The Sun.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1880.

Amusements To-day.

Abbey's Park Theatre—Edgewood Folks.
American Institute—Exhibition.
Fifth Opera House—Dreams.
Booth's Theatre—Pirates of Penzance.
Grand Opera House—The New Magdalen.
Haverly's Theatre—Carmen.
Haverly's Fifth Avenue Theatre—The Tourists.
Koster & Bial's Concert Hall—Concert.
Madison Square Theatre—Rare Kirke.
Metropolitan Concert Hall, Broadway, 27th st., and 41st st.
Niblo's Garden—Around the World in Eighty Days.
New York Aquarium—Giraffe-Girls.
Standard Theatre—La Fille du Tambour Major.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Theatre Comique—Mulligan Guard Picnic.
Union Square Theatre—Sultan of Mocha.
Wallack's Theatre—Across the Continent.

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

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FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

THE WEEKLY SUN will be found a useful auxiliary by all who are earnestly working for the reform of the National Government. Throughout the Presidential canvass of 1880 THE SUN will give its readers a full, clear, and honest report of events and opinions. Believing that the evils which have so long beset the country can be cured only by a change of the party in power, it will support for President and Vice-President, HANCOCK and ENGLISH, the nominees of the National Republican Democracy. It will also support such candidates in the Congress districts as may give the best promise of keeping the National Legislature out of the grip of fraud, bribery, and corruption, and in the control of common sense and patriotism.

To all those who sympathize with our purpose, we commend the circulation of THE WEEKLY SUN.

In order that they may most efficiently cooperate with us, we will send THE WEEKLY SUN to clubs, or single subscribers, post paid, **for twenty-five cents** till the Presidential election.

Raise clubs in every school district.

Five dollars will pay for twenty subscriptions for the campaign.

Address THE SUN, New York City.

Maine.

The news from Maine of the election of yesterday is better and more encouraging than many Democrats had expected. The Associated Press despatches received up to 10 o'clock gave it to be understood that the "result was close and doubtful," but at the same time indicated a falling off in many places in the Republican vote as compared with last year, when the Republicans were in a minority, and a very large falling off as compared, more properly, with the returns of 1876, the year of the last Presidential election. The despatches received from other correspondents, at a later hour, or up to midnight, pointed to a possibility that the Republicans had been beaten in the State; that PLAISTED, the Democratic-Fusion candidate for Governor, had been elected; that the Republicans had secured but one or two of the five members of Congress, and had perhaps lost both Houses of the Legislature.

Should the complete returns redeem the promise of those now at hand, the Democracy and their allies have won a remarkable victory, and have cut down the 15,000 Republican majority of four years ago to the near neighborhood of the vanishing point, if they have not wiped it out altogether.

In this event it is a serious reverse for the Republicans, and a sobering one. Especially so as the canvass was organized and conducted on the Republican side by JAMES G. BLAINE.

The Next Congress.

The shrewdest Republican managers are now giving more earnest attention to the Congress districts, and to the Legislatures in the States that are to choose Senators, than they are giving to the Presidential contest. Some of the more candid admit that HANCOCK's election is a foregone conclusion, and others would be quite willing to see GARFIELD defeated, and even to bargain for that result by a trade of votes if either the Senate or the House of Representatives could thus be gained.

A President without a Congress to support his general policy is incapable of effecting any important results in administration. Harmony between the executive and the legislative branches is of the utmost consequence when measures of reform are intended. The Democrats are pledged to retrenchment of the public expenditures, and to purge the existing abuses in the departments. The Executive, if properly equipped for the service, and desirous of reforming evils that have become chronic, can do much by a thorough investigation. But after this part of the work shall have been done, he will need the cooperation of an efficient Congress to legislate the old and corrupt system out of existence.

So far as the Senate is concerned, if the Republicans were lucky enough to secure all the coming vacancies in California, Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, they would still be in a minority after the 4th of March, 1881. But there is no such probability. If Indiana should fulfil the present expectation on the 12th of October, four of these States, and perhaps five, will be apt to return Democratic Senators.

In the last ten days the current in Indiana has set strongly for the Democrats, and it is gaining force and volume at the latest accounts. A very careful canvass has been made, extending to every precinct in the State, the result of which is to strengthen confidence and to give assurance of success. That confidence in itself is a tower of strength, since it is not founded on speculative figures, nor on hopeful estimates.

The majority in the next House of Representatives will be determined in numbers by the action of the Nationals. Independently, they will be able to elect but very few members, but they held at the last Congressional elections the balance of power in one-fourth of the districts. The attempt of Mr. WEAVER, their peripatetic candidate for President, to maintain a separate organization, must result in utter failure. Practical people are not inclined to throw away their votes at the Presidential election.

Any impulse given by Indiana favorable to HANCOCK would be felt in a like degree by the Congressional tickets, nearly all of which are voted on the same day with the electors. The uncertain voters who float from side to side have a keen instinct for the majority. They aggregate many tens of thousands, and will materially help to swell the popular vote for HANCOCK, and to elect many members of Congress.

The present outlook justifies the belief that the Democrats will maintain their ascendancy in the House of Representatives, and that Gen. HANCOCK will be inaugurated with a Democratic Congress to carry out his great measures of retrenchment reform.

A Model Sanitary Association.

Our great summer watering places, like the camps of an army in the field, are peculiarly liable to suffer from the assaults of epidemic fevers. In particular, this is true of the newer resorts, as, for instance, those of Coney Island.

They attract during a brief period a vast congregation of people, who are packed together in huge hotels almost as closely as the inhabitants of a tenement house district on the east side. The germs of disease are easily communicated, and the opportunities for the generation and spread of malarious influences are present to an exceptional extent. Only the most careful attention to hygienic necessities—the scientific management of drainage and sewage, and the preservation of the water supply from every possible contamination—will protect the vast communities from falling a prey to disease even while they have gone out in pursuit of health and pleasure.

An association which was formed at Newport last year is, therefore, one deserving of imitation at other watering places, and in other cities and towns. It is called the Sanitary Protective Association, and its object is to improve the health of the city, and to aid individual citizens in detecting and removing the causes of disease in their dwellings and in their lands.

Of all our watering places, Newport is the one which would seem to stand least in need of such an organization. It is not a place of mushroom growth, but an old and stable community. Its inhabitants include very many families of great wealth, who have permanent summer residences there, and everybody is aware of the remarkably salubrious surroundings of the town. It has enjoyed exceptionally good health for a long series of years, and the municipal government has every interest in maintaining the reputation of Newport, not only as a seat of fashion, but also as a place which invites strangers by reason of its peculiar healthfulness.

Yet close observers of the condition of the city have seen all about them the preventable causes of disease, and scented danger ahead. The sea breezes have blown over stagnant water and marsh and the filth of the thickly populated parts of the town. Cesspits were dug close to wells, defective plumbing admitted tainted sewer gas into the dwellings, and typhoid fever was the inevitable result. Drains were constructed improperly, or were used improperly, and a lack of knowledge of hygiene prevailed even among the most intelligent people, as it always does.

The Sanitary Protective Association was therefore formed to remedy these evils, by helping individuals to improve the sanitary condition of their premises. The City Council of Newport has authority to appoint a Board of Health, and the Mayor in his inaugural impressed upon them the necessity of determined and energetic action in all that pertains to the public health. But the work of the authorities must be general, while that of this association is among individuals.

The model for the association was the sanitary society formed in the Scotch capital in 1878, after a plan conceived by Prof. JENKIN of the University of Edinburgh. Its purposes are to provide its members, at a moderate cost, with such advice and supervision as shall secure the proper sanitary condition of their own dwellings, and enable them to remedy defects in houses of the poorer sort in which they are interested. It also acts as a spur upon the public authorities. An entrance fee of three dollars is required from permanent residents, and five dollars from those who occupy their dwellings during a portion of the year only. The idea is to make the sum so small that householders generally can come in to enjoy the benefits of the combination. Every member can obtain an annual report as to the condition of his premises, and command the services of a competent engineer, at a moderate price, to remedy defects discovered.

To encourage the improvement of the cleanliness of the city, the association offers two prizes, open to all inhabitants of Newport. The first is of fifty dollars to the person, not the owner of the house occupied, who shall put his or her premises in the most satisfactory condition by Jan. 1 next, and keep them so until the 1st of June. The second is also of fifty dollars, and will be given to the householder who does the most toward improving the sanitary condition of any occupied dwelling between Sept. 1, 1880, and June 1, 1881. The matters to which attention is especially to be given are ventilation of the house, dryness of the cellar, the water supply, condition of the cesspool and drains, and of the exterior premises, including outbuildings; and preference will be given in the competition, in the first class, to persons of the most moderate means, and in the second to tenement houses and the like.

We give this more or less particular description of the objects and methods of the Newport Association, because it furnishes a model and suggestions for organizations with like purposes at other places. Already, indeed, it has had successful imitators in several towns, and the Corresponding Secretary, Dr. H. R. STORER, is in receipt of communications from all parts of the country requesting information in regard to its workings.

Sherman and Hancock in 1876-7.

We have already stated that we regard the correspondence which passed between Gen. SHERMAN and Gen. HANCOCK during the progress of the Great Fraud of 1876-7 as among the most important documents relating to the history of that crime.

A careful examination shows that while Gen. HANCOCK believed that the peace of the country was in no danger, provided the methods of counting the votes prescribed in the Constitution were observed, he most earnestly deplored the employment of the army to overawe the people or their representatives in any event or upon any pretext. He had not approved the military interference with legislative bodies in the States, which GRANT himself confessed had been carried to a dangerous and intolerable extent; and he must have looked upon the gathering of troops around the capital, when the Congress was about to enter upon the settlement of a disputed Presidential election, with the gravest apprehensions. Had the sword thus suspended over the heads of the members of the Federal Legislature but once descended, the right of the people peacefully to choose their own rulers would possibly have passed away beyond recovery, except through a fierce and bloody struggle with the conspirators enthroned by force and fraud.

Under an officer holding views of public duty like those of Gen. HANCOCK, the force at Washington would have been as harmless as if it had never been assembled, except for the awe inspired by its mere presence. It was his opinion that a soldier was not bound to obey an order manifestly unlawful. If the President, for instance, had ordered him to strike down the Constitution by dispersing Congress and inaugurating at the point of the bayonet a man not elected, he would unhesitatingly have refused to obey. In his view, the execution of such an order would have been treason.

But not so Gen. SHERMAN. He inculcates the duty of absolute obedience. He saw the dangers of regulating elections by the bayonet and Legislatures by the sword, and in express words deprecated the practice. But said he: "Orders coming from the President have to be obeyed," although "they form a bad precedent." "The political orders to RUGER at Columbia I preferred should go to him from the President through the Secretary of War. *They were not military.*" "As a matter of fact, I dislike to have our army used in these civil conflicts; but the President has the lawful right to use the army and navy, and has exercised the right, as he believes, lawfully and rightfully; and our duty has been and is to sustain him with zeal and sincerity." No officer of the Czar or the Sultan could have put the slavish doctrine of military supremacy in plainer words! Gen. SHERMAN not only insists upon the right of the President to use the army in elections and in the supervision of Legislatures, but in all the "*civil conflicts*" of the nation; and he bespeaks "zeal" and "sincerity" in the execution of orders to that effect. He would therefore have cut out the leaves of the Constitution with his sword and delivered them to the flames, if GRANT had said he must; and he would most certainly have cleared the hall of the House of Representatives with the bayonet, and arrested the Speaker, as GRANT threatened to Mr. HEWITT, if the conspirators had not gained by a swindle what they clearly contemplated taking by force.

Gen. SHERMAN betrays in this correspondence great uneasiness as to the principles upon which Gen. HANCOCK might proceed. Would he consent to turn the public force against the people who raised it and who sustain it? Would he agree to strike down the liberties of the country in order to seat a Fraud in the White House? Gen. SHERMAN was very anxious they should "understand" each other "before the crisis" was upon them. He also regretfully chronicles the gradual assemblage of troops at Washington for the revolutionary business in hand, which it would seem he solemnly and repeatedly denied at the time, also, we presume, in obedience to "lawful" orders; and when the "imbroglio" is supposed to be ended by giving such men as GARFIELD and STRONG and BRADLEY the power to sustain the fraud in the Electoral Commission, he is nervously eager to smuggle his artillery, infantry, and cavalry out of sight, that the people might not see in them the proof of the hideous crime which had been perpetrated, and the still more hideous one which was in contemplation.

This morning Gen. HANCOCK hears from the Sixth Maine Regiment—the flower of his old brigade. They are evidently as full of patriotism now as they were at Williamsburg and in the second Fredericksburg fight.

It is borne in upon the mind of the Rev. Dr. TALMAGE of Brooklyn that we are on the eve of supernatural and glorious events. Meanwhile some of the Brooklyn Presbyterian preachers, who do not fancy being publicly described as morally rotten by the Rev. Dr. TALMAGE, are getting ready to make things lively for his friends and supporters at the next meeting of the Synod.

JAMES A. GARFIELD is fond of getting off moral generalities. Observant admirers know when one of these is coming. As of a dark night the headlight of an approaching locomotive lights up the rails before it, so are the features of GARFIELD illuminated by the wisdom and virtue of the approaching apothegm.

How they must have shone when, wrapping himself in hypocrisy as in a garment, he uttered the following: "It is as much the duty of all good men to protect and defend the reputation of worthy public servants as to detect public rascals."

Now this is true, even if GARFIELD did say it. But the converse of the proposition is also and equally true. It is as much the duty of all good men to detect public rascals as to protect and defend the reputation of worthy public servants.

It was in the conscientious discharge of this duty that THE SUN detected and exposed JAMES A. GARFIELD.

In its composition the Order of the Day issued by the Emperor of Germany on the tenth anniversary of Sedan is above the ordinary level of imperial and royal productions. It was fitted to fire the flame of German military ardor, somewhat quenched of late years, by thoughts not to be chased away, of the destitution and suffering of the old fathers and mothers, the wives and little ones at home. The Kaiser describes Sedan as one of the most glorious victories in history; but when he goes on to declare that the grace of ALMIGHTY GOD turned the scale in favor of the German needle guns and against the French chassepots, there will be dissent. Frenchmen will read with interest the Kaiser's exhortations to his troops to be ready for the rude trials of the future.

It is important to elect the right man President, and it is important also to elect the right sort of a Congress. The people should look closely after the Congress nominations in Presidential years as well as in other years.

A Brooklyn Christian had some peculiar experiences on Thursday evening of last week. He was listening in a devout frame of mind to the exhortations and hymns of the Salvation Army, when he heard a voice behind him say, "Sing him!" He would not have paid any attention to this mysterious utterance if a potato had not struck the back of his head the next minute. He complained to a policeman, who laughed at him. Then the boys pelted him with quids of tobacco and cigar stumps, thereby distracting his attention from the services. "Do you think that is the proper way to be used," he asks, "when you go into a place of worship?" We do not.

"Things don't turn up in this world," said DE GOLYER GARFIELD, "until somebody turns them up."

For instance, $5,000 fraudulent fees from patent pavement Rings.

The result of artificial diamond making, thus far, notwithstanding all that has been said of the Glasgow experiments, is really of but slight importance. In practice, according to the latest and most successful method, a hydrocarbon gas—such as marsh gas, for instance, which is composed of hydrogen and carbon—is put into a stout iron tube of considerable thickness; a nitrogen compound, presumably cyanogen, is also introduced, with a view to the nitrogen combining with the hydrogen, and leaving the carbon free, a diamond consisting, as is well known, of pure crystallized carbon. The gas in the iron tube is subjected to enormous pressure to liquefy it, the tube being heated to aid in the work; the liquefaction of oxygen by M. PICTET, so well known, was effected by pressure in this way. The pure carbon passes under pressure from a gaseous into a liquid form and finally crystallizes, in which condition it is found when the iron tube is opened; the diamonds, however, are of the most minute size.

Mr. O. C. Gardiner, formerly of the *Democratic Review*, has written a concise and comprehensive sketch of the life and public services of Gen. Hancock. Facts are plainly stated and deductions clearly drawn. It is a good campaign document.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

SYRACUSE, Sept. 13.—The Democrats of the interior agree fully with THE SUN as to the importance of embracing the opportunity which will be afforded at the State Convention for effecting a more thorough organization of the party, and for infusing much greater efficiency into the few weeks that will remain of the campaign. The up-country Democracy are glad to see that Irving Hall and Tammany Hall have proclaimed a truce, for the present emergency at least; and as Mr. Cassidy of the *Argus* said in his speech at the memorable State Convention of 1871, "We want to hear no more about Halls in the city of New York."

All that has been done west and north of Albany thus far in the contest is the spontaneous work of the people; and it has been accomplished with scarcely any aid from either of the State Committees, or from the National Committee. There were doubtless good reasons for their abstinence. The rival State Committees have spent pretty much all their time in negotiating a suspension of hostilities and securing a joint State Convention, while on the other hand the National Committee very naturally did not wish to thrust its hands into this delicate political machinery until it began to run smoothly. But, whatever may be the cause, the consequence is apparent in an unusually languid canvass in the rural districts at this advanced stage of a Presidential year.

Perhaps some of the dulness of the Democrats is due to the unprecedented drowsiness of their opponents. Never before in the history of the Republican party of New York had so little work been done by its prominent leaders and its sub-lieutenants during the three months following its Presidential nomination. This, however, affords no good excuse for the languor of the Democrats, for if they fully intended to wrest this State from their audacious foes, they ought to have waged an aggressive campaign from the start.

The State Convention and the preliminary district conventions for the choice of delegates may make amends for the deficiencies of the past. The stake is of immense importance. The political complexion of the next Assembly will determine whether the successor of Mr. Kernan in the Senate shall be a Democrat or a Republican. The Democrats of this State now have in the House only nine of the thirty-three members. They once elected a majority, and they can do it this fall if they try. But over all these comparatively minor considerations towers the great fact that without the vote of New York Hancock cannot become President.

POLITICIANS EXERCISED.

The Way they Account for a Departure from Party Usage in Jersey City.

The politicians of Jersey City are very much exercised over the action of the Democratic Executive Committee in departing from the established custom in fixing the dates of the Congressional and County Conventions. It has been the general practice in previous years either to hold the Congressional Convention before the County Convention, or to hold both conventions on the same day. The Executive Committee on Friday night resolved, after a heated and protracted debate, to call the County Convention for the 25th inst., and the Congressional Convention for the 28th inst. It is alleged by those who opposed this departure from the usage of the party that the change was made in furtherance of the interests of William McAvoy, who is a candidate for the nomination for Surrogate. Ex-Sheriff Patrick H. Laverty, who, two years ago, was defeated by Louis A. Brigham for Congress, aspires to the Congressional nomination, and it is said by those who have given the subject much attention that he will probably get the nomination. If he does, however, it is said he will encounter the same opposition in the canvass that defeated him before. Father Killeen, a Roman Catholic priest in Bergen Point, was two years ago one of Laverty's most unrelenting opponents, and he contributed powerfully to Laverty's defeat. The priest has not since changed his views, and he openly avows his determination to do everything in his power to prevent the ex-Sheriff's election if he is nominated. The Democratic Union, under the leadership of ex-State Senator Charles H. Winfield, will, it is asserted, join their forces with Laverty's opponents.

Mr. McAvoy, who has the reputation of being a shrewd politician, according to the story foresaw all this, and reasoned that if they held the County Convention before the Congressional Convention, and Laverty got the nomination, it would be extremely difficult for him (McAvoy) to secure the nomination for Surrogate in the County Convention, as the Germans are anxious that a candidate for at least one of these offices shall be of their nationality. On the other hand, by holding the County Convention first, McAvoy evades this difficulty in the way of his nomination, and leaves the ex-Sheriff to bear the brunt of the battle.

Corruption Aiding Corruption.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I send you two pamphlets forwarded to me by the Garfield gang in Washington. You will observe that the envelopes bear no postage stamps. They are marked, "Part of the Congressional Record, free," and are franked through the mails by Thos. L. Young, M. C., at your and my expense. Thus you see the Republican party are not even paying postage on the campaign documents which they are using for the purpose of propping up the Credit Mobilier candidate. KNICKERBOCKER.

Mr. Dawson Makes an Offer to the Republicans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Republican orators tell the people that Hancock's election will involve the Government in the payment of many millions of Southern claims. Now, Hancock's election being a foregone conclusion, I propose to open an agency for the transfer of Southern claims to Republican capitalists. Of course no claim can be transferred until it is first found. I do not propose to find them, because I never heard of one. All I do propose to do is to secure the assignment of every Southern claim against the Government that can be found, at five cents on the dollar, and I will further agree to secure the donation of every cent of the proceeds to Northern eleemosynary hospitals or orphan asylums, and I will charge not one penny for my own services. If this proposition is not accepted, I respectfully submit that it will amount to a bitter satire on the Republican confidence in the presentation and payment of Southern claims. If it is accepted, in the face of the sensational inhibition, I will hazard the prediction that every Republican who invests a dollar in the purchase of such claims will land within thirty days in a lunatic asylum if vigorously prosecuted, and that he will land there after a lapse of ninety days if not prosecuted, and that he will die there in the asylum—you will find him raving for the payment of those claims as due to justice and right. Respectfully,
ANDREW H. H. DAWSON, 32 Park place.

The Other Banks At it Again.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One of the twin Bankses made a speech here on Saturday last. After waving the bloody shirt for nearly an hour he declared that the Poland committee, of which he said he was a member, completely exonerated Garfield from any complicity in the Credit Mobilier affair, and he called on Almighty God to witness the truth of his statements. Is the man crazy, do you think?

He was followed by a paper manufacturer of this section, who declared that he would discharge any employee of his who should vote for the Democratic ticket.

Hurrah for truth and a free ballot! BEROMA.
BOONTON, N. J., Sept. 13.

American Colonization in Mexico.

The *Voz de Espana* and the *Two Republics*, journals of the City of Mexico of the 24th of August, announce that Samuel Brannan of California, who holds a large claim against the Mexican Government for moneys loaned and services rendered Juarez during the Maximilian invasion, will receive his settlement of his claims in large tracts of wild land in the states of Sonora and Chihuahua, which he proposes to settle with American colonists from Maine, Utah, and California, under the laws of Mexico. Later and private advices confirm this statement, and represent that Mr. Brannan expects to receive his patents for the land in a few days and leave the City of Mexico for New York to put in execution his colonization plans.

Seizures by Customs Officers.

A steerage passenger in the steamship Suevia yesterday offered Custom House Inspector Wertheimer, at Castle Garden, $40 to pass three large cases belonging to him. He refused the money and ordered the cases sent to the seizure room, where they were found to contain eight musical boxes, Dresden ware, a large lot of which crystals, fifty-two watches, and a variety of other articles.

After Max Jacoby, a picture dealer in Walloon street, had declared yesterday to the Custom House officers that he and his wife, who were passengers in the Suevia had no dutiable articles, his trunk was searched by Inspector Sherman, who found in it goods valued at $1,980. The goods were sent to the seizure room.

The Steamer Stonington Attached.

STONINGTON, Sept. 13.—The steamer Stonington of the Stonington line was attached today at her dock in Stonington in the matter of two suits of $5,000 each for the loss of life by the steamer Narragansett. The suits are brought by Boston parties through their counsel, the Hon. Augustus Brandegee of New London. The United States Limited Liability act, under cover of which the steamboat company took refuge, is ignored in these suits, as that act was intended to protect steamboat interests, if the collision had been accidental or unavoidable.

Damages Against a Railroad.

BOSTON, Sept. 13.—In the recent action of tort brought by Jennie A. Eaton against the Fitchburg Railroad Company to recover damages for injuries received at a crossing of the defendant's road in Shirley, a verdict for $11,950 was given for the plaintiff. The defendant objected to a ruling of the Court, but the full court has overruled the defendant's exception.

SCIENCE AT SWANSEA.

The British Association at Work and Play—The Caves—Mr. Gladstone's Cruise.

SWANSEA, Sept. 2.—While politicians are still detained in London over the Ground Game bill, and the Underground Game bill as the Burials bill is popularly called, the men of science are disporting themselves on the southern coast of Wales. They have collected at one of the most romantic and beautiful spots on the coast to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the meeting of the "British Association for the Advancement of Science." These assemblages are great events in the rural districts; the country gentlemen of the neighborhood open their houses to professors of every branch of science; the usually quiet streets of the favored town in which the meeting is held are crowded with white-bearded, learned-looking men and strong-minded middle-aged females, who collect from all parts of the country to listen to disquisitions on evolution and prehistoric man. Antiquated stage coaches, drags, and omnibuses are put into requisition for excursions to objects of interest in the neighborhood, and for a whole week the town recklessly abandons itself to the combined influences of science and a sober festivity, which forms an epoch in the usually quiet lives of its population.

At Swansea, which is a seaport, containing between sixty and seventy thousand inhabitants, chiefly given over to the smelting of copper, the Agricultural Hall has been appropriated as the association reception room. Here the scene is animated at all hours of the day. The writing room is filled with learned men and women, who delight in addressing their correspondents on note paper stamped "British Association," and who feel that they thus connect themselves with the great scientific movement of the day. There are a library, post office, refreshment room, and other conveniences, all provided for the use of members, and a very pleasant club is thus extemporized. Here may be seen the genial figure of Lord Aberdare, the Home Secretary of Mr. Gladstone's last Government, and formerly a member of Parliament from this neighborhood, who is now transferred to the House of Lords, and who, in his capacity of President of the Royal Geographical Society, takes part in the proceedings. Prof. Ramsay, who is this year President of the association, is arguing in a corner with Professors Rolleston and Boyd Dawkins on the discovery of some missing link. There are swarthy Portuguese travellers, who have just turned up from the banks of the Congo, and are explaining on a map what they did and what Mr. Stanley did not do. Here are a group of French and German savans burying the metaphorical hatchet, in so far as Alsace and Lorraine are concerned, in their delight at having exhumed a real hatchet, evidently hewn out of a flint by primeval man.

At 11 A. M. the sections open, and gentlemen fussy with importance because they have papers to read rush off in various directions to their several departments. At all the street corners there are sign posts put up pointing to the chemical, economic, geographical, or other section, as the case may be. These are generally held in dissenting chapels, and there is a perpetual circulation of people with itching ears who listen for five minutes to Sir William Thomson giving an "experimental illustration of minimum energy in vortex motion," and, finding that dull, they go seek for amusement in Mr. Glaisher's remarks on "the deduction of trigonometrical from elliptic function formulæ." The most popular sections are the geographical and geological. In the former interesting papers have been read by Sir Richard Temple on Afghanistan, by Capt. Capello on West Central Africa, and by Mr. Laurence Oliphant on Trans-Jordanic Palestine. In the latter Prof. Prestwich gave a curious account of the geological evidence of the submergence of the southwest of Europe during the early human period. Besides the papers which are read during the day in the eight different sections of science, there is always an evening lecture, which is well attended, excepting when social reunions are held in a large hall decorated with geographical and geological illustrations and human bones and flinty arrow heads are exhibited for inspection. The excitement reached so high a pitch at one of these festive antiquarian gatherings that the professors and strong-minded females who attended it were positively known to break out at last into dancing.

One or two days in the week are devoted to excursions, and in the neighborhood of Swansea are some caves where human bones have been found embedded in the same conglomerate with the woolly rhinoceros and other extinct mammals formerly inhabiting those regions. Plentifully provided with well-stocked hampers and geological hammers, we drive, a large and merry party of philosophers, along the dizzy edge of the romantic cliffs in which these caves are situated, and, scrambling into them at the peril of our necks, hunt for bones and listen to the interesting discourses of paleontologists on the nature of the animal to which they belonged. I was so fortunate as to chip out of the rock the thumb of a primeval baby and the jawbone of a prehistoric badger; at least so I was assured by one of the greatest of living authorities on old bones, who delivered a lecture on them on the spot.

Another very exciting diverson was the opening of a tumulus. This was a great event, and the fact that in spite of the most diligent search we found nothing did not discourage our ardor, for indeed the whole country around Swansea has been most fruitful in interesting discoveries, and not long since six human skeletons were unearthed in the park of one of the local squires, which, according to the verdict of experts, must have been buried some time anterior to the date popularly assigned to the deluge. It occurred to me that scientific gatherings of this sort might well be introduced into America, where the examination of scientific men has done so much to throw light upon the prehistoric epoch. Not only would the taste for science be thereby encouraged and a most pleasant week spent, but really important discoveries might be made. The meeting of Swansea was a small one. Still it was attended by about nine hundred visitors, and the receipts amounted to nearly £1,000. On some years the attendance of visitors reaches three thousand. It need scarcely be remarked that the different towns in which the meetings take place each year benefit pecuniarily from this great influx of strangers, and I feel convinced that the idea has only to be properly taken up in the United States to become very successful.

Before this reaches you the result of Gen. Roberts's campaign in Afghanistan, which has culminated to a point of thrilling interest, will have become known to you. The question connected with it, which agitates the minds of politicians, is whether the Government will permanently retain possession of Candahar. Its military and strategical value has now been placed beyond a doubt, and there is no question what the Conservative policy would have been in regard to its retention. Should the present Government decide to abandon it, they will excite a very strong adverse feeling throughout the country. So long, however, as Mr. Gladstone continues to star it in the provinces, he will be able to keep the masses with him, no matter how much he may blunder politically. There is an old experiment with a piece of chalk and a rooster, which to my mind exactly illustrates the position of the British nation with respect to its Prime Minister. You put the rooster's beak upon a plank; you then draw a chalk line of indefinite length straight from its point along the plank, and the bird either becomes magnetized by it, or is under the erroneous impression that he is firmly tied to the plank, and never attempts to lift its head or regain its liberty. Mr. Gladstone has thus succeeded in fixing the nose of the nation, and while it is under his spell he pulls it about as he pleases: it seems incapable of lifting its head or looking about it, so as truly to appreciate the situation. He is now cruizing about in the Grandtully Castle, one of Donald Currie's steamers, and an enthusiastic populace cheer wildly whenever he comes in sight of land, which he does constantly, partly because it is smoother in shore than out at sea, and partly because he likes the ovation of the multitude. He is, in fact, trying in his own person the moral effect of a naval demonstration, and no doubt he is encouraged by its success to believe that the one he proposes that Europe should undertake on the coast of Albania will be attended with the like happy results. Unfortunately, it is not certain that this view is shared by the European powers. It is highly probable, should the project be carried into effect, that it will excite the Albanian population to active hostilities, and so far Germany proposes to contribute only a small unarmored corvette, a step which is calculated to turn the whole affair into ridicule. Should the naval demonstration ever take place, it will be fortunate if ridicule is its only consequence.

It must always be remembered that the question of the Montenegrin frontier is upon an entirely different footing from the Greek. The Porte has never denied its obligation under the treaty of Berlin to make a cession of territory to Montenegro, but no such obligation exists in regard to Greece. And there is not the slightest chance, whatever ignorant and sanguine radicals in England may think to the contrary, of the Sultan surrendering the territory recommended by the late conference at Berlin to Greece. On the other hand, he is really anxious to surrender the district claimed by Montenegro to that principality. His only difficulty consists in applying coercion to the Albanians, and knowing this, it is possible that the concert of Europe may last sufficiently long to enable the powers to agree upon a demonstration opposite Dulcigno, though I have from the first considered such an event extremely unlikely. But that they will ever make any such demonstration further down the Adriatic on the Greek frontier is out of the bounds of all probability. The questions connected with Montenegro, when once the "moral pressure" begins, are sufficiently thorny to render all further concert or coöperation impossible, and this the Sultan well knows, and the Greeks themselves are beginning to suspect it. For there is a great reaction of despair at Athens since the festivities were held which celebrated the conclusion of the late conference. The whole situation is illustrated by the position of a kaleidoscope at the very moment before it is turned to develop an entirely new set of combinations.

A Tale of Buried Treasure.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is buried treasure on Cocas Island, off the Pacific coast. An old man is living in this place who has been to the island twice, and he returned both times with at out all the specie he could carry on his person. This is to the certain knowledge of all, or nearly all, the folk hereabouts. Both times he started in business, but, being uneducated and unacquainted with business, he both times fell through. He is now over 70 years of age, quite respectable, and no one here doubts his word.

Some years ago a party of merchants in St. John's, Newfoundland, fitted out a vessel and sent him out in her. Two shipmasters took an interest, and both accompanied the expedition—one of them as master. On the passage these two captains quarrelled. By the time they arrived at the island all firs had become so hot that the old man was afraid to disclose to them the treasure. However, in the captain not in charge he had a friend, and to him he showed the spot. They secreted on their persons all they could, and were about to return, but on the way the old man's friend was drowned. The old man brought back some eighteen hundred pounds sterling.

The treasure, he says, was stolen or carried away from Callao during the last Chilian war, and consists of gold in bars, specie in pig skins, jewelry, and church ornaments. He says he is positive it is there yet, as it is impossible to discover it without the information he possesses. Several parties have tried to get this information, but he would never give it. Now, believing that he is under an obligation to me, he has given me a chart or plan of the island showing the spot, and all other information. He has received several letters, one of which I now hold, from San Francisco, offering him some inducement to disclose the secret. The old man seems reluctant, but I think could be induced to go. I have an extract from a Frisco paper which shows that a company was formed there some years ago and went in search, but failed. This plan which he has given me is somewhat worn and dirty, but still plain enough. I feel sure that I can find the spot undaunted. I believe some of our people would have long ago tried to take up the matter, but those that would have not the cash, and the failure of the St. John's expedition put a damper on them. I am positive, should any speculative person interview the old man and look into his antecedents, he would become satisfied that there are some millions lying buried on that island. I have not the means to go or to maintain a small family while gone, or I would try it alone.

Capt. THOS. HACKETT.
NORTH SYDNEY, Cape Breton, Dominion of Canada.

Criticising his Challengers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* IN THE SUN of this date is a challenge from Gus Sumstrom to swim any person. I accept his challenge, and will swim him five miles for $1,000 a side.

I am somewhat surprised at challenges appearing in the press of this country without the necessary forfeit being deposited. It appears to me that the challengers simply require a cheap advertisement. I have been four months in Gotenburg, and I am open to swim any person in America for any amount; but it must take place within ten days from date of articles, as I shortly sail for London, Eng., to compete in a six days' swimming match with Capt. Webb and others.

I may add that I have had many challenges, but have never found any money put up by the challengers.

Champion Long Distance Swimmer of the World.
FLUSHING, L. I., Sept. 11.

The Gold Water Discovery.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 13.—A *Call* reporter visited Calistoga yesterday, and interviewed A. C. Tichenor regarding the alleged extraction of gold from water. Tichenor explained his mode of manipulation, which, the reporter says, bears on its face evidence of fraud, and that the whole thing is got up to bring a rush of sightseers to the hotel property. Tichenor denies the statement made in the *Chicago Tribune*, and says that it was written by a personal enemy.

Cultivating Infectious Diseases in Children.

From the London Lancet.

At a recent meeting of the Orrell Local Board, near Wigan, in Lancashire, the clerk, in illustration of the difficulties which beset the control of infection, mentioned a practice which exists in that district, of mothers deliberately exposing their young children to the infection of scarlet fever and whooping cough, under the belief that it was better that the children should have the disease while young. He designated the belief as a "superstition." We would rather term it a tradition, arising from the imperfectly understood results of experience.

The practice described is by no means confined to the part of Lancashire under consideration. Our own knowledge of it is somewhat extensive, but the experience, so far as we have met with it, has been invariably limited to the obviously mild cases of infection-disease, and two elements entered into the practice. First, there was the practically universal belief that the infectious diseases of children had to be undergone by every child, and the sooner they were got over the better for the child, both as to disturbance of recovery and its subsequent welfare; and, secondly, there was the belief that if a child contracted the disease from a mild case it would have a mild attack, hence mild cases were selected to catch the disease from.

To both these elements there was a substratum of truth, which long experience and common observation had shown, and which was rendered by the more precise observation of the medical man.

A Brother's Terrible Assault.

From the Albany Journal.

Larry and Andrew Mable, brothers, living in Troy, quarrelled while fishing in Snyder's lake. Andrew drew a dirk knife and made a stab at his brother, who to escape jumped into the lake. He sank, and when he came to the surface of the water the vengeful brother attacked him again, driving the murderous weapon into Larry's back and arm several times. The wounded man got out of the reach of the knife, swam to shore, and was cared for by people there. He was subsequently taken to Troy for treatment.

Good Luck for Kansas.

From the Cleveland Leader.

On the emigrant train this morning were nine girls, sisters, en route to Kansas, where they will join three brothers, settled in that State. The girls were dressed alike, and their family resemblance was striking.

Garfield to his Constituents.

You ask what argument I made
In that De Golyer pavement case,
Remarking that you are afraid
That I may lose my present race,
Unless I now shall duly
Explain the matter truly,
As if conversing face to face.

I made an argument, I know,
For which I then received my fee.
I told you this some time ago;
But now it don't occur to me,
To state the point compactly,
Just what it was exactly,
Nor do the witnesses agree.

Of course I made an argument—
That is to say, I filed a brief;
That I should have received a cent
Without it, is beyond belief.
The pavement I had studied,
And once my boots I muddied
By walking on it, to my grief.

That brief would measure—let me see,
Well, near about a half a cord;
I meant to earn that generous fee,
And did the best I could afford.
The fee? Why, Parsons paid it.
The argument? I made it
Before the virtuous District Board.

What was the argument? you ask.
In vain my memory I've ransacked,
And find it quite too hard a task
To bring to light one point or fact.
Oh, yes, I cannot doubt it,
One day I spoke about it
To Shepherd, with my usual tact.

And that was all? Well,