The Sun.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1880.

Amusements To-Day.

Academy of Music—Il Flauto Magico.
Booth's Theatre—Humpty Dumpty.
Daly's New Theatre—The Royal Middy.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Mignon.
Grand Opera House—Fritz in Ireland.
Haverly's Theatre—The Hunchback.
Koster & Bial's Garden—Concert.
Madison Square Theatre—Hazel Kirke.
Niblo's Garden—Pinafore.
New York Aquarium—Parisian Circus. Matinee.
Olympic Theatre—Man and Wife.
Park Theatre—Chawles.
Standard Theatre—Robinson Crusoe, Esq.
San Francisco Minstrels—Love's Endurance.
Theatre Comique—Mulligan Guard Surprise.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—The Stowaway. Matinee.
Union Square Theatre—The False Friend.
Wallack's Theatre—The Liar.
Windsor Theatre—Buffalo Bill at Bay.

Advertising Rates.

Ordinary Advertisements, per Agate line $0 40
Large type or cuts (Agate measurement) per line 0 80
Business Notices, before marriages and deaths, per line 0 75
Special Notices, after marriages and deaths, per line 0 50
Banking and Financial (after money article) 0 75
Reading Notices, with "Adv.," 3d page, per line 1 50
Reading Notices, with "Adv." 1st or 2d page, per line 2 50
In Sunday Edition same rates as above.

Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN, *issued to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.*

Whom Do We Trust?

If we elect ULYSSES S. GRANT President of the United States, and thereby make him Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, who is the man in whom we repose this great trust?

He is a successful soldier; for that is his only distinction. The qualities in which he excels are those which would enable him to abuse his trust if so disposed.

Would he be disposed to abuse his trust?

He is animated by an inordinate love of power. He longs for an office with a life tenure. This is certain, for when his election to the Presidency was first proposed, he spoke of his giving up an office for life—that of General—for the Presidency as an unparalleled sacrifice!

Then we know that he is destitute of that wholesome regard for precedents which has characterized his predecessors from JEFFERSON down.

He is also a man of insatiable greed. He takes everything he can get. The earth hardly contains presents enough to satisfy him.

The power of the Presidency—carrying with it that of Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy—is a tremendous power to place in such hands.

Are the Jobbers to Be Sustained?

The action of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate upon the star service deficiency bill is most extraordinary, and presents an issue which must be met by the House, even if a conflict should follow between the majorities in the two bodies. Stripped of all extraneous matter, the real and the only question involved is, Shall the jobbers be sustained?

Now the bill as amended has a preamble, which recites as follows:

"Whereas, There is a deficiency in the appropriations made by Congress for the star postal service of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, caused by the Post Office Department *disregarding the law which prohibits the expenditure of money in excess of appropriation, or the making of contracts which render the Government liable for the payment of money in excess of appropriation.*"

This is a formal and distinct charge that the Postmaster-General and his Assistant, BRADY, violated the law in two cases expressly forbidden by the Revised Statutes, viz.: First, in expending money in excess of the appropriations, and secondly, in making contracts without provision to pay them. For two months past this subject has attracted the attention of the country through the investigation of the House committee, and this preamble records the public judgment.

Yet right in the face of this declaration the Senate committee have virtually sanctioned and approved the very acts they thus condemn, by permitting this service to be maintained on its present footing to the end of the fiscal year, and in the mean time inquiring whether any part of the regular appropriation has been applied improperly or extravagantly!

These patriotic Senators propose to investigate after they have appropriated the people's money to the jobbers. And they are loud champions of retrenchment and reform. Investigate what? They know now, as well as it is possible to know hereafter, how the regular appropriation of six millions in round numbers was exhausted inside of the first half of the fiscal year. The official reports extorted from the department show that the deficiency was created by increasing the speed on star service routes of Ring contractors on the remote frontiers with no other object than to enlarge the dividends of a corrupt combination.

But this is not all, by any means. The committee had other official information before them, which had been purposely kept back by the Sixth Auditor's office until a resolution had to be offered in open Senate demanding it, the House committee having failed after repeated efforts to obtain the truth in regard to the elements of the alleged deficiency.

The Postmaster-General, speaking as the creature of BRADY, had asked for two millions of deficiency. All attempts to get a satisfactory explanation of the items composing it were unsuccessful until a few days ago. While they were suppressed, the jobbers enlisted every possible influence to drive the bill through, and one of the expedients employed was the official notice to stop the whole star service on the 1st of March. At last the Sixth Auditor was forced to make an exhibit of the actual state of the star service fund. Instead of there being a deficiency of two millions, as demanded by the Department, it is shown by these figures that the House bill now pending, as amended, before the Senate, with a million in round numbers, was more than sufficient for the purpose. When this exposure was made, the patriots who had been urging a compromise in a million and a half found themselves constrained to retreat, so that half a million was subtracted from the fund for Addition, Division, and Silence.

What use is there in declaring solemnly that officials sworn to administer the laws have violated them, if there is to be no penalty inflicted for the offence? BRADY and his confederates care nothing for all the preambles Congress may pass, if they can get the money to pay jobbing contractors, who, in the elegant and expressive language of ex-Senator POWELL CLAYTON of Arkansas, have to practise "long division."

But the Senators who condone these crimes, or who make light of them as passing trifles, and do not scruple to vote away the people's money to common plunderers, knowing it is to be grabbed, must expect to confront their betrayed constituents, whose cause they have sacrificed. Every one of them is marked for future attention.

The New Ute Treaty.

The Utes at Washington have at last, under Mr. CARL SCHURZ's persistent urging, signed away the vast and valuable land of their tribe in Colorado for an annuity of $50,000, reserving only enough to allow 160 acres of agricultural land and the same of grazing land for each family, and only one-half of these amounts for single adults. As the land they give up comprises upward of ten millions of acres, and is believed to be rich in minerals, Mr. SCHURZ apparently gets it cheap. How dear a price the country may one day pay for it remains to be seen.

There are two customary ways of accomplishing a treaty with Indians who are loath to sign it. One is to take care that they do not understand it and believe it to be something else, then to enforce its written provisions with the bayonet. This was the plan pursued with great success in the case of the Poncas, the verbal explanation and understanding being one thing, and the written agreement the reverse. The other way is to treat with a few men as representatives of a whole tribe, and to bribe or bully these into giving up the lands of the tribe; and lest the latter should complain of the conduct of their representatives, troops are quickly collected to enforce the removal.

That one or the other of these plans has been adopted in the case of the Utes is of course clear, from the well-known fact that they have always refused to give up their homes, and that out of this refusal has sprung the bitter hatred of them on the Colorado frontier. It is highly probable that the second plan, that of bribing and bullying, was the one resorted to. The few men who have consented to thus dispossess their tribe have done so in Washington, and not among their own people. It has taken weeks of Washington influences to bring them to the mark. OURAY, the most influential of all, is perhaps the only Indian in the country who has a regular pay of $1,000 a year from the Government, upon which, accordingly, he has become a dependent. When it is remembered that twelve millions of acres is the stake played for, it is easy to see what influences could be brought to bear on the few Indians in Washington to make them sacrifice their tribe.

From the first Mr. CARL SCHURZ has adopted the plan of putting the White River Utes out of the consultation; hence a powerful leverage has been got by encouraging the Uncompahgre Utes to sacrifice their brethren. While feasting and gifts have been the order of the day in Washington, the army has been kept within striking distance of all the Ute agencies; the rations of the White River Utes, agreed upon by solemn treaty, have been cut off in the dead of winter; the purchase money of the previous treaty has been kept in Washington, in violation of a solemn compact, and brought out before the chiefs, to be given them in cash, on their agreement to make the new treaty; and, even in their journeyings forth and back from the West, these chiefs have been taken to places where they were surrounded by howling mobs, yelling for their lives. Thus beset for months with alternate fear and greed, bribed and bullied, they have agreed to give up their homes.

Of course the proposed ratification of this treaty by the tribe will be a farce. The act will never be waited for. Troops and filibusters will take ratification for granted. The former will force the removal, whether consented to or not, and the latter will be breaking into the Ute reservation even before the removal.

Thus the league between the miners, ranchmen, and land speculators who plotted Ute spoliation, and the HAYES Administration that undertook to carry it out, is producing its fruits. When these Indians, accustomed to a free and roaming life, find themselves penned into little severality farms, with no common hunting grounds, and with no provision of lands for future families or for the growth of the tribe, the results of this scheme will be apparent.

The Insurance Department.

The abuses that have grown up in the Insurance Department, and the difficulties that lie in the way of its reform, raise the question whether it is not best to abolish it and again devolve the discharge of its duties upon the Comptroller. All the malpractices of this branch of the Government have originated since it was separated from the Comptroller's office by an act of the Legislature, passed in 1859, and which took effect the following January. Previous to that time all matters pertaining to insurance were conducted by clerks of the Comptroller, under his personal supervision.

The comparative merits of the two modes of administration are determined by their fruits. Not a breath of suspicion fell upon the manner in which this important trust was performed during the long period it was managed by the Comptroller, while, on the other hand, this branch of the service has been the source of more or less scandal for the twenty years it has been under the sole direction of a Superintendent. These different results are largely due to two causes. The State has learned by bitter experience how difficult it is to get rid of a notoriously bad Superintendent. But the chief clerk who conducted the insurance business in the Comptroller's office was appointed by him on a moment's notice, without assigning any cause for his dismissal. And above all this stands the grand fact that ever since the office of Comptroller was created in 1797, it has been filled by citizens in whose integrity the State has had entire confidence. The people have ever been careful in selecting their Comptrollers. The famous ARCHIBALD MCINTYRE, one of the earliest; WILLIAM L. MARCY, his successor; SILAS WRIGHT, AZARIAH C. FLAGG, MILLARD FILLMORE, who stepped from the office into the Vice-Presidency and the Presidency, and SANFORD E. CHURCH, the present Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, are specimens of the men who have held a place not second in importance to that of Governor. The original device upon the old seal of the Comptroller, and which still exists, typifies the duties of an officer who, in an especial manner, is the guardian of the State treasury. It is a Harpy, attempting to seize an overflowing purse, while a strong hand holds a dagger to her breast.

Honest men are weary of the corrupt practices of Superintendents, and long for the return of the stern rule of Comptrollers.

Imprudent Chaffing.

"If I have told any reporters that we have a black list, I was only chaffing."

So said Mr. D. J. WHITNEY, agent of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, to one of our reporters a few days ago.

It is worth while for Mr. WHITNEY to consider whether he is at liberty, acting as the representative of so important a society as that for the prevention of crime, to indulge in chaffing so injurious to the character of the society.

The black lists referred to were said to be lists of persons considered respectable, who were in the habit of visiting places not considered respectable. The plan at once suggested the idea of blackmail, which, while no one would suspect its being practised by the principal officers of the society, might very likely be resorted to by the execrable spies in its employ.

Espionage is in itself hateful, and inconsistent with the freedom which every American citizen considers his birthright.

If Mr. WHITNEY must indulge in chaffing hereafter, he will do well to avoid a kind of chaffing which has subjected the society he represents to so much odium.

The long-rumored dissolution of the British Parliament is announced for Easter. The epoch is chosen with Lord BEACONSFIELD'S customary adroitness, and some of those who have clamored for dissolution with the idea of its weakening him will probably be disconcerted, for the moment, at getting what they want.

The Supreme Court of the United States, Mr. Justice FIELD and Mr. Justice CLIFFORD dissenting, affirms the constitutionality of the Federal Election laws.

"It is a blessed augury and a perpetual lesson," said the Rev. Dr. BELLOWS on Sunday, "that WASHINGTON has by universal consent become our National Mentor and first and most honored name."

That is true. In the galaxy of great names that blaze on the opening pages of our national history WASHINGTON stands out the polar star,

"Of whose true-fixed and resting quality
There is no fellow in the firmament."

So long as the ship of state is steered by that star, it will hold its course safely.

But it will be an evil augury, it will be a perpetual shame to American freemen, if they suffer the third-term conspirators to override the example which WASHINGTON set and to overthrow the Government which WASHINGTON founded.

At Harrisburg, yesterday, three of the persons indicted for corrupt practices in the matter of the Pittsburgh Riot bill entered pleas of guilty. A fourth defendant, WILLIAM H. KEMBLE, also entered a plea of guilty, but qualified it by filing a protest that this plea was not to be construed as an admission that he had offered money or any other thing of value to any of the persons named in the indictment, "corruptly."

For some reason best known to himself, HAYES yesterday sent in to Congress an essay on the interoceanic canal question. He is for maintaining the MONROE Doctrine, it appears, and, as was the case with the late Col. YELL of Yellville, his heart beats warmly for his native land, menaced as she is at this moment by designing Frenchmen and other foreigners.

An esteemed reader in Mississippi has a plan for improving the Constitution. While he does not share the gloomy forebodings of Mr. CHARLES O'CONOR, he informs us that years of study and observation have convinced him that the fathers did not make adequate provision for the restraint of the majority and the protection of the minority.

Accordingly, he proposes to supplement their work by creating another Senate—a Judicial Senate. He would have this body composed of the senior Judges of the several States. He would have all its members hold their seats for life, or during good behavior, and would make them ineligible to any other office. He would have this Judicial Senate count and declare the vote for President; adjudicate all contests for seats in the other Senate and in the House; arbitrate in all cases of deadlock between the other Senate and the House on appropriation bills, and between Congress and the President on any matter whatsoever; and take cognizance of the complaints of States that may feel themselves aggrieved by the action of the Federal Government. In short, he would have this Judicial Senate combine the functions of buffer and lubricator.

This is ingenious, but it is impracticable. Moreover, it is unnecessary.

All of the trouble and mischief has come from disobedience to the Constitution. That instrument is amply sufficient for all emergencies. It is nearly a hundred years old now, but it still has the dew of its immortal youth.

We exhort our Mississippi friend to cultivate in his own mind and inculcate among his neighbors a proper respect for the Constitution. That is the sheet anchor of our safety. The moment we cut loose from it, we drift toward peril and shipwreck.

Prof. BENJAMIN PIERCE says he is fully persuaded that the great comet seen in South America recently, and for which an anxious outlook has been kept ever since in this hemisphere, is the comet of 1843, once more visiting the sun. If this is so, and if the comet becomes visible here, the year 1880 stands a chance of being memorable in astronomical annals. The comet of 1843 was one of the most wonderful ever seen. Assuming that Prof. PIERCE's computation of this comet's previous returns is correct, it has had an astonishing history. In 1106 it blazed with a brightness that was compared to that of the sun itself; in 1402 it was so brilliant as to be visible at noonday; in 1454 it is said to have eclipsed the moon; in 1689 it spread terror among the ignorant throughout the world, and in 1843 it gave aid and comfort to the Millerites, and helped to alarm those who listened to their predictions of a speedy burning up of the world. If it should return this year with its accustomed style, it will confirm the faith of those who read in the hidden chambers of the great pyramid momentous prophecies for 1881. All the visits of this comet, however, have not been equally brilliant.

TALMAGE proposes that each reader of his sermons shall send him a dollar to reduce his Tabernacle debt. The relief would probably be of trifling amount; besides, though these readers deserve this penalty, charity would dictate that, on the contrary, they should be paid a dollar for each sermon read.

A German philosopher, who has directed his attention to phosphorescence in order to discover, if possible, the real cause of that remarkable phenomenon, concludes that the simplest method of bringing about phosphorescence is to place marine fish in a three per cent. solution of salt—the phenomenon being observable the second evening. The luminosity, it seems, begins in the eyes, and thence spreads all over the fish, increasing in intensity from day to day; its duration depends upon the temperature. The fish appears, after a time, to be luminous all through. This, however, is not the case, for, on scraping off the surface, it is quite black underneath. The luminous matter is a kind of slime, which in daylight is of a dirty white color; it is only in the dark that it shines.

ELLIOTT, the English oarsman, is to start for this country next month, to participate in boating contests. He would come with more prestige but for his recent defeat by BOYD, but as it is will find, no doubt, a welcome and plenty of work. If BOYD would accompany ELLIOTT, or in due time follow him, the year would be memorable in the annals of sculling. It is no more than fair, after HANLAN's career on the other side of the ocean, that anybody who claims to be a match for him should row him on this side. Besides, lavish purses are always ready for great contests in this country, and ELLIOTT and BOYD would be sure of making their trip pay.

The bursting of a 160-ton ARMSTRONG gun in a Duilio turret will cause unlimited talk for the next six weeks in British ordnance circles—more even there than at Spezia. The officers of the Duilio are pluckily continuing their practice with the pair of guns in the other turret; but this must be rather to restore public confidence in the fighting powers of the big ship than to diminish their own chagrin at the occurrence. All four of the guns were under test, by contract with service charges, or heavier, before being mounted, so that the bursting of one, after twenty-five rounds in the turret, is rather discomfiting.

TALMAGE crowed loudly on Sunday over his brethren in the Presbytery who voted to convict him of falsehood and deceit. Describing them as his clerical enemies, he exulted over what he called their complete defeat, and intimated pretty distinctly that the spirit animating them was the spirit of the devil. "But GOD has overruled their assaults," shouted TALMAGE; "three times this year GOD gave me victory over them." Talk of this sort from the Tabernacle platform is not calculated to hasten the reign of peace among the Brooklyn Presbyters.

After the long-distance walkers and swimmers, the jumpers. As there is a periodicity in follies as well as in other phenomena, we are not surprised to hear that a young fellow out West has revived the SAM PATCH business. His name is THOMAS BOYD, he is an Irishman by birth, is 23 years old, has a wife and two children, and on Sunday last he risked his neck and their happiness by jumping from the high bridge at Louisville into the Ohio—a leap of nearly or quite 100 feet. As he was picked up alive and apparently uninjured, other foolish young fellows who find the ordinary processes of earning money too slow and humdrum will see in his performance a new short-cut to notoriety and a bank account. But we remind him and them that SAM PATCH himself jumped once too often.

M. MAURICE VIGNAUX has challenged the billiard champions of France and England to a series of games for $50,000; but before he plays them he will first have a chance to vanquish, if he can, an American player, Mr. G. F. SLOSSON, for a stake of $500 a side. This contest is soon to come off, 4,000 points up, five nights, 800 each night. As the game is the regular three-ball game, under the COLLENDER Challenge Cup rules, which allow unlimited ball playing, the young American expert may be able to weaken a little the prestige of the renowned VIGNAUX, and so help to cause his $50,000 challenge to be accepted.

The Sugar Trade Pays One-Third of the Customs Revenue.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The telegraphic correspondence of Saturday last between the Hon. Fernando Wood, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and myself as Chairman of a committee of the sugar importers and refiners who have memorialized Congress for relief from the injustice and uncertainties of the present method of collecting the duties on sugar, was published in THE SUN.

As the subject is one of interest not only to sugar importers but to consumers as well, will you permit me to say that we have never doubted Mr. Wood's willingness to vote for a bill that might meet his approval. What we desired to know was whether Mr. Wood would favor a settlement of this question by the present Congress, or whether, failing to secure the report of such a bill as he may approve, he will use his power as Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means to prevent the report of any bill whatever.

What we desire and what, as the representatives of a trade that pays nearly one-third of the entire customs revenue of the Government, we think we have a right to demand, is that Congress shall be allowed to reach some conclusion upon this important question at this session, and that such measures of relief as are proposed shall be passed upon after a full hearing and in the light of open debate in both Houses. C. W. DUHAST, Chairman.

NEW YORK, March 8.

Democratic Harmony.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Democratic Union held a meeting on the 4th of March and flung to the breeze its flag as tender to Tammany disciplined, naming for its secretaries the special pets Ambrose Monell, Augustus T. Docharty, and Robt. Van Wyck, and sounding the Tammany tom-tom on a single string "harmony," under the imperious sway of "our honored leader" who organizes desolation and calls it peace.

The Spanish proverb, "Show me who you frequent and I will tell you who you are," applied to the Democratic Union, will define its position and tendencies. Invidious designations are always to be avoided, but a chance at the manipulation of this organization will disclose the cloven foot of Tammany. With a few scores of independent citizens interjected here and there, designedly to relieve it of sectional aspect, it is as much the mere tool of Tammany as the Tammany General Committee, and under the same authoritative rule. The harmony to be effected by the Democratic Patriots such as may be originated when a mandate issues from the Wigwam and flounts a red rag before an enraged bull.

A conciliatory address, followed by defamatory speeches, is one way to reconcile factional differences, adding gall and wormwood to factional regard to be effected by laborers. These remarks are simply intended as a finger-board to caution the wayfarer to "look before he leaps." A peace between the contending factions of the Democratic party in the State of New York, to be acceptable to Tammany, must be dictated by the quadruple alliance of Manning, Kelly, Fernando Wood, Archbishop Corrigan, and John Kelly—the last named having such a charter for the city of New York as will retain him in office with a share of the municipal patronage for designating himself to keep up dissension in the party to insure its overwhelming vote to grant. TRUE DEMOCRAT.

The Requiem for Tchernishevsky.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Be kind enough to correct a report in to-day's SUN concerning a requiem service for Nicholas Tchernishevsky, the Russian Nihilist, celebrated by me on Sunday last. First the request for prayers was presented to my reader by a poor Russian for his friend, named Nicholas. I had no conversation with the living friend, nor did I know the deceased, for whom prayers were asked except by his name. Nothing in the service was said in the oriental Church service for the dead. Second, there was no special solemnity or impressiveness in the prayers, they being in the usual form for such occasions, and thirdly, there was not a single representative of the Government of his Majesty the Emperor present.

Had I known the purpose of the request, to make political statistics, I should, in accordance with the principles of the Oriental Church, have absolutely refused it.

NEW YORK, March 8. NICHOLAS BJERRING, Priest.

The Fight over Grant in Brooklyn.

Charles Heptner, the anti-Grant politician of the Eighteenth Ward of Brooklyn, who is accused of firing three shots at William Caldwell of 1282 De Kalb avenue, son of the gentleman who offered resolutions approving of the Utica Convention, was before Justice Ludwig Semler yesterday on a charge of assault with intent to kill. Mr. Caldwell accused Mr. Heptner of firing the pistol on Thursday night at the meeting that the Grant and anti-Grant men came to blows. The earliest shows, it is alleged, there was a quarrel between Heptner and Caldwell when the former accused the latter, as they were ranged on different sides of the room voting on the resolution, of not being a member of the association. When Heptner fired the shots, he claims that he did so only to frighten Caldwell, and that he had a toy pistol. Yesterday the case was adjourned for examination, and was held to await the action of the grand jury.

Brooklyn's Unclean Streets.

The Brooklyn Board of City Works sent a communication to the Common Council yesterday, giving notice that they have determined not to annul the bids of the street cleaning contractors, and to annul the contracts, as, instead of cleaning 563 streets four times each, as they should have done in the month of February, the contractors had cleaned the streets only once each, and had not touched many of the streets named with concern. The Board requests the Common Council to direct the corporation Counsel to institute suits against the contractors' sureties to recover the damages which will be caused by the city's undertaking the street cleaning to-day's work. The communication was referred to the Law and Water and Drainage Committees. The streets of Brooklyn have rarely been in a more unclean condition than at present.

Costa Rica Preparing for War.

PANAMA, Feb. 28.—Costa Rica seems to be actively prosecuting her preparations for war and for carrying out, or attempting to carry into effect, the ambitious schemes of her President, Gen. Guardia, for a confederation of the Central American States. She has recently purchased another steamer, which former is joined at the San Juan River, on the Nicaragua, and is being fitted up as a man-of-war, for service on the Atlantic. As the republic has no use for this vessel on its Atlantic coast, the purchase is looked on as a menace to the other republics, with all of whom, excepting Nicaragua, Costa Rica has broken off friendly relations.

The Cost of the Civil War.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Kirkwood (Ia.) submitted a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to communicate to the Senate a statement of the amount of money expended by the United States for all purposes necessarily growing out of the late war, specifying separately the amount paid on principal of the public debt thereby incurred, amount of interest paid on said debt each year, amount paid for pensions, including arrears, and amount paid soldiers and sailors of the war, such information to be brought down to Jan. 1, 1880.

Judge Mann's Will.

TROY, March 8.—The will of the late Judge Francis Norton Mann, admitted to probate this morning, gives $25,000 to the St. John's Episcopal Church of this city, $2,000 to Union College, and the balance of the estate, over $100,000, to be equally divided between his children, Francis N., Elias P., and Emily S. Mann. Miss Mann is betrothed to the Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr.

Democrats on the Side of the Women.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., March 8.—For the charter election in this village to-morrow the Democrats have nominated five ladies who were nominated by the committee of women and Prohibitionists for members of the Board of Education. The Republicans have nominated five men.

Virginia's Debt Bill Defeated.

RICHMOND, March 8.—The Senate to-day refused to pass the Rubleberger bill over the veto of the Governor—yeas, 16; nays, 16, not the necessary two-thirds.

TILDEN AND ANTI-TILDEN.

A Plan for Compromising Democratic Difficulties Emanating from Tammany Hall.

ALBANY, March 8.—The Presidential prospects of both parties form the staple topic of discussion at the capital. There is a freedom of criticism on all sides quite at variance with the usual regard for party discipline. Many Democrats devote much of their time to savage attacks on Tilden, while a considerable body of Republicans go about asserting that if Grant is nominated he cannot possibly be elected. The lines are not drawn between parties at the present time, but between the factions of the two parties.

A well-known New Yorker—an officeholder under Tammany Hall—was here last week big with a plan for compromising Democratic differences. He said: "The holding of a separate Convention by Tammany is not intended as a menace, but is in the nature of a necessity. The regularity of Tammany was conceded by the last State Convention. Its delegates were admitted, and its representatives were awarded positions on all the leading committees. Their subsequent withdrawal could only have been avoided by the nomination of some other candidate than Lucius Robinson. The bolt was no afterthought, and was not an act of party treachery. For months before the Convention it was perfectly well known that Tammany Hall could not be brought to the support of Gov. Robinson, and that if he was named her delegates would withdraw. With this knowledge they were admitted; and when they had exhausted every effort to effect a compromise—and not before—they left. But they gave up their places in the State Committee, and to that extent, at least, they forfeited their claim to regularity. If Tammany should appear at the approaching Convention it would doubtless be rejected as an irregular organization. Its strength is too great and its services are too important for it to submit to such humiliation. It must therefore hold a separate Convention. This Convention will not be insignificant either in numerical strength or in influence. It is not designed to widen the breach in the party, but to constitute the basis on which an honorable compromise can be reached. My idea is to call both Conventions at the same time and place—say in Utica. The influence of Gov. Seymour and Senator Kernan would be exercised in the interest of harmony, and it could not fail to have a favorable effect. Then a conference committee could be appointed by the two bodies and a plan agreed upon for bringing the factions together."

"Would that plan involve the admission of the Tammany delegates to the reunited Convention as the representatives of the regular Democracy of New York city?"

"Not necessarily. Tammany is not disposed to quarrel over unimportant matters. If a union is effected, we do not care who goes in or stays out of either Convention."

"What, then, is to be the basis of this union?"

"All we ask is that an uninstructed delegation shall be sent to Cincinnati, selected, as usual, through the Congressional Districts, and that the unit rule shall not be enforced."

"If these concessions are made, and Mr. Tilden is nominated, will Tammany Hall support him?"

"I am not authorized to speak for the organization, but I think it will. All the men that I have talked with, including the most prominent of the Tammany leaders, are decidedly averse to another bolt. Of course it is not to be supposed that we are in favor of Tilden's nomination. We shall go to Cincinnati and do what we can to prevent such a result. If the reports which reach us are true he will not be nominated. The feeling against him in the South grows stronger and stronger every day. The representative men of that section yielded to the clamor of Tilden's agents in 1876, and permitted him to carry off the nomination at St. Louis against their own better judgment. I do not think they are inclined now to repeat that policy. The popular faith in Tilden's political shrewdness and sagacity received its death blow last year, when, against the appeals of some of his own best friends, he insisted on the renomination of Robinson, knowing that it would create a schism in the party, but believing that his faction was strong enough to carry the election. A man whose strength rests, as Tilden's does, almost solely on his supposed ability as a manager, can hardly survive such a blunder as that. The discussions and revelations of the past four years have certainly weakened him with the people, and, in spite of all his efforts, I am satisfied that he will be set aside, and a less objectionable candidate nominated."

"But if these opinions prevail generally in Tammany Hall how are you going to get that organization to support Mr. Tilden, in the event that he becomes the candidate of the party?"

My informant paused for a moment and then answered deliberately: "Tammany Hall—I speak for the rank and file—is not vitally interested in the Presidency. Our objection to Tilden is political, not personal. The very life of our organization depends on the defeat of Lucius Robinson in last November, for he had declared war on us, and if we had not killed him he would have killed us. The State of New York was not big enough to hold Robinson's Administration and the Tammany Democracy. It was simply a question of life and death, and we resolved that it should be he and not we. We have no such quarrel as that with Mr. Tilden. We don't believe in his methods and we doubt his sincerity. But we recognize him as a politician—which Robinson was not. Tilden has been attempting to kill the Democratic party, but not to destroy it. His election to the Presidency would not menace our organization. Therefore we can support him while we could not support Robinson."

"But the support, given under such circumstances, would be rather lukewarm, wouldn't it?"

"Not at all. Tammany Hall will be as active and earnest as ever this year in its efforts to carry the city and to recover its local prestige. If it runs the regular Democratic electoral ticket our friends will get all the votes it has to give, whether it represents Tilden or a more acceptable man."

I sketched the points of the foregoing conversation to a friend of Mr. Tilden, and asked him what he thought about it. He answered, with a smile: "I have heard some of these offers of compromise before. They seem to show that Tammany Hall is preparing to accept the inevitable. The fact is, neither John Kelly nor his immediate associates possess the power to organize a bolt against the regular Presidential ticket. They made nothing and lost everything by their last venture in that line. They are stripped of power in the city, they have forfeited their right to recognition in the State Convention, and they are now waging a losing and hopeless fight against the renomination of Mr. Tilden. It is high time for them to make overtures looking to harmony.

"But are these overtures to be accepted?"

"Certainly not in the form that you put them. In six successive Presidential canvasses the New York delegation to the Democratic National Convention has been instructed to vote as a unit. This is a reasonable and proper rule. The question is, not who is the strongest candidate in Cayuga or Erie, but who is strongest in the State of New York, considered as a whole. The electoral ticket is to be chosen by the people acting together, and the nomination should be made by the representatives of the people acting in the States. This, at any rate, has been the accepted policy of the party for a quarter of a century, and there is no reason why it should be changed to suit the caprice of a factious minority at the present time.

"But do you not consider it very desirable to bring together the opposing elements of the party, even if some concessions are required from the dominant faction?"

"Yes, it is desirable to bring together the opposing elements all in good time; but it is not at all desirable to bolster up the sinking fortunes of an unsuccessful politician like John Kelly by opening negotiations with him just now. The bone and sinew of the Democracy feel very bitter toward the man who betrayed them into the hands of the enemy last November. They purpose to go on now and complete their work without asking his permission, or extending any olive branches in his direction. If Mr. Tilden is nominated for President, he will receive the support of Tammany Hall, and that, too, without the intervention of John Kelly."

I said that last September in regard to Robinson, I ventured to remark.

"Yes, but that was because I overestimated the wisdom of John Kelly. I thought he would surrender rather than sacrifice the Sheriff, the County Clerk, and all the other fat city offices which he was best in securing. It seems I was mistaken. But I am not mistaken this time, for the decision no longer rests with Kelly. Tammany Hall has been reached through other channels than Kelly's influence. When we were approaching the September Convention, every Tammany man was loud in declaring that he would not support Robinson under any conceivable circumstances. Now you may travel the city of New York through and through and you will not find one of them loud. I include Mr. Kelly in the list who will openly declare that he will not support Tilden if he is the regular candidate of the Democratic party. That fact measures the difference between the two campaigns. We shall have the support of Tammany, but we shall make no concessions—at present."

Here in Albany there is a Democratic faction much more bitter than Tammany in its hostility to Tilden. This faction, led by such able men as Erastus Corning and Judge Amasa J. Parker, will listen to no suggestion of compromise which does not contemplate the absolute retirement of Tilden from politics. A representative of this faction told me that neither he nor his friends would vote for Tilden, though twenty conventions should nominate him.

"Did you vote for him in 1876?" I asked.

He evaded my question by saying that it didn't make any difference whether he did or not; but I subsequently discovered that he didn't.

It seemed to be generally conceded that if Tammany is conciliated, the remaining anti-Tilden strength will not be great enough to cause serious danger. In the mean time the Democrats derive consolation from the quarrel raging in the Republican camp.

THE ISTHMUS CANAL.

Mr. Hayes Telling Congress what is the Policy of the Country.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—In transmitting to Congress to-day the correspondence with respect to the Isthmus Canal, called for by the joint resolution of Feb. 11, Mr. Hayes says:

I deem it proper to state briefly my opinion as to the policy of the United States with respect to the construction of an interoceanic canal by any route across the American isthmus. The policy of this country is a canal under American control. The United States cannot consent to the surrender of this control to any European power or to any combination of European powers. If existing treaties between the United States and other nations, or if the rights of sovereignty or property of other nations stand in the way of this policy—a contingency which is not apprehended—suitable steps should be taken, by just and liberal negotiations, to promote and establish the American policy on this subject consistently with the rights of the nations to be affected by it. The capital invested by corporations or citizens of other countries in such an enterprise must, in a great degree, look for protection to one or more of the great powers of the world. No European power can intervene for such protection without adopting measures on this continent which the United States would deem wholly inadmissible. If the protection of the United States is relied upon, the United States must exercise such control as will enable this country to protect its national interests and maintain the rights of those whose private capital is embarked in the work.

An interoceanic canal across the American isthmus will essentially change the geographical relations between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States, and between the United States and the rest of the world. It will be the great ocean thoroughfare between our Atlantic and our Pacific shores, and virtually a part of the coast line of the United States. Our merely commercial interest in it is greater than that of all other countries, while its relations to our power and prosperity as a nation, to our means of defence, our unity, peace, and safety, are matters of paramount consideration to the people of the United States. No other great power would, under similar circumstances, fail to assert a rightful control over a work to closely and vitally affecting its interest and welfare. Without urging further the grounds of my opinion, I repeat, in conclusion, that it is the right and duty of the United States to assert and maintain such supervision and authority over any interoceanic canal across the isthmus as will protect our national interests. This, I am quite sure, will be found not only compatible with, but promotive of, the widest and most permanent advantage to commerce and civilization. RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

The message has created no little amusement among Congressmen of both parties. No one is able to see any immediate necessity for sending a special message to Congress on the canal question, particularly as a special committee of the House is investigating the subject, unless it be the presence of M. de Lesseps in Washington. The message is accepted as a challenge from Mr. Hayes to Count de Lesseps. A veteran politician said to-night that Mr. Hayes's object in sending the message to Congress was to attract the attention of the people to himself as a bold patriotic American candidate, with a policy, for a second term of the Presidency. An ancient lobbyist coldly remarked that the message simply showed that the fight between Capt. Eads and De Lesseps was being fought more openly than heretofore. Count de Lesseps will appear before the Committee on the Interoceanic Canal again to-morrow. A Democratic member of the committee will privately advise De Lesseps if he really desires to build a canal on the Panama route under American protection, that he appeal to Congress to grant him a charter to organize his company and prosecute the work.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

Gen. Grant and Admiral Ammen Said to be at the Head of the Enterprise.

PANAMA, Feb. 28.—The arrival in Managua, Nicaragua, is announced of Don J. Tomas de Franco, who is proclaimed as the bearer of important propositions from Gen. Grant and Admiral Ammen, looking to the obtaining of a concession from the Government of Nicaragua. The *Gaceta Oficial* says that A. G. Menocal is expected at an early date to "treat on canal matters," and says: "We know that it is now a fact that a respectable company of American capitalists and French bankers, among which figures the name of Rothschild, and which will be presided over by Gen. Grant and Admiral Ammen, will be organized as soon as the concession which will be asked from this Government is obtained, with which object, and with proper powers, the civil engineer of the United States, Mr. A. G. Menocal, will arrive by first steamer." Nicaragua papers generally denounce M. de Lesseps's visit to the Isthmus as part of a scheme of "humbug" in the interests of a French company, and await with anxiety the arrival of Mr. Menocal.

The United States steamer Pensacola, Rear Admiral Rogers, has arrived here from Callao. Other United States men-of-war have, it is said, been ordered here to formally take possession of some territory on the coast of the Department of Chiriqui, in this State, as set forth in the New York journals received by last steamer. The territory in question is supposed to be comprised in a conditional grant made to one Thomason by this Government some twenty-five years ago; but as the conditions of the grant were never carried out by Thompson or his associates, the concession has long since fallen through. It is only by referring to the old files of the *Star and Herald* of 1856 that we can find out anything about the matter, as the whole affair has long since sunk into oblivion. No valid grant of any territory to an American, beyond that of the Panama Railroad, is now known to exist in this State.

THE SUITS AGAINST JUDGE COWING.

One of Them Dismissed and the Other Partially Disposed of.

Judge Van Vorst in Supreme Court, Special Term, yesterday announced his decision in the two suits brought by George E. Tugnot against his brother-in-law and former guardian and one of the executors of his father's will, City Judge Rufus B. Cowing.

One of the suits was brought to compel an accounting by Judge Cowing as plaintiff's guardian, the plaintiff claiming that a settlement between him and Judge Cowing as guardian, on the 14th of August, 1877, a few days after he arrived at the age of 21, was not complete and not fairly made. Judge Van Vorst decides that the evidence does not, in any particular, sustain the grounds on which the plaintiff claims that the release signed by him upon such sett