The Sun.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1874.

Amusements To-Day.

Broadway Theatre—Humpty Dumpty. Matinee.
Booth's Theatre—Zip.
Bowery Theatre—Red Greene.
Colosseum—Broadway and Thirty-fifth street. Matinee.
Dan Bryant's Minstrels, Twenty-third street.
Daly's Fifth Avenue Theatre—Monsieur Alphonse.
Grand Opera House—Kilgen Ogy.
Lyceum Theatre—Grand Parisian Folly.
Niblo's Garden—Dave Crockett.
Olympic Theatre—Vaudeville and Novelty.
Park Theatre—Love's Pensaire.
Theatre Comique—Star Combination.
Tony Pastor's—Variety Entertainment.
Union Square Theatre—Led Astray.
Wallack's Theatre—The Veteran.
Wood's Museum—St. Marc. Matinee.

The Currency and the Republicans.

Nothing could more conclusively show the demoralized and broken condition of the Republican party than the votes of the Republicans in Congress on the currency question. This is preëminently a subject on which a party in power is bound to have a policy of its own, and stand or fall by it; for it is the only subject of broad national importance now before the country.

On Tuesday the House passed a bill in favor of inflation and against a gradual return to specie payments. Of the 199 Republicans in the House, 115 voted for the bill and 64 against it, while 20 dodged. The vote was not sectional, for the Republicans of New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, furnished a large number of those who recorded their names in the affirmative. A significant proof of the utter lack of discipline in the party was seen in the fact that DAWES, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and GARFIELD, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, together with a majority of the Republicans on both these committees, as well as a majority of the Republicans on the Committee on Banking and Currency, voted against the bill.

Here, then, we see a House in which the Republicans have more than one hundred majority voting down its three principal finance committees on the most important currency bill that will come before the country during GRANT's administration.

Nor is there any more harmony in the ranks of the party in the Senate. There are fifty Administration Republicans in that body. There has been an unusual amount of dodging among them at roll call on this subject, their average vote on a dozen divisions aggregating only thirty-four. On the vital issue of inflation it has happened that about eighteen Republican Senators have generally voted in the affirmative and sixteen in the negative, while the other sixteen have either dodged or resorted to the hardly less reprehensible expedient of locking arms with an antagonist and skulking out of the arena.

As in the House so in the Senate the Republican leaders are antagonistic to each other on this issue, MORTON and CAMERON heading the inflationists; CONKLING and SHERMAN speaking for their party associates who would secure the early return to specie payments.

But even these are hardly the most striking features of the case. The Republican party was solemnly pledged by its national platforms of 1868 and 1872 to resist the issue of any more paper money, and to take energetic measures for the redemption of the legal tender notes in coin at the earliest possible period. On these declarations of sentiment the Republicans twice elected GRANT and carried the House of Representatives and maintained their supremacy in the Senate. They now go back upon all this, and with their own hands brand themselves as falsifiers.

Can such a party live and flourish? We are aware that on these great questions the Democrats in Congress are also divided. In the Senate they are about as badly off as the Republicans, nearly half of them voting steadily to repudiate the old-fashioned hard-money doctrines of their party. In the House they have recently become a little more wary and consistent; and the votes of Tuesday show that they are not quite as ready to play into the hands of the inflation Republicans as they were a month ago. However, on this test issue there is no excuse for the Democracy. If they were not as devoid of common sense as they are destitute of sterling principle, they would see that they cannot dislodge their opponents without standing shoulder to shoulder in the determination that the country shall have good money and not bad.

The difference in the functions of the two parties in regard to this vital matter is obvious. The Administration party is bound to present a policy to the country, and it cannot escape the consequences of not discharging that obligation. The opposition is not charged with the duty of carrying on the Government; and yet by failing in an emergency like this to present a financial policy of their own, the leaders of the opposition will lose the confidence of their following, who will be apt to look to a reorganization of parties for relief from the intolerable evils with which the American people are struggling.

Parsons, Garfield, and the Washington Ring.

The more the jobbery at the capital is stirred by the committee the stronger does its offensive odor become and the more pronounced its corruption. Since the rascally rule of TWEED and his crew, upon whose exact model SHEPHERD and his confederates organized their plundering machine, there has been no such exposure as that made before this investigation. The crushing facts would seem almost incredible if they were not verified and corroborated under oath, and that, too, when obstructed at every turn by the influence of the Administration, the whole power of the Board of Public Works, and the daring perjury of several of their agents and allies.

It has been shown, as one example of the outrages commonly practised, how the firm of DE GOLYER & MCCLELLAN of Chicago paid out, as one of the partners pretended in his examination, ninety-seven thousand dollars to a comparative stranger whom they barely knew by sight and with whom they had never had any business relations whatever, upon his simple demand for that large sum of money to pay his expenses and a "part of the national debt." MCCLELLAN swore that $25,000 in cash and $72,000 in good notes were handed over to GEORGE R. CHITTENDEN without any explanation on his part or any evidence of service except an award signed by SHEPHERD for 150,000 yards of wood pavement and 50,000 additional yards, with certain conditions, at $3.50 per yard, which according to the testimony cost, all expenses included, $1.40 per yard.

This was a large job, and the vultures about Washington were keen on the scent for it, as for all others of a similar character. KILBOURN, in his letter to W. S. HUNTINGTON, then Cashier of COOKE'S First National Bank, and the intermediary for purchasing members of Congress and others who had prejudices to be conquered, said: "We had to make a small Ring of about seven persons to accomplish results. EVANS, CLEPHANE, yourself, KELLEY, KIDWELL, and myself comprise six of the Ring." This letter was written Aug. 25, 1871, soon after a Legislature owned by the Board of Public Works had passed the "comprehensive plan of improvements," and the four-million loan act to carry it out. Then followed an injunction before they got well under way, which the GRANT court of course set aside as soon as they could get at it.

These proceedings restrained active operations for a part of the winter, but the schemers were at work preparing to "gobble up" the contracts, and to start upon them as soon as legal and other impediments were removed. Among the papers of the late Mr. HUNTINGTON a letter was found which sheds much light upon the GEORGE R. CHITTENDEN of Chicago, who went about laying violent hands upon other people's money for the patriotic purpose of paying the national debt.

An extract from it is refreshing at this time, when his relations to these contracts and to other parties who figure in them are considered. Mr. CHITTENDEN describes himself better than MCCLELLAN could do, who paid so largely for the privilege of his acquaintance. When about leaving the capital temporarily he wrote as follows:

"METROPOLITAN HOTEL,
WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 1872—7 P. M.

"*Mr. W. S. Huntington.*

"DEAR SIR: I send you three books each of DE GOLYER'S No. 2. SAMUEL'S process, for testing the wood. TAYLOR of New York has just arrived; expects a Federal contract for Nicolson, and that it will be determined in a week or ten days. As vigilance is the price of liberty, so is activity and watchfulness the price of a paving contract; and were it not that *my interests are in such able hands*, I should feel that to absent myself now were not wise. My *figures* will be more satisfactory *to you and the District* and the pavement more satisfactory to the people when laid than any one of all other kinds of pavements taken collectively.

"I have offered a very strong and powerful influence—very strong, very powerful—at this city to aid me in securing contracts here. *In good honor I have introduced it.* The influence may or may not be required. Use mail or telegraph freely. St. Nicholas, New York. *You will have no occasion to regret acting for me* $2,000,000 or $3,000,000. Yours truly,

"GEORGE R. CHITTENDEN."

That was his parting appeal to a member of the Ring, who was also the confidential cashier of Gov. COOKE, then President of the Board of Public Works. CHITTENDEN knew his man, and knew his official as well as social connections with the combination. He struck out largely, and prospectively dealt with millions.

In the course of time it appeared to CHITTENDEN that this "very powerful influence" might be utilized. There was a great pressure for contracts, and every form of persuasion was employed. Even at that distant day he discovered that the programme contemplated aid from Congress, which was not avowed in the project submitted to the people. So he thought it wise to enlist the coöperation of members who had standing in the House, and ability to second his demands.

At that time RICHARD C. PARSONS was Marshal of the United States Supreme Court, but was announced as a candidate for Congress in the Cleveland District in the fall of 1872. He had become well known as an adjunct of the lobby, and it does not appear whether he sought CHITTENDEN or CHITTENDEN sought him, but he was employed and received $15,000 for his services, just as NOAH L. JEFFRIES did for the JONES contract. Mr. PARSONS has made a statement before the committee which is after the pattern of the Congressional explanations in the Credit Mobilier matter. They read very much alike. For instance:

"In the spring of 1872 (I think in April) I was retained by Mr. CHITTENDEN as a lawyer, on behalf of DE GOLYER & MCCLELLAN of Chicago, to argue before the Board of Public Works at Washington the question of the superiority of their patent for cured wood pavement. Mr. CHITTENDEN said *he had been promised a fee of $15,000*, or something, I think, in value to $10,000 or more, provided he could demonstrate to the board that his pavement was the best. And being satisfied that the patent was really a most valuable one, I appeared, after suitable preparation, before the Board of Public Works in open session and in presence of spectators, and made my argument in favor of the superiority of the DE GOLYER patent."

This is the substance of Mr. PARSONS'S statement, though he repeated and amplified it, evidently to produce the impression of great professional labor. Then, being exhausted with his own work, he called in his friend, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, to take an oar. We give Mr. PARSONS'S own words:

"Before the board had finally made its award I was called home to Cleveland by matters of a pressing nature, and feeling great solicitude as to the result of my labors, and of course desirous of securing my fees, I called upon Gen. GARFIELD and gave him a history of the case as it then stood, and asked him, as Congress would adjourn in a few days, if he would act for me in my absence and give the subject a careful investigation. He at first declined [as GARFIELD the general of the army felt averse to arguing business, but finally assented to have me send the model, books, papers, &c., to his house for examination. After a day or two [though summoned to Cleveland urgently] I called on him, took the papers and looked through the papers [in spite of the pressing business which made him decline forty-eight hours before], and as soon as Congress adjourned he would prepare an opinion as to the merit of the patent and attend to the case [that is what he calls a contract] for me. I said to him I had a fee in the case of importance to me, and would be glad to share it with him.

"Q. State the amount received? A.—I received from Mr. CHITTENDEN (the time I was retained, or within a few days afterward, I think, his check for $5,000, with the understanding that if an award was made covering the amount of his contract, as he had been promised, that I should receive a contingent fee of $10,000, which some time afterward was sent to me from Chicago. The total amount received by me was $15,000.

"By Mr. THURMAN. Q.—When was Gen. GARFIELD retained? A.—He was retained by me afterward, as I stated to the committee, to prepare an argument to present to the board upon the superiority of the patent and the fact that it was really the best pavement.

"Q.—Was your argument on the legal question? A.—*No, sir; there was no dispute as to the patent*, but there was an important question as to which of all the patents presented was the best one."

Mr. PARSONS has told his own story in the best way he knew how, and it only adds another chapter to the many with which the public is too familiar, of barefaced Congressional jobbery. Mr. GARFIELD appears in this transaction just as he appeared in his bargain with OAKES AMES. With all his craft and technical phrases, Mr. PARSONS was stripped of every pretence of professional service in this business by the scathing questions of Senator THURMAN.

The palpable truth is that CHITTENDEN had been promised the contract which he received, and the Ring, before making the award, sought to strengthen their hands by securing the support of GARFIELD and PARSONS in Congress. There is no escape from this conclusion. Every incident points to it. And the Ring were sharp, because without Mr. GARFIELD'S direct and positive assistance they could not have obtained one dollar of the three millions and a half which were voted to them by the last Congress.

When a member of that committee proposed that the work of the board should be measured by Gen. HUMPHREYS, chief of the Engineer Corps, as a protection to the public interest, Mr. GARFIELD adjourned the committee. At the next meeting he introduced the provision which assigned that duty to Gen. BABCOCK, and procured its passage by contending that it covered the same ground, and saved him from a personal reflection. Reading that act by the light of these recent revelations, its motive is transparent. GARFIELD and PARSONS may retire. Their career as public men is ended. And there are others to follow in their footsteps.

A Ticket that Would Win.

FOR GOVERNOR,

SANFORD E. CHURCH

of Orleans.

FOR LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR,

FREDERICK A. CONKLING

of New York.

The Mistake of a Great Firm.

Supervisor HAWLEY in his testimony before the Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday said that he was not astonished by the SANBORN contract, as he had already been operating in collecting derelict income taxes in this city under a contract with Mr. WILLIAM P. WOOD, and we are told that the existence of such contracts anterior to SANBORN'S seemed to astonish the committee. If the distinguished statesmen whose special function it is to provide ways and means for carrying on the Government had studied the columns of THE SUN as diligently as all our national legislators should study them in order to qualify themselves for an intelligent performance of their duties, they would have known all about this WOOD contract, the circumstances of which are of interest, as they tend to show in a forcible light the swindling nature of the SANBORN business, and the unlimited greed of the promoters of that conspiracy against the Treasury.

About the time that Mr. BOUTWELL entered the Treasury Department Congress abolished the detective system which had been in operation in the internal revenue service. This was done on account of abuses which had been discovered, and at the same time special agents were assigned with a specific salary to work under the direction of supervisors for the detection and prevention of frauds. But in order to provide for special cases of peculiar difficulty an annual appropriation of $100,000 was made, to be used by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, at his discretion, as a compensation to persons outside of the revenue service who should aid in recovering taxes due to the United States which otherwise might not be collected.

Commissioner DOUGLASS then determined that the Government would pay to parties claiming rewards under this appropriation fifty per cent. on the amount of penalties recovered, and we believe no one ever undertook the work of detecting frauds at that rate. Afterward Secretary BOUTWELL made a specific contract with Col. WOOD by which the latter was to receive ten per cent. on the amount of penalties which should be recovered through his means. This contract was renewed by Mr. RICHARDSON, and under it some $60,000 was recovered, nine-tenths of which went to the Government. The $6,000 which WOOD received was all the money, or about all, that was ever paid by the Treasury Department from this appropriation.

When in 1872 the SANBORN Ring began their raid on the Treasury the department had at its disposal $180,000 which could have been used under the then existing laws to remunerate SANBORN and his confederates for any services they might perform in discovering and collecting derelict taxes; but this sum was inadequate to meet their magnificent desires. They were after millions, their combination was a large one, and what were five barley loaves and two small fishes among so many? So with the aid of Congressman KELSEY, Senator SAWYER, BEN BUTLER, and others, the provision was inserted in the Legislative and Executive Appropriation bill of 1872 which authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to divide the revenues of the Government with BUTLER'S friend SANBORN and his coadjutors in the swindle. Recent developments have shown that under the SANBORN contracts alone, claims had been preferred upon $20,000,000 of taxes alleged to be due and unpaid, upon which so the liberal rates allowed by Messrs. BOUTWELL and RICHARDSON, Mr. SANBORN would have been entitled to the handsome dividend of ten millions.

The history of the WOOD contract also shows how good a thing it is to have influential friends when transacting business with the Treasury Department. Col. WOOD is perhaps the most shrewd and experienced detective in the country, and the Secretary of the Treasury thought that ten per cent. on the amount of penalties recovered by him was ample remuneration. Mr. SANBORN had not so distinguished a professional reputation as WOOD; but then he had the influence of the Lowell warrior, and thus there was allowed to him a clear half of all the money that he should collect or that the salaried officers of the Government should collect for him. What a pity that PHELPS, DODGE & Co. did not secure BUTLER as their counsel instead of permitting JAYNE & Co. to have his invaluable aid! Had they done so it might have made at least $150,000 difference in their cash account.

Van Nort—His Shallow Pretensions.

There is one word for which KOSSUTH, when he was familiarizing himself with the English language in this country, used to express his admiration, it was so expressive. It is a word which we never could get accustomed to quite enough to write it readily. Perhaps it is because we are old fashioned, and use a goose quill instead of one of JOHN FOLEY'S gold pens. Recently we observe that the Chief Justice of the King's Bench in England has reproved a lawyer for applying it to the counsel opposed to him, declaring it not to be a parliamentary expression. That word—there are only two syllables of it all told at full length—if we were ever going to descend to the use of it, we should apply to Commissioner GEORGE H. VAN NORT with reference to his recent threat of resignation.

Resign! VAN NORT resign! Why, SILAS HERRING'S tandem team of five stallions could not haul him out of the office.

And yet men, with JOHN H. WHITE, who has a talent at making a fool of himself, for their mouthpiece, actually held a public meeting to dissuade VAN NORT from resigning.

And now we see that he has written a letter, and published it, saying that he is induced, by the appeals which have been addressed to him and his regard for the public interests, to hold on.

Rare patriot, that VAN NORT. We wonder whether when he sees the gulls over the bay he does not experience a fellow feeling for them, and a wish that he had wings to soar into public confidence and be altogether a gull himself.

By the way, and in conclusion, the word we referred to is HUMBUG.

Why not Examine Him?

It seems very strange that Mr. BOUTWELL has not been called before the Committee on Ways and Means and examined touching the SANBORN contracts.

For the existence of these contracts he is more responsible than any other man. They were first made by him, and they were not made ignorantly. He knew perfectly what was their nature. He went into the business with deliberation and intelligence, and in every respect he knows more upon the subject than any one who has been summoned before the committee, unless possibly it be SANBORN himself.

If this investigation should be closed without taking the testimony of Mr. BOUTWELL, the fact will not be regarded as creditable either to that gentleman or to the committee.

A Utah correspondent sends us an account of a raid made on the people of San Pete county in that Territory by deputy United States marshals acting under orders from the Federal Ring in Utah, which has resulted in numerous arrests of honest farmers for alleged violations of the revenue laws. The people of San Pete county are mostly Europeans by birth, and have always been accustomed to the use of beer as a beverage. Every farmer has been his own brewer, growing the wheat and barley which he makes into malt, from which, with the addition of wild hops, a mild but tolerably palatable table beer is produced. The wives or hired girls of the farmers have generally done the brewing, the contents of an ordinary wash tub being the largest quantity of material converted into beer at any one time. It has been customary for the farmers to borrow of each other when their barrels ran low, and sometimes to exchange a small quantity of home-brewed for an equivalent in other products of the farm. For this the unfortunate San Peters have been pounced upon by the vigilant representatives of the United States Government, and quite a number of them have been mulcted in penalties varying from $60 to $210, on the ground that they were "brewers of beer," and had not complied with the laws regulating the manufacture of malt liquors. At the next session of the District Court some four hundred cases of this description are to be tried, when the majesty of the law will doubtless be fully vindicated. In the mean time, in consequence of the judicial muddle created by the absurd action of Chief Justice MCKEAN and other Federal dignitaries, countless cases of flagrant crime, including murder, horse stealing, counterfeiting, and larceny of every degree are continued from term to term without trial, the offenders in many instances being taken from the custody of the Territorial authorities by the United States officials and dismissed without punishment. But these small beer cases have money in them, and they will probably receive prompt attention from the Federal judiciary.

The result of the local elections in New Jersey on Tuesday affords a significant indication of the direction which public sentiment is taking. The Republicans were beaten almost everywhere. In Jersey City the Democrats elected the Mayor and a majority of the Common Council and Board of Education, and throughout the State the returns tell pretty much the same story. It cannot be said that the general defeat of the Republicans was owing to local considerations, for in some instances that party presented a ticket far superior in personal worth and popularity to that put forth by the Democrats, only to be beaten just as badly as their party was beaten in other places where less judgment was shown in making nominations. The fact is that the people are becoming thoroughly disgusted with the imbecility and corruption of the national Administration, and many who have heretofore acted with the Republican party cannot be brought to do anything which seems like an endorsement of Grantism, if it is only voting for a constable who wears the party badge. Besides, in New Jersey the Republican party has had to carry SECOR ROBESON and his friend CATTELL, who have assumed the direction of politics and politicans in that State, and in New Jersey people know just what these men are. But the Republican overthrow cannot be wholly ascribed to any local cause—"it is in the air," as a disgusted GRANT man said on Tuesday night when he found that the ticket he had labored for all day was beaten out of sight. It is a continuation of the same manifestation of displeasure with the Administration which showed itself in the New Hampshire and Connecticut elections, and which, unless the Republican party makes haste to pitch its JONAHS overboard, will grow in strength until the organization which has exercised such unlimited power for more than a dozen years is completely destroyed. These elections do not brighten the prospects of WILLIAM WALTER PHELPS or any other Republican taking the Senatorial chair now occupied by JOHN P. STOCKTON.

The proceedings of United States officials in South Carolina ostensibly engaged in suppressing illicit distilling appear to have been conducted with almost as much disregard of law and justice as characterized the operations of the same class of officers in Arkansas and northern Georgia. The Grand Jury in York county have presented JOHN B. HUBBARD, a revenue detective, and Lieut. H. H. BENNER, who was in command of a detachment of United States troops, for illegal and arbitrary conduct while nominally engaged in enforcing the revenue laws. The Grand Jury charge that HUBBARD, accompanied by BENNER, forcibly entered the house of a Mrs. MOONEY, and took from it cloth and other property having no connection with the revenue regulations, and which was not liable to seizure even supposing its owners had been charged with violations of law; that HUBBARD made numerous other seizures of private property in no wise connected with infractions of the revenue laws, including horses and hogs; and that he arrested peaceable citizens without warrant, taking them and their property to Yorkville, where they were shut up in jail and afterward released, no charge being made against them. A bench warrant has been issued for the arrest of HUBBARD, requiring him to give bail in $1,000 to answer an indictment for larceny and unlawful arrest, while the case of Lieut. BENNER has been referred to the post commandant in Yorkville.

The President Not a Habitual Drunkard.

From the Cincinnati.

We meet the President almost daily as we pass the Executive Mansion going to and from our office, and while his countenance is not that of a temperate Jonathan Edwards in good standing, there is nothing in his manner to indicate the frightful excess with which he is charged. He looks to us like a *bon vivant* who puts himself outside of a bottle or so at dinner, and retires at night in a happy state of elevation that is as far from sobriety as it is from drunkenness.

Style in Washington.

From Col. Forney's Press.

Miss Bessie Stewart, the Nevada Senator's daughter, drives a model basket phaeton, with a liveried driver, and a pale-green streamer floating from her whip, in admirable contrast to her piquant brunette face.

He is Going to Retire.

From the Philadelphia Evening Star.

G. A. Townsend having received some temptation offers for literary work, contemplates an early retirement from journalism.

Terry's Hat is worn by all the club men of New York. 37 Union square.—Adv.

THE STRUGGLE FOR INFLATION.

Correspondence of The Sun.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—The harmonious symphonies of the currency warblers of the House illustrated the demonstrated theorem that the most perfect harmony is a discord. The sage and statesman of Essex opened the campaign, and with a general commanding military figures are in order. His skirmish line was well thrown out and his flankers scoured the wooded country, but his line of battle was not invincible. The unrelenting Speaker, who is so heretical as to believe that vignettes of blooded stallions, American eagles, and the goddess Ceres, with a ticket wrought by the deft craft of the National Bank Note Company, are not quite so valuable as minted coin, by his casting vote on the call to lay the motion to table the reconsideration pierced his centre with as fatal a result as that of Marshal Macdonald at Wagram. Maynard of Tennessee rallied the broken column. As he never set a squadron in the field, his manœuvering was of Cushing's Manual and not of the tactics of Casey. Mr. Maynard may achieve victories, but he will not subdue by strategy. He is renowned for his raven locks, long and glossy, and carrying terror to suspicious sweethearts and jealous husbands. No law of physics is entirely universal. The capillary embellishment does not always confer strength. It gave power to Samson, but it has simplicity for the goat. We cannot classify the Chairman of Banking and Currency, as it would be unparliamentary, and we leave him with his disorganized cohorts for a rally on Tuesday, with a hope that mad expansion and moderate increase will fraternize in a cohesive action.

As currency is in consideration, something more may be said on the general topic. It has been before written that our ills were with extravagance, wanton waste, and a riot of squandering in all departments of our domestic and social economy—an inflation of soap bubbles beautiful in prismatic colors, but punctured by the faintest point of the most attenuated needle. The airy vesicle has cheated our sense and beguiled our reason. Add to this the unnecessary misery of Secretaries of Finance with bass wood brains, supported by the senility of the venerable Polonius of the Sanscrit signature with the ready writer of the Solicitor's office and the peripatetic cutpurse Sanborn, like the roaring lion of the Scriptural allegory, seeking whom he may devour. If our ailments are chronic, our acute malady is, just at this time, surplus. We have too much of everything, from coarse bulk to fine merchandise. The common ore has been delved from the bowels of the harmless earth, and transmuted by the torture of fire into the insensible pig and the stolid bloom, beloved of Cameron and Kelley. In fact, to the Pennsylvanian of unmixed blood, the dreams of celestial courts are visions of the glare of the blast furnace, with a subterranean profundity of coal shaft with the attending tram-road wain and draft mule. A paradise without these endowments would hardly be worth the saving by that sterness of public and private virtue, which is its distinguishing feature. The products of the soil are also in superfluity. The broad-horned bullock of the Texas pampas overtaxes the market, and the household hog of Illinois and Iowa gluts the mart. There is, it is true, just now a corner in lard, but the actual stock is ample to fry doughnuts for a twelvemonth, even if starving India should appease its pangs of hunger with the relishing complex, while the impending crop is grunting toward the December shambles. Textile fabrics, in all their multiform varieties of warp and woof, are also in overplus. The industry of steam and the force of water have been stimulated to their extent of capacity. Our restless and resistless energy has had no slowness or interruption. All this, bad enough, has been in our own family, and the benefit and the bane have been mutual. We come now to the idiocy which has emptied vein and artery—the very heart's blood of vitality—the foreign drain. The shuttle and loom of the domestic product supports and does not impoverish. The laborer works his muscle, fortified by his native maize and the nutritive fibre of the cattle upon a thousand hills of his local heather. Our steamers and sailing craft go out freighted below the water line with the farina of wheat and the crude nitrogen of corn, and come back, not with a manifest of guineas and Napoleons, but crammed to full capacity of keel with gossamer tissues and cobweb meshes which neither cover nakedness nor keep out cold, the woven gold and purple of France and Italy, with the costly needlework of Chantilly and Mechlin. More than this, the plane, carving chisel, and varnish brush ply their busy trade to minister to our snobbery, and the wine press is trodden for our dainty appetites. We give bread to the artisan of Europe and drop a stone into the stinted stomach of our unemployed, who with the folded hands of the sluggard, not from indolence but constraint, suck their thumbs for sustenance. With boxes and bales of our own merchandise we overflow the warehouse with recruiting cargo, and overlay plethora with the unhealthy adipose matter of influx. I repeat what I have before expressed in different language, no one is outside of this condemnation. It is a national foible, in which all must share the fault and the penal consequence. None of us wear the garb of white-robed innocence, and all partake of the pain. Even the gold-mounted Senator from the teeming millions of population in Nevada, if the whispered matter is credible, has added to turret and minaret the unarchitectural finish of a mortgage.

This is not cynicism, bad digestion, or sub-acid temper, but a sad statement of the situation which, if pointed with mild sarcasm, has no malevolent sneer. Our condition is bad and our tendencies worse. If we were now on a rock foundation, after slumping through quicksands, we might hope and summon new courage. But we are not yet at our lowest soundings. The planting of Cooke and the watering of Richardson have not yet done their perfect work. What is the remedy? The war-sword and counterspin is, Retrench. Lay grubbing hoe to the root and pruning knife to the branch. Cut off the estimates of new wardrobe; pare down the rations of silks and broadcloths to a half allowance. Eliminate the lavish pruriency of living, and let us have a returning glimpse of the simple modes of life, not Spartan maceration, but a subdued supervision of the cost. The epidemic is obstinate, and the treatment must be heroic. It is not castor but croton oil which we require. Rhubarb and senna must purge the system. No anæsthesia of kite flying or lying promise payable at convenience will ameliorate our category. What we want, above all, is a pledge of resumption, if it cannot be in the present tense, and in that most of us are agreed that it is impracticable, let it be in the future, near or distant. If the living generation must die without the sight of metal in purse we can turn our faces to the wall with an assured anticipation that our children's children, in the third or fourth succession, may see the Goddess of Freedom impressed upon our measures of value. The ring of coin is a tradition as cloudy as the rains of Troy. Can we have the satisfaction, a poor one perhaps, of dreaming that our posterity will not contract small-pox and cutaneous irritation from the filthy effigies of the precious metals? The summoning bugle of Butler is a waste of pulmonary power, and the border slogan of Maynard a useless breath. Let scalpel and cautery do the work; and we must set our teeth and stifle our agony if that extremity is before us.

It is pleasant to change the theme to that of commendation. The President has shaken out from his leanness of pocket twenty-five dollars to charity in the District. It is a frugality of munificence which does not augur any improvidence of disbursement in his Excellency's assets, nor predicate a want of bread and meat for the household from any lack of thrift in domestic husbandry. The *Capital* newspaper of yesterday has absolved him from the calumny of imprudence in beverages, and he now smokes a fresh cut calumet under the spreading palms of the bloodless victories of the Wilderness, with amnesty and deliverance to all enemies except the vipérous NEW YORK SUN, and the vituperative Cary of South Carolina. May Heaven absolvie their crimes.

APPEAL TO THE REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

A Momentous Question—He is Urged to Write for the Weekly Sun.

To the Rev. H. W. Beecher:

GOOD SIR: I have just been reading in the agricultural department of THE WEEKLY SUN what you said at a late meeting of the New York Rural Club, and I am both happy and flattered to find such good and high authority in support of what I have always called my religion. Sir, I am not at all ashamed to confess that I, too, am a lover of nature; and more, I worship her, more especially before she has become contaminated or soiled by the ever-destroying hand of man; and it has been my greatest pleasure for many years past to make periodical excursions into the northern wilderness of our State, where, together with a companion or two, I would tarry for a few weeks, and nestle undisturbed in her loving embrace, after which I always came out refreshed and purified to again enter the treadmill of this busy and wicked world to fight my way through the old fogy obstacles which in the shape of mistaken prejudice and ignorant conceits line our way on either side through this mortal pilgrimage.

But pardon me. I took up this, in my hands, feeble instrument, to imploringly beseech of you a favor. For more than twenty years I have spared no pains nor care to cultivate and protect a little family of red squirrels within the narrow limits of a city homestead, and have at last so far succeeded that I can now count perhaps a half dozen frisky little fellows, one of which has learned to trust me, and will venture to come and sit upon the top of a post by the side of my door and confidingly eat nuts, apples, and such palatable bits as we may place there for him. And these nimble and beautiful little creatures have been so handsomely treated by our household that they have acquired sufficient courage to extend their range and visit the premises of some of my neighbors, some of whom exhibit a degree of miserable hostility toward these pets of mine, and sneeringly comment upon my kindliness as a foolish and unmanly fancy, and they not only allow but encourage their children in capturing them to sell as prisoners. We have in our neighborhood one notoriously bad boy, whose greatest delight seems to be in committing depredations, one of which is to shoot and maim these little squirrels, and he even defies all remonstrances of both friends and the policeman, and avails himself of every clandestine measure and invention of his wicked nature to carry out his nefarious designs in their extermination. This same boy is a member of a Sunday school, and his parents are church members.

And now why won't you, for the sake of humanity as well as for these innocent little squirrels, write a word of reprimand or deprecation for the columns of THE WEEKLY SUN? You are held in high esteem and authority by these people I complain of, and several copies of that paper is taken among them. You must not feel yourself underrated by me in this appeal, and that you are asked to descend from your clerical or manly dignity; on the contrary, I know that a few words from you in the right spirit upon this subject would be of immense good and have a salutary effect all over the country where THE SUN is immensely circulated and read. A short sermon from the text here furnished would reach more needy places than this one here. Where are earnest pleadings from God's own children.

And are not these innocent and beautiful little creatures as much the children of God as those upright ones who, with musket in hand, are seeking to maim and destroy? Could you but sit with me upon my doorstep and observe one of these little sleek coated fellows pertly sitting upon the top of a post, with his soft, white belly, and fleecy tail erected over his back and head like a parasol, eating a nut which he holds in his cunning little paws, and at the same time notice my neighbor's good little boy, Charley, as he stands between my knees fondly watching every motion of my little pet, and sense the boy's heart swell and beat with good and tender emotion toward the little beast, you would say there is something good in this—something of God. Are women and hearts can be reached by such men as you, and mellowed a little and made to feel and understand God and his creatures better, my neighbors will begin to learn that manly dignity and goodness will not suffer from a closer communion with the great Jehovah, even if reached through humble and unfashionable creatures. I shall watch with anxiety the columns of THE WEEKLY SUN for a short sermon from you on this matter, notwithstanding I know your time is valuable time is bestezed in every possible way. I am, sir, yours for all that is good. ELIJAH T. SANFORD.

SYRACUSE, March 20, 1874.

Grant Looking for a Farm in Maryland.

From the Troy Times.

Gen. Grant is looking for a quiet little farm in Maryland or Virginia, not a dozen miles from Washington. His tastes are rural, and he would like nothing better than a place of his own near by, to which he could retire for a day or two whenever he felt like it. He is very fond of the country, and this is one reason for his long visits to Long Branch in the summer; but the sea shore is far off, and he would like a place close at hand to which he could easily resort in the spring and autumn, and during the coming summer he will doubtless be kept here by the presence of Congress till July, and a farm of one hundred acres, with fruit trees and stock, would be a great resource to him. When he leaves his present high office he will be poor. Grant proposes to spend his winters at Washington, and he wants a farm near at hand for amusement and recreation. The St. Louis farm is retained as an investment, and a most judicious investment it is likely to prove. It is stated on good authority that the farm will sell in less than ten years for a million of dollars. The city of St. Louis is rapidly spreading out toward it, and will soon enclose it.

A Message from the Sea.

From the Portsmouth (N. H.) Chronicle.

On Sunday last Mr. Hiram Tobey, one of the navy yard watchmen, found on the beach of an island in that harbor a thirty-corked bottle, which had apparently been in the water many years, being completely overgrown with barnacles and sea-weed. When broken it was found to contain a slip of paper about four inches long and two inches wide, with marks upon it indicating that it had been part of a ship's log-book, and bearing the following inscription:

December 14, 1861. Ship Jane, Arctic Ocean. I write this knowing that I shall never see land again, hoping that some one will pick it up. Yesterday the captain died, which * * I would write more if I could, but I am starving to death.

Several words not legible are expressed by the asterisks. The ink is very pale and the paper somewhat discolored. The writing, though indistinct, was easily read by the aid of a magnifying glass. The document is now in the hands of Commander Nicholson, of the Portsmouth Navy Yard.

A Beautiful Girl on her Travels.

From the Rochester Sun.

A young girl of Philadelphia, who is now on her travels, went to Westminster, and condescended to admire the great abbey. Without any apparent reason, she fainted in the church. The whole abbey was too large to be removed, so she quietly took a penknife from her pocket and cut out a piece of the chair of Edward the Confessor. She was arrested, and as she was very pretty, they let her off with a $50 fine, which would have been higher had she been plainer. Not content with this, she serenely journeyed to Dresden in search of new worlds to conquer. While visiting a church there she attempted to possess herself of some flowers from a shrine, but upon being taken off she urged the image of the Virgin, to the infinite horror of the custodians of the church. For this pleasing freak her father paid $2,500. Her beauty probably made the fine small on this occasion also.

A Girl that Bets to Win.

From Benson Jackson Smith's Cincinnati Gazette.

Mr. John Fishback, proprietor of the Indianapolis *Sentinel*, wagered $100 with a young lady niece that she couldn't "hold her tongue" for a week. The young lady was unexpectedly "took him up," and unless she speaks within the next two hours it is now to clock P. M. Mr. Fishback will have the $100 to pay. During the week he has escorted her to the opera, and although he has done his best to get her to speak, and hired other young ladies to "trap" her, yet she has resisted all their efforts. On Thursday last the journalist offered to compromise the matter, and give her $50, but the proposition was scornfully rejected.

A Mississippi Jury.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Down in Mississippi, in Vicksburg, Mr. Wills, the foreman of the Grand Jury, entered the court, followed by his comrades, and, after handing up to the Judge some papers, said: "That, with some exceptions, the body of which he was foreman was so tainted with corruption, degradation and vice that it was utterly impossible that the sacred objects and purposes of the law could be effectuated and carried out with any satisfactoriness; and that, utterly lost to every sense of conscience and shame," the Judge ordered a new jury, but it is not likely that, under new and carpet-bag rule, it will be any better than its predecessor.

Girls Looking After Jones.

Washington Correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette.

Our girls are rather concentrating upon Senator Jones of Nevada, who within the past week has proved himself to possess brains as well as a silver mine. A-yet I have not laid eyes upon him, and therefore cannot describe his manners or appearance. He has taken a large house, and called to his assistance two sisters, so that I think he means business, or, in other words, that he will receive and entertain. The gentlemen tell of a most musical ring of gold pieces that he carries in his pockets, and some playfully gives a twenty-dollar gold piece merely as a souvenir.

ADVERTISERS!—Send twenty-five cents to Geo. P. Rowell & Co., 41 Park row, New York, for their pamphlet of 100 pages, containing lists of 3,000 newspapers, and estimates showing cost of advertising.—Adv.

SUNBEAMS.

—A priest lately eloped with a young girl in San Juan del Rio.

—It is proposed in Canada to prohibit the importation of liquor into the Dominion.

—The Chief of Police of Puebla was turned out of a ball in that city not long ago.

—The Prefect and Judge of Amecameca have been gambling in public at a church feast.

—Perez Sandi, formerly curate of Compostela, has been arrested for complicity with the outlaws of Tepic.

—There is considerable excitement in Cholula because the Prefect has empounded the image of the Virgin Mary and holds it by force.

—The *Voz de Mexico* relates that in Jonuta, State of Tabasco, the prisoners in the town jail are not fed, but are allowed to go into the streets and beg.

—The catch of shad in Albemarle Sound, North Carolina, is said to be fifty per cent. greater this season than for many years before. The herring catch is also heavy.

—Cremation, as a matter of economy, is entitled to consideration.