The Sun.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1880.

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending Sept. 18, 1880, was:*

Sunday	128,816	Weekly	94,275
Monday	122,089	Thursday	123,635
Tuesday	121,926	Friday	122,645
Wednesday	121,769	Saturday	124,180
Total for the week			959,335

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.

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 for three months** from date of their subscription.

Raise clubs in every school district.

Five dollars will pay for twenty subscriptions for the campaign.

Address THE SUN, New York City.

The Clear Truth about Maine.

For the last day or two the Republican journals and orators have been congratulating themselves with great appearance of zeal, because they are not beaten in Maine so badly as was supposed the next day after the election. Their candidate for Governor, DAVIS, they now tell us, is elected "by a small but sufficient plurality." "The Republicans," exclaims the *Cincinnati Gazette*, "have secured a clean, handsome victory. Their plurality will run close to one thousand."

Now, the only question about the Maine election which possesses any great interest outside of the State, is this: Do the results of this election show any change in the political sentiments of the people of this State? As for the Republicans, who carried this State in the election for Governor in 1876 by more than 15,000 majority, have they now gained or lost as compared with their majority then? Have they now as great a majority as they then had, or have they fallen essentially behind? Taking the figures of the two elections, the figures of 1876 and the figures of 1880, do we find in them any reason to conclude that, whereas the Republicans succeeded in November, 1876, in carrying the State for their candidate for President, the Democracy are likely to succeed in November, 1880? This, we say, is the only point of great interest as regards this election when it is considered by people outside of the State.

The question is answered conclusively by the fact which we have already stated, that in 1876, immediately preceding the election for President, the Republican candidate for Governor had in the State a majority of 15,444, while now in 1880, two months before the President is to be chosen, they are only claiming for their candidate for Governor a plurality of 1,000, and that plurality obtained in remote districts by means which are generally believed to savor of false counting and of fraud.

Thus we see that, in the period since the last Presidential election, there has been a change in the people of Maine, and an immense change in the relative power of the two parties in this old Republican State. The party which had a clean majority of more than fifteen thousand, now has a plurality of only one thousand. This fact most decisively removes every doubt. The Republicans have not held their own in that State—far from it. Where they were the triumphant party, they are now the defeated party. The majority which was on one side is now on the other. And if such a change takes place in a State which has been Republican ever since the beginning of the party, and in a State which possesses, in the person of Mr. BLAINE, the most brilliant and popular of Republican leaders, what is likely to be the case in other States, all of them always less devoted to the Republican party than Maine has been, and some of them at times largely hostile to that party? Is it likely that, whereas Maine has changed against that party, other States will change in its favor?

If the Republicans can find any cause for encouragement in the circumstance that they may put DAVIS into office in Maine by a limited plurality or a petty majority, they are welcome to it. Let the same proportions that are demonstrated in Maine and the same political tendencies hold good elsewhere, and, instead of the quarter of a million majority which TILDEN had among the people in 1876, HANCOCK will have a majority of more than a million in 1880.

The Constitutional Amendments.

We have received many letters asking us to print the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States. They are:

ARTICLE XIII.

SECTION 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

ARTICLE XIV.

SECTION 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

SECTION 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

SECTION 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

SECTION 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be held illegal and void.

SECTION 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE XV.

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

In his recent great speech the Hon. LYMAN TRUMBULL proved from the record that these amendments could not have been carried without the votes of Democratic Congressmen. Democratic National Conventions have ratified them. In the face of their action Senator CONKLING repeats an assertion that if Gen. HANCOCK is elected the doors of the Treasury will be opened for the payment of Southern claims not specifically debarred by the fourth section of the Fourteenth Amendment. He referred to the refunding of taxes on cotton and the payment of losses caused by the destruction of fences and forests during the war. Gen. HANCOCK is pledged to sustain these amendments. He will carry out both their letter and their spirit. The cotton tax was a tax born of the war. Without a rebellion there would have been no such tax. It is safe to say that Gen. HANCOCK, who materially aided in crushing the rebellion, will never favor the payment of losses incurred, either directly or indirectly, by those who fought against the Union. Unlike the present fraudulent Administration, he may favor the payment of the French spoliation claims, the Geneva award claims, and other honest claims against the Government, but he will never consent to the payment of shadowy and fantastic claims originated by speculators under a thin veneering of hypocritical loyalty.

An English Traveller in Iceland.

Of late a good many tourists have included Iceland in their wanderings, but their cursory and superficial notes have by no means satisfied the popular interest which has been awakened in regard to that remote and isolated corner of the earth. Such is not the case with the full, minute, and suggestive account of that remarkable country published by Mr. DAVID WEDDERBURN.

The six centuries of absolute political subjection to Denmark, which were happily terminated six years ago, proved fatal to the social and industrial energies, if not altogether to the literary activities, of Iceland. From the time the flourishing, aristocratic republic of the early middle ages became the oppressed and slighted province of a distant power, misrule combined with famine, pestilence, and volcanic eruptions to depress the condition of the inhabitants, who steadily retrograded in material prosperity. So, too, the vigor and self-reliance which in a preëminent degree characterized their free forefathers were gradually lost under a Government wholly in the hands of Danes, and which gave the Danish merchants a complete monopoly of the Icelandic trade. In 1874, however, the Icelanders entered upon an era of home rule calculated to arouse their dormant vitality and throw off the sluggishness and torpor of former years. Under the new Constitution they have acquired a large measure of legislative independence, electing the whole of the Lower Chamber and one-half of the Upper House, the other members of the latter body being chosen by the King from among the natives of the country. They occupy also almost every post in the general administration, only the Chief Magistrate, or Governor, being appointed by the King, and thus the executive part of the Government would be entirely satisfactory were its head or his advisers made accountable not to the authorities at Copenhagen, but to the Icelandic legislature. Were this change made, the relation between Iceland and Denmark would be almost precisely analogous to that which now subsists between Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada. We should mention that there are Icelandic tribunals for all litigated questions, although in criminal cases and in civil actions involving considerable sums an appeal may be taken to the Supreme Court of Denmark.

The chief staples of export from Iceland have been, and under the new régime must seemingly continue to be, dried fish, wool, and eider down. The wool is of excellent quality, although it presents a ragged appearance, not being shorn, but simply pulled off the sheep's back. The eider ducks are protected all the year round under heavy penalties, and prefer the neighborhood of human habitations for their breeding places. Mr. WEDDERBURN states that from the largest of these "duckeries" as much as $1,500 is cleared annually; the down being worth about $5 per pound on an average. Fish of all sorts, including salmon, are the country's best and most certain crop, which has not, however, been turned to full account heretofore, owing to the want of decked vessels adapted for deep sea fishing. The Icelanders, in fact, lineal descendants though they are of the Norse sea rovers, had ceased to be a seafaring people, owing to the harsh commercial monopoly which enriched Copenhagen merchants at their expense, and their entrance into trade may now be impeded by their lack of capital, unless this should be met by the formation of coöperative companies. At present, an Icelandic farmer's wealth consists mainly of sheep and ponies, not over numerous; but our English observer thought that the quantity of permanent live stock might be considerably increased by a system of drainage and the importation of hay. These Iceland ponies, by the way, seem to be remarkable animals. They get very little to eat, yet their endurance is astonishing, for they will keep up a steady jog trot for hours together, and travel on through the long summer days of northern latitudes with no other sustenance than can be picked up from the scanty herbage by the wayside during an hour's midway halt. An Iceland pony, we are told, is very seldom vicious, and as cautious as an elephant, testing every suspicious place with his forefoot. There are no roads in Iceland—merely tracks worn deeply in soft peat or hard lava by the feet of these small horses, whose singular cleverness in avoiding bogs, snowdrifts, and lava streams makes them invaluable to their owners.

Mr. WEDDERBURN found primary education diffused all over Iceland, while in the principal town and among the clergy throughout the country he encountered men of high literary culture, who would have done credit to any seat of learning in Europe. Scholars and linguists, indeed, abound to an extent unequalled in any community of the same size (there are only 70,000 inhabitants), but mathematics, science, with what may be termed the scientific professions, are almost entirely neglected. Icelanders learn, it seems, to speak the English language with an excellent pronunciation, owing to the fact that they possess two letters representing the double sound of our "*th*" in "thing" and "thou." It is pointed out by our traveller that Icelandic, regarded as a genuine living dialect, spoken, written, and even printed in newspapers of the present day, may indisputably claim to be the oldest in Europe, since it still retains the archaic forms of the ancient Scandinavian tongue, now modernized and simplified in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

As might be expected in a thinly peopled country, without public houses of any sort, hospitality is a characteristic, because a necessary, virtue. It appears, however, that a present is always expected from foreign visitors. The fare at an Icelandic baer, or farm, is frugal enough, and the accommodations are rude and uninviting. From the outside their dwellings look like mere heaps of stones and turf, with a chimney and one or two panes of glass. On the ground floor are the "fire house," or kitchen, and store rooms, which are described as very dark and dirty. The family live all huddled together in the "bath room"—at the present day a sad misnomer—which is reached by means of a ladder, and dimly lighted by a small window hermetically closed. The smell of this room, where the whole household eats and sleeps, is naturally nauseous. According to Mr. WELDERBURN, the modern Icelander actually prefers the primitive architecture of his ancestors, for he might follow, if he chose, the example of the Danish merchants and other settlers, whose clean, airy wooden houses, adorned with flowers and pictures, exhibit a striking contrast. Notwithstanding the untoward aspect and influence of such surroundings, there is much softness and refinement of manners, even in remote parts of the country, owing to the universal attention paid to education. It is common, we are told, for rosy-faced, flaxen-haired urchins to walk up to a stranger and shake hands, with a friendly "God dag." We may add that kissing is a customary salutation by men, but, owing to the widespread neglect of ablutions on the part of the natives, it is little affected by foreigners.

Iceland, it seems, is pronounced by its patriotic sons the best country on which the sun shines, but Mr. WEDDERBURN, regarding it with the eyes of an impartial stranger, deems it one of the worst that has ever been inhabited by civilized human beings. He has no doubt that the conditions of existence can be somewhat ameliorated when the habit of self-government shall have revived the faculties of its originally bold and energetic race. He notes, however, like all competent observers, one almost insuperable bar to any very marked advance in material prosperity. We refer, of course, to the almost total absence of fuel, no trees growing now in Iceland, except dwarf birches and willows, while the peat is of bad quality, and dried only with great difficulty. There is no coal, and although lignite is encountered in small quantities, it is imperfectly combustible and inaccessible for practical purposes. It is well known that the first settlers found a relatively ample supply of wood in Iceland, and their improvidence, aggravating the natural disadvantages of the country, has contributed not a little to quell the spirit and cramp the prospects of their descendants.

"Five Years in America."

The English *Nonconformist and Independent* contains a contribution from the Rev. REUEN THOMAS, former minister of Wycliffe Chapel, London, now pastor of the Congregational church in Brookline, Mass. He recites his experience in the United States, and the *Congregationalist*, while it publishes copious extracts, declares that his mind is "receptive and candid."

Mr. THOMAS discusses the questions of climate, churches, politics, and education. "Sundry sorts of people" to be found here are likewise freely exhibited to the English public. The varied temperature of the United States excites his interest. He thinks that "the Southern States are too hot for an Englishman," although he admits that Chinamen might be able to work there. He says that "there are few places in the South where an Englishman, Scotchman, or Irishman could exist and labor in the summer time with any degree of comfort." Accordingly, he advises laborers to seek the Northern and Western country.

Mr. THOMAS finds occasion for a temperance argument in our uncertain climate. He declares that if men drank as freely here as in England, the heat and cold would be too much for them. Then follows the remarkable statement that the "total abstinence zeal of America arises quite as much from the circumstance that for climatic reasons people cannot stand drinking, as from the goodness of the advocates of the cause." This is the statement of the pastor of a large parish in the suburbs of Boston, within a hundred miles of the residence of Gen. NEAL DOW. But the best is to come. He says that moderate drinking and immoderate temperance work are due to the fact that "there is very little wine worth drinking to be got." "The universal adulteration of all intoxicants" makes a glass of genuine liquor a rarity. In other words, if Mr. VENNOR's weather could be a little more even, and the whiskey and brandy of good quality, there might be a general cessation of all temperance efforts! Mr. THOMAS's receptive capacity must be somewhat limited, if in five years he has not learned that, if it be paid for, the best of liquor may be obtained in the United States as well as in his old home. The owners of good cellars will be inclined to shrug their shoulders when they read that very little wine worth drinking is to be found on this side of the Atlantic.

Mr. THOMAS avers that farming is limited by the fact that "the ground is tightly bound up with frost for five months of the year." This sweeping remark includes this whole country. Five months of frost in Rhode Island and Connecticut, in the Middle States, and in much of the West, would be a phenomenon deserving of wide comment. Either the English-American pastor was talking to grossly ignorant people, or he fancied that the Boston temperature represented the normal atmosphere of the entire continent. An address purporting to present a fair judgment respecting his adopted country ought to have been a little more careful.

The reverend gentleman confesses that before he came to America he had formed an erroneous opinion of the general character of American women. He asserts that in England "the impression has got abroad that American women universally have screeching voices, sallow complexions, and manners the reverse of modest." There are "some few of that kind in the far West," he kindly informs the English, but usually the women are of a different type. Possibly he does not rightly apprehend the popular opinion of England; but he assumes to do so. His Brookline congregation doubtless includes many cultivated persons. Their refined souls must be shocked as they ascertain that, without knowing it, they have been on trial before their pastor, and that he experienced a perpetual surprise and delight as their voices, color, and decorum were found agreeable and pleasing, when he had anticipated shrilliness and pallor and indiscretion. His candor, as the *Congregationalist* suggests, is undoubted.

Servants here do not suit this clergyman. He has even known them to leave their employers "in the very hour when friends had been invited to dine." However, "only about one in every three is as bad as this. No English girl would act so." Next he discusses politics, and soberly remarks that "there are some hundreds of men in every township of any size ready to sell their votes;" but he does not believe that "a majority" is open to bribery anywhere. It is safe to conclude that in his opinion about one-third of our voters are on sale. The political excitement and subsequent apathy of the American people seem to have impressed him. "Two or three days before an election, you would think that all the Republicans would murder all the Democrats;" but when the votes are counted all is quiet. This suggests the possibility that his Brookline deacons might become so infuriated against the wicked BEN BUTLER that they could murder him, and then return quietly to their usual round of church duties.

Mr. THOMAS devotes considerable attention to church life in America. He expresses his delight that we never hear, as in England, the patronizing words, "our dear dissenting brethren." He affirms that the Episcopal Church is as exclusive here as it is in England, and that a close bond of fellowship unites the Congregationalists and Presbyterians; but, "on the whole, America suffers from a too rigid sectarianism. There are signs of deterioration in religious matters here." The churches are few where you can get two full congregations on Sunday, and "Puritan New England is a thing of the past." He asserts that "the working classes are not found to any great extent in our churches." He has no fear of a military despotism in this country; but a "gilded barbarism will return if the religious life be not toned up."

The confession that he "at once fell in love" with Mrs. HAYES when he saw her in the White House, and that she is a "queenly woman," deserves to be quoted as coming from one who had supposed "the manners were the reverse of modest" among our American women. And so, enough about the Rev. Mr. THOMAS.

Self-Convicted.

After the exposure of the DE GOLYER bribe, Gen. GARFIELD resorted to every means that a corrupt and desperate man would adopt to escape from its effect on his constituents. He did not hesitate to lie, to prevaricate, and to distort facts, even with a reasonable certainty that his methods would be uncovered. He took the chances of future disgrace in the effort to save himself from the present wrath of a betrayed people.

One of the most conclusive proofs against GARFIELD in the Credit Mobilier investigation, was the production of figures in his own handwriting whereby he claimed a greater interest than AMES had allowed him on his ten shares, after having sworn that he "never owned, received, or agreed to receive, any stock" of that corporation. That evidence astounded the committee and shocked his friends. They demanded that he should confront it forthwith.

GARFIELD blustered and threatened that he would go before the committee to denounce AMES, and to disprove the charge, which, standing unanswered, left him a self-convicted perjurer. This testimony was taken on the 29th of January, 1872; the POLAND report was made on the 18th of February; and the Forty-second Congress closed its discreditable career on the 3d of March, 1873. But he never dared to meet AMES or to deny the charge until death had forever closed the lips of his accuser. Then he invented a story intended to break the force of his admitted guilt.

In the DE GOLYER bribe he was caught again in his own trap and condemned by his own words. And here is the proof from the record. In an elaborate and cunningly concocted address, delivered at Warren, Ohio, Sept. 19, 1874, in reply to the accusations of an organized opposition of Republicans in his district, he said:

"He [PARSONS] asked me if I would *argue* the case for him. I said, 'I will do it if I, on examination, find the patent what it purports to be.'"

Again:

"Now, I have before me here what I had when *I made the argument*."

Two years after, he appeared before the Real Estate Pool Committee of the House and swore as follows:

"He [PARSONS] said he should lose his fee unless the *brief* on the merits of these pavements was made, and he asked me to prepare the *brief*. I went over the whole ground carefully and thoroughly, and *prepared a brief* on the relative claims of these pavements for the consideration of the Board. That was all I did. [For which he got $5,000.]"

Again:

"*When I made the argument* I went home to Ohio, and perhaps a month afterward Mr. PARSONS deposited in bank to my credit $5,000."

On these two occasions he told two different stories: First, that he agreed to "argue the case" before Boss SHEPHERD's Board of Public Works; and secondly, that he agreed to "prepare a *brief* on the relative claims of the pavements." Putting aside any technicality, he swore in presence of GLOVER's committee that he did both.

But GARFIELD was not aware, when he committed himself so irrevocably to these false assertions, that a witness was at hand who knew the whole secret history of the DE GOLYER job, from having an interest in the ironizing part of the patent, and who also knew that CHITTENDEN had hired PARSONS as the next friend of GARFIELD, in order to reach the Chairman of the Appropriations, who, as he wrote to MCCLELLAN, "carries the purse of the United States. All the appropriations for the District come from him."

The Chairman of the committee requested Mr. NICKERSON, from his familiarity with the subject, to cross-examine GARFIELD, and he did so, with the following effect:

"Q.—Gen. GARFIELD, did you file with the Board of Public Works of this District a *brief*, or opinion, written, printed, or otherwise, upon the subject of the DE GOLYER pavement?"

After having sworn as he did, GARFIELD sought to evade a direct reply; but Mr. NICKERSON insisted upon a categorical answer, and then he said:

"A.—I could not say I did.

"Q.—Did you at any time appear before the Board and make any *argument* whatever? A.—I do not remember that I did."

When Mr. NICKERSON asked these questions, he knew that GARFIELD had never submitted a brief nor made an argument on the pavements, and that the official records would contradict his testimony on those important points. He forced him to confess that both averments were false, and thus to admit substantially that he received $5,000 without having rendered any service whatever in the "case" wherein he pretended to be employed as "counsel."

If he filed no brief and made no argument, for what object was he paid this large sum of money? The answer to that question is to be found in the three and a half millions of appropriations which were voted to the Washington Ring in six weeks, at the ensuing session of Congress.

False swearing did not at all disturb the equanimity or the conscience of this Christian statesman.

Virginia.

The negotiation between the two wings of the Virginia Democracy has broken down, for the time being.

This result does not take us by surprise. It was discounted from the outstart by all who had taken the pains to inform themselves as to the actual condition of Virginia politics.

Still less does it disquiet us. Virginia is a Democratic State—Democratic to the backbone. Her people are in earnest in their Democracy. They will not suffer any local differences to endanger the success of the national ticket, and of the vital principles and transcendent interests which that ticket represents. Timid Democrats in other States may rest assured of this. The electoral votes of Virginia will be cast for Gen. HANCOCK. They are as surely and safely his as though they had already been counted and declared. If any over-sanguine Republican politicians fancy that GARFIELD stands a chance of securing these votes, by trick or luck, in any probable or possible contingency, they are hugging a particularly silly illusion.

November will find a single Democratic electoral ticket in the field in Virginia, and this ticket will command the hearty support of all Virginia Democrats, Funders and Readjusters alike.

A few years ago it would not have been healthy for a man to hiss Gen. HANCOCK's name in the presence of 3,000 Republicans. On Friday night 3,000 Republicans hissed it. Yet HANCOCK is the same man to-day as when he lay weltering in his blood on the field of Gettysburg. It is the party that has changed. The heroes of the old Second Army Corps will remember these hisses on the day of election.

The "Passion Play" is to be brought out at Booth's Theatre, if Manager ABBEY's bold enterprise is not interfered with. The risk which this gentleman chooses to take is great. There is, we believe, no law in this State to prevent a theatrical representation of the crucifixion of CHRIST; but there will be an arousal of religious horror so great that there is no foretelling what will be the result. In San Francisco the play was stopped by the passage of a prohibitory ordinance. Such a course may be taken here, and then the heavy outlay for the production will be lost. On the other hand, if the opposition proves futile, the incidental advertising of the venture might result in great pecuniary profit.

There is one point, however, on which Mr. ABBEY need entertain no doubt. To bring out a passion play, with the character of JESUS CHRIST personated by an actor familiarly known as JIMMY O'NEIL, whose undeniable talent has found its most popular acceptance in the cripple *Pierre* of "The Two Orphans," will be a deliberate and needless insult to the Christian sentiment of this city. Mr. ABBEY's management of theatres has hitherto been in excellent taste. But he is making a mistake now, no matter whether the "Passion Play" draws or not.

On Wednesday, just before noon, the sun crosses the equator on his journey southward, and the day and night are of equal length all over the world. At this time the sun enters the sign Libra, or the Balances. The autumnal equinox has always had an ill name among sailors. About it cluster tales of desperate misadventure and shipwreck in the great September gales. LONGFELLOW pictures the scene,

"When descends on the Atlantic
The gigantic
Storm-wind of the equinox."

After this week, while our days are growing shorter and the boys are impatiently waiting for Jack Frost to shake down the chestnuts, in the Southern hemisphere the season will change from spring to summer, and the boundary of the sunlight will creep further and further across the Antarctic snowfields until it glitters in unending day about the South Pole. Then the North Pole will be buried in night.

The flashes of volcanic lightning which have been observed at a distance of a few hundred yards from one of the craters of Vesuvius are described by M. PALMIERI as always originating in what he calls large globes of smoke, and are followed by explosions like pistol discharges. Similar flashes have been noticed between the smoke and cinder masses and the aqueous vapor above them, but very seldom between the globe of smoke and the earth beneath it. At each violent projection of smoke the instruments indicated a strong tension of positive electricity, and when this reached a certain force, thunder and lightning occurred. If the discharge occurred in the direction of the zenith of the observatory, a sudden increase of positive electrical tension was produced; while, if the discharge was directed toward the earth, or to a distant region in the air, the tension became negative.

Friends of young athletes should not allow them to overtax their powers by entering for several events in one afternoon's sport. Many promising youngsters have gone to pieces physically for life after thus overstraining their powers. Young HOUGH was on to row in three races yesterday, and was coxswain in another. There is room for a society for the prevention of cruelty to oarsmen.

What has the fact that GARFIELD in early youth ably impelled the impenitent mule along the towpath to do with the question of his fitness to be President? The ship of state is not a canal boat.

An Intelligent Town.

From the Danbury News.

Danbury daily reads 844 New York morning papers, received through the newsdealers. In these its tastes run as follows: SUNS, 385; *Heralds*, 160; *Tribunes* 102; *Times*, 85; *Stars*, 71; *Truths*, 31; *Worlds*, 10. In addition to these there are about 50 New York morning papers received through the Post Office. Of the New York evening papers taken here there are less than a dozen. The number is never alike two days in succession. Besides these there are a few State dailies received by mail. In all Danbury takes nearly 950 copies of the daily press.

A Different View of the Pilgrim of Knock.

From the N. Y. Tablet, Feb. 7.

But, though an ardent lover of his country, knowing of her wrongs, her sorrows, and her joys, a devoted Catholic, true to the instincts of his race, who have upheld the banner of Christianity in every land, William Geoghegan, is no enthusiast, save in the cause of truth and right. He is a poet of the affections, and as such will find an abiding spot in the heart of every true Christian.

His modesty may shrink from the ordeal of publishing his poems, but we believe it is the duty of every christian to do as much good as he can for his kind, and Mr. Geoghegan's poems, being not only of a high poetic order of merit, but being essentially Catholic in tone and feeling, would be heartily welcomed by all who believe in purity and our holy faith, for they are as pure and warm as the heart and brain that warmed them and gave them birth.

His honesty, sobriety, and amiable disposition have made him hosts of friends.

The Usefulness of a Seedy Coat.

From the London Truth.

Abeddin Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented himself the other day before the Sultan in such a very seedy coat that his Majesty could not refrain from suggesting to him that it was only decent he should put on his best clothes when he was going to see his sovereign. Abeddin replied humbly that he had put on his very best. Whereupon the Sultan directed one of his secretaries to give an order on the imperial tailor to rig the Pasha out completely. Abeddin accordingly ordered thirty-five coats, thirty-five waistcoats, and the same number of every other garment. Since then, the mean attire of functionaries who have been called to the palace has been quite striking, but none of these imitators have as yet excited the Sultan's commiseration.

On Monday evening next Mr. George De Gross, "the colored tragedian who has just arrived from Europe, where he has not only appeared before the nobility of England, but also the royalty," will play at the Brooklyn Athenæum, supported by a powerful cast of colored actors. The piece in which he makes his appearance is called the "Chevalier de St. George, or the Child of the Sun," and of his performance the Birmingham *Post* has said, "It was immense."

The entertainment will conclude with the last act of "Macbeth," in which Mr. George De Gross will represent the great hero of Shakespeare, and Mr. Charles Payne will play *Macduff*. We wish Mr. De Gross and his associates success, cash, and renown.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

The Parliamentary session is over, and her Majesty's Ministers have eaten their whitebait dinner at Greenwich. This custom of celebrating the close of their labors by a banquet "down the river" is an old one, and much unpopularity attached to Mr. Gladstone during his last term of office because of his infraction of it. When Lord Beaconsfield came into power he was careful to revive it, and Mr. Gladstone has thought it prudent not to place himself again in a position where he might be taunted for his hostility to good old English customs. However, he very nearly placed his colleagues in the ridiculous position of sitting down to a whitebait dinner without the whitebait. That delicious little "lump of bones" followed the example of the Queen. Her Majesty, not caring to be delayed in London by the Irish obstructionists, and so lose the most enjoyable part of the autumn at Balmoral, did not wait for the House to rise before leaving for Scotland. Similarly the fish, which come up the Thames in February, and remain until about the middle of August, finding that the Ministers did not come at the usual time to eat them, and no doubt remembering the slight put upon them by Mr. Gladstone's last administration, waited no longer but put to sea. The Premier is no more to be browbeaten by whitebait than he is by Irishmen; boats were despatched after the truant fish, and enough of them were induced to return to the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, to save the feast from being a failure. During the season the whitebait fisheries are very active, and one firm employs more than 150 men in netting the little fish.

The Hares and Rabbits bill has been passed by the House of Lords in an amended form. As the bill now stands "the farmer *and* one other person" have the right to shoot the ground game. The Lords sought to alter the bill by making it "the farmer *or* one other person." Had the Commons consented to their amendment the effect of the law would have been nullified, as it is about as useless for one person to go rabbit shooting as to go rowing with one oar. The rabbits make their burrows in the hedges, with exits on both sides. To get them out of their strongholds, ferrets have to be sent in after them, and, if there were only one man to shoot them, the rabbits would naturally bolt on the opposite side of the hedge.

The "feast of St. Partridge" occurs in England on the 1st of September, and it is curious to note the alterations which have indirectly been caused in partridge shooting by American ingenuity. In the days when the reaping of the grain crops was done by hand the stubble was often ten inches in height. In this the birds were accustomed to hide themselves, and the sportsman, with the aid of his dog, was enabled to get within a short distance of the covey before they would take wing. The general use of reaping machines has made this method of shooting next to impossible. The machines cut the straw so close to the ground that the birds can see their approaching enemy as soon as he enters the field, and they accordingly adjourn to some safer quarters before he can get within range. The plan most in favor now is for the sportsman to take up a position under a hedge and to send men into the field from the opposite side to drive the birds in the direction of the gun. With this change in the manner of shooting partridges most of the pleasure is gone. The actual skill required to kill the game was only a minor part of it. The real art consisted in directing the movements of the dogs, and a knowledge of the habits of the birds, to enable the sportsman to approach them so as to have the wind in his favor, was absolutely necessary to insure a good bag. Another method of making the birds lie still until within range, which has of late years come into vogue. It is to shoot with a kite. One of the fearfully red Japanese monstrosities, in the shape of a hawk with great staring eyes, is flown over the field in which the birds are known to be. This apparition actually paralyzes them with fright, and the sportsman has almost to kick them up before they will fly. When they do get up, however, they are twice as difficult to hit as when put up by a dog. They dart hither and thither in their terror, so that it is next to impossible to get a steady shot at them.

While the well-to-do Londoner enjoys his liberation from the cares of business by a stay at the seaside, the poorest of the London poor luxuriate in an annual trip into the counties of Surrey and Kent during the hop-picking season, which begins the first week of September. Thousands of hop pickers of both sexes throng the London Bridge Railway station waiting to be taken to their destinations. It is impossible to even approximate the total number of persons that invade the hop districts, but in one parish alone 3,000 pickers are employed. The farmers keep a record of the hands they employ, and give the preference to those who have been with them before. It is not uncommon to find a picker who has worked for the same master for thirty years past. These are known as "regular annuals." Formerly no accommodation was provided for the comfort of the pickers, and they were accustomed to congregate after the day's work was done, cook, eat, and sleep together under the hedges or in the straw yards. Hop growers have now built separate sheds for the men and women, and provide them with facilities for cooking and sleeping. There is still plenty of fun from sunset to 9 o'clock, when an overseer goes round to see that the lights are out. Last year the crop was a very poor one, and many of the pickers got no work at all. This year the crop is poor in places, but few of the workers will return empty handed. The hands are paid according to the work they do, the most industrious averaging not more than 75 cents a day, while a poor worker will not earn more than 40 cents. The good that a month's fresh air and exercise does for the poor wretches, who for the rest of the year live in the vile slums of smoky London, makes up, in their estimation, for the smallness of the wages. The chief benefit, however, is to the children who accompany their parents. If too young to assist in the picking, they enjoy their outing by rolling in the hop vines after the flowers have been gathered and placed in the baskets.

The London Commissioner of Police has issued his yearly report for 1879. The force in that year numbered 10,411. The Metropolitan police have charge of the places of amusement in the neighborhood of London, and on every fête day at the Crystal Palace 34 inspectors, 116 sergeants, and 1,700 men are sent there to preserve order. Three thousand men were present at the funeral of the Prince Imperial at Chiselhurst. Ten thousand men are permanently employed at the Government establishments. That the police force will have to be increased is shown by the fact that in 1879 the distance to be patrolled had increased 71 miles from the preceding year. The Commissioner reports that about 20,000 felonies were committed in London during the year; property of the value of $500,000 was stolen, $100,000 of which was recovered; 900 houses were broken into, and 26,000 doors and windows were found insecurely fastened. The report goes on to say that since the closing of the Argyle Rooms and similar places of resort for the *demi-monde* the condition of the streets at night has been much worse than before, the district about Piccadilly circus being most noticeable in this respect.

Another interesting report is that of the horse-racing season. The "Racing Calendar," recording the races run in 1879, shows that 107 meetings were held last year, and the number of racehorses in training was about 1,700. It is a suggestive fact that while the number of two-year-old starters increases every year, the number of the three-year-olds and upward steadily decreases. This gives emphasis to the protests against the growing fondness for two-year-old spins, by demonstrating beyond a doubt the damage done to the youngsters by putting them to hard work before their powers are ripe.

The charge of fraudulent marking at the Wimbledon rifle meeting has resulted in the acquittal of the prisoner, Sergeant Marshman. It was strongly suspected that bribery had been rife among the marksmen and the scorers, but the difficulty has been to prove the accusation. The marking was intrusted to soldiers chosen for great behavior from the division of the army in the neighborhood of London. For a day's work of eight hours the privates receive about thirty cents from the National Rifle Association, in addition to the regular pay of about the same amount per day from the army.

Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, the well-known English actors, have been spending their holiday at Pontresina, in the Engadine. The Prince and Princess Christian, Sir Paul and Lady Hunter, Lord and Lady Cardwell, Admiral Fanshawe, Lady Yarborough, Lady Cooper, Lady Young, and other members of the aristocracy were staying in the neighborhood. The English clergyman and doctor of the place took advantage of this favorable opportunity and induced the Bancrofts to give two entertainments, one for the benefit of the church and the other to provide funds toward the improvement of the paths and roads in the vicinity. Mme. Bistori was in the audience, and enjoyed the fun immensely. The stage was an impromptu affair, and candles took the place of gas for the footlights. Mr. Arthur Cecil and William Shakespeare gave their aid to the good cause. The latter is supposed to be a descendant of the original William, and is a very talented musician and a professor of the Royal Academy of Music.

An extraordinary case of cruelty has been reported to the authorities in Italy. A female servant in the Carmelite convent at Pontremoli was detected in stealing some bread. It is alleged that she was tried by the Abbess and two nuns; that they sentenced her "to undergo the torments of purgatory;" that they at once proceeded to heat a stove red hot, and then held the culprit's face so close to it, and for such a length of time, that her eyesight is said to be destroyed, and her face to look as if vitriol had been used. The Abbess and nuns have been arrested.

A curious phase of French law has been brought to light at the trial of Abadie, Knobloch, and Kivail for the atrocious murder of a man at St. Mande. Kivail was sentenced to imprisonment for life, Knobloch was sentenced to death, and Abadie gets off without punishment. The cause of this is that, since the St. Mande murder, and before his being brought to trial for it, Abadie committed another murder, for which he had been sentenced to death and his sentence had been commuted to a life one. The French code provides that a man cannot be sentenced to death twice, and as the prisoner is serving out his life sentence no further harm can come to him. Thus this curious state of affairs is presented: that Knobloch, who has committed only one murder, is condemned to death, while his accomplice, who is a double murderer, and was the instigator and actual committer of the second, is protected from the guillotine by his former crime.

An interesting ceremony took place recently at Marly, near Paris, when M. and Mme. Antoine Sardou the father and mother of the dramatist, celebrated their golden wedding. The château which they own at Marly is remarkable for he beauty of its surroundings and for eight enormous sphinxes of stone which guard the beds of flowers and plants. M. Sardou is a singularly well-preserved man. His figure is straight and lithe. His hair is still almost blak, only a few streaks of gray tinging it. His ace has scarcely a wrinkle, and his e