country of rubies and garnets is not far off, and that of diamonds is farther. But the range is very extensive, and runs into Chihuahua.

THE VALLEY OF DIAMONDS.

George Catlin, the great Indian traveller, describes some places where he found families of Albino Indians whose white hair touched the ground. In the principal Zuni village, that toward the east, there were such families. These Albinoes live among the other Indians; but, while they are treated kindly, they are not held to be equals. Their swarthy companions never intermarry with them, nor do they appear to associate in outdoor work. Their occupation appears to be indoors. Their pink eyes are too weak to stand exposure. Their features and the texture of their hair is like the Indians; the color of their hair is milk-white.