The Sun.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1881.

**Amusements To-Day.**

Abbey's Park Theatre—Fresh, the American.
Bijou Opera House—Olivette.
Booth's Theatre—Voyages in Southern Seas.
Daly's Theatre—Cinderella at School.
Grand Opera House—Pride in Ireland.
Haverly's 14th St. Theatre—Our Girls.
Haverly's 5th Av. Theatre—That Man from Cattaraugus.
Haverly's Niblo's Garden—Black Crook.
Madison Square Garden—Barnum's Show, Hippodrome.
Madison Square Theatre—Hazel Kirke.
Masonic Temple—Mesmerism.
Middleton's Dime Museum—294 Bowery.
Standard Theatre—Olivia Taylor.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Theatre Comique—Mulligan's Silver Wedding.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Girl School Girls.
Union Square Theatre—Pique.
Wallack's Theatre—A Scrap of Paper.
Windsor Theatre—Humpty Dumpty.

## Gen. Grant in Mexico.

In another part of this paper, the views of Gen. GRANT about the Mexican railroad enterprise in which he and Mr. JAY GOULD are engaged, are given in his own language as he expressed himself to the reporter of the *Galveston News*. We commend what the General says to the attention of the public. In one respect, however, we are bound to declare that he is very much mistaken. He thinks that THE SUN has been opposing his Mexican undertaking on account of a feeling of opposition to him personally. This is not so. We are not opposed to Gen. GRANT personally. We think very well of him on many accounts, and we wish him success in every legitimate endeavor. We are very much opposed to his being President for a third term or to his becoming Emperor, both because we wish to preserve our republican institutions as the Constitution of the fathers established them, and because experience has shown that Gen. GRANT is a very unsuitable and unsatisfactory ruler for a free people. But when he goes to work to build a railroad and to open up to commerce and civilization an undeveloped region, we sincerely hope that he may be prospered.

We are bound to add, however, that we are decidedly not in favor of any scheme for the annexation to the United States of any part of the present Mexican republic.

## A Question for Mr. Robertson.

If the plans of the President and the Secretary of State prevail, Mr. WILLIAM H. ROBERTSON will be the next Collector of the Port of New York. His attitude toward the commercial interests of the people of this State is therefore a subject of some concern to the community.

Mr. ROBERTSON is now a State Senator from the Ninth Senate District. A bill is pending in the Legislature to abolish compulsory pilotage at Hell Gate on the East River. It has been passed by the Assembly and now awaits action by the Senate.

We have received a number of pamphlets in regard to this measure, all of them earnestly advocating its adoption. It appears that under existing laws every vessel passing through Hell Gate must pay half pilotage fees to the Hell Gate pilots, whether a pilot is employed or not; that in almost all cases the captains are qualified to pilot their own vessels through, and do not want any aid at all; and that as matter of fact only about five per cent. of the entire number of craft which go through Hell Gate ever avail themselves of the proffered services of the pilots.

Under these circumstances the exaction of a fee from such vessels is pronounced onerous and unnecessary. It is regarded with particular disfavor on the eastern part of Long Island, as there are said to be more than fifteen hundred vessels from Suffolk County that pass through Hell Gate every year. Mr. E. A. CARPENTER, who represents that region in the Assembly, says in one of the pamphlets before us that on one day in November last 120 vessels went through Hell Gate, and only two took pilots, while the pilots "scooped in the half pilotage for the remainder." This is a queer use of the word "scooped," but the meaning is plain, and we suppose the language is parliamentary. The same gentleman estimates the amount of pilotage paid under the present system to thirty-two Hell Gate pilots at $150,000 a year.

But the bill to abolish this system is delayed in the Senate, and its friends attribute the delay chiefly to Mr. ROBERTSON. They say that many of the Hell Gate pilots are residents of his district, that he is interested in maintaining their welfare as his constituents, and that he therefore opposes any reduction of their emoluments. Is such the fact? and, if so, on what grounds does he support the imposition of a burden on commerce which seems to be both needless and pernicious?

## The Case of Judge Gildersleeve.

We published yesterday morning the statement of ANDREW W. VANDEWATER, lately an attendant in the Court of General Sessions, in this city, concerning his appointment and dismissal as an officer of that court. At the same time we printed what Judge GILDERSLEEVE had to say on the same subject. The substance of the charge is that Mr. VANDEWATER was appointed upon an understanding with Judge GILDERSLEEVE that he must pay a considerable portion of his salary to the Judge's brother. This payment appears to have been made for some time. After Mr. VANDEWATER discontinued it, Judge GILDERSLEEVE had him removed, and appointed another court officer in his stead.

Now, the public has no particular interest in Mr. VANDEWATER, and a man who would purchase a place in this way deserves no special sympathy for losing it. But the community is interested, and interested very much indeed, in the integrity of its Judges; and this accusation therefore becomes a matter both serious and important.

No one should be condemned unheard, but judgment may properly be pronounced against a man who himself pleads guilty. There does not seem to be any substantial dispute about the material facts in the present case. We are content to base our opinion wholly on Judge GILDERSLEEVE'S own account of what occurred between him and his officer.

"Before long," he says, "there was a vacancy among the attendants in my court. I told VANDEWATER that he would be appointed on or about the first of the following January—that was, I think, in '75 or '76. I said to him: 'You know that my brother ELMER, your uncle, who lives in Poughkeepsie, was unfortunate in business some years ago, and is now working for a salary of fifteen dollars a week. He has a wife and four children. I presume that I ought to give him this place, but *I would not care to have my own brother as an attendant about the court. I will give you the place. I think, however, that it would only be fair to send him twenty dollars out of your salary.* If you do this, you will fare alike, having eighty dollars a month each.'"

The Judge goes on to say that he suggested this arrangement because both his brother and VANDEWATER were dependent upon him "in a sense"—whatever that may mean—at the time; and yet he wants it distinctly understood that he did not profit by the appointment. We think he would find some difficulty in showing that he derived no pecuniary advantage from having a brother whom he would otherwise be obliged to support, supported in part by payments out of the treasury of the city of New York, for which that brother rendered no services whatever either to the city or any one else.

In fact, Judge GILDERSLEEVE admits that he desired to make the Court of General Sessions a sort of family paymaster, but was ashamed to do so openly. To secure for a relative some part of the appropriation devoted to the maintenance of that court, he enters into a private arrangement with another relative by marriage, whereby the latter is appointed an attendant in consideration of an implied if not express agreement to pay the former a fixed sum of money every month out of his official compensation. The agreement might just as well have been to pay the twenty dollars a month to Judge GILDERSLEEVE himself; for its fulfilment saved him that amount which he would otherwise, according to his own showing, have been obliged to expend out of his own purse to maintain his dependent brother.

This transaction is absolutely indefensible and without excuse. It is useless to attempt to justify it. In vain did BACON seek to defend his conduct in accepting bribes by showing that his judgments would have been just the same without them. Equally futile is it for Judge GILDERSLEEVE'S friends to argue that the city has lost nothing by his action in this matter, and therefore no blame attaches to him so far as the public is concerned. Indeed, the city has lost something; for if VANDEWATER could afford to pay twenty dollars a month out of his salary to the Judge's brother, his salary was too large by that amount, and Judge GILDERSLEEVE, in the interest of municipal economy, should have had it reduced accordingly.

We sincerely regret that the admitted facts compel us thus to condemn a Judge of whom so much good was hoped.

## Our Naval Forces.

One of the official reports made by a member of the House Naval Committee of the last Congress declared that the United States had no navy worth speaking of; that our substitute for a navy was a collection of superannuated vessels, the best of which had not speed enough to overtake their opponents, or else not battery power enough to penetrate their armored sides, while they themselves would fall an easy prey to modern fighting ships.

But if we have only a slender array of modern war vessels, it must be admitted that we are strong in officers to command the navy, should it ever exist. The new Navy Register impressively illustrates this fact.

To begin with, Judge HUNT, our highest naval authority, has under him, in his personal office, sixteen clerks, two messengers, and a stenographer. He has also a Bureau of Ordnance, a Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, a Bureau of Navigation, a Bureau of Yards and Docks, a Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, a Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, a Bureau of Steam Engineering, and a Bureau of Construction and Repair, each presided over by an officer of high rank, with an array of chief clerks, clerks, messengers, and draughtsmen; while a Judge Advocate-General tops off this part of the catalogue.

Next we find, on the active list, an admiral, a vice-admiral, and twelve rear-admirals; twenty-five commodores, fifty captains, ninety commanders, eighty lieutenant-commanders, two hundred and eighty lieutenants, one hundred masters, one hundred ensigns, and the usual supply of midshipmen and cadet midshipmen. We also find fifteen medical directors, fifteen medical inspectors, fifty surgeons, seventy-two passed assistant surgeons, and nineteen assistant surgeons. Then we come upon twelve pay directors, thirteen pay inspectors, fifty paymasters, thirty passed assistant paymasters, and twenty assistant paymasters. Next we strike upon the Engineer Corps, having its ten chief engineers with the relative rank of captain, its fifteen more chief engineers with the relative rank of commander, and its forty-five more chief engineers with the relative rank of lieutenant-commander; its hundred passed assistant engineers, its thirty-seven assistant engineers, and its fifty-three cadet engineers. We pass then to twenty-three chaplains, eleven professors of mathematics, eleven naval constructors, five assistant naval constructors, ten civil engineers, and a couple of secretaries.

This review brings us to the warrant officers, including the boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sailmakers, and the mates, who need not be enumerated. Finally we have the cadet midshipmen and cadet engineers of the Naval Academy, who are relied on to keep up the supply of officers, lest it should unfortunately fall short.

But the list is as yet far from complete; for the retired and reserved officers must not be omitted. They include forty rear-admirals to start with. Then come twenty-one commodores, twenty-one medical directors, and so on, down through the ranks already specified.

To wind up, we get the marine corps, with two colonels, one having five staff officers under him; two lieutenant-colonels, three majors, twenty captains, thirty first lieutenants, and fifteen second lieutenants—adding, of course, a retired list for the marine officers.

This is our force as it stood Jan. 1, 1881. It is clear that if we haven't the ships we have *got* the men, and that with our fifty-four admirals, forty-six commodores, and so on, we can make a fine display.

## Beginning at the Wrong End.

Some of the Brooklyn preachers are at a loss to account for the fact that their revival doesn't go. Notwithstanding all their pushing and shouting, the wheels of the gospel chariot stick fast. The trouble is that they began wrong. That is why they find it such up-hill work.

They are trying to convert the Brooklyn sinners who do not belong to the church. That is a commendable but arduous enterprise, not to be hopefully undertaken without thorough preparation. The ill success of the preachers is due to the fact that they set about it with practically no preparation at all.

They should have begun by taking their New Testaments, going into their closets, and finding out whether they themselves had ever been really converted from worldliness and selfishness, from the respect of persons and the acquiescence in established injustices, to the life of unselfishness and trust required by the precepts of JESUS of Nazareth. Many of them draw fat salaries, have growing bank accounts, preach in costly churches to rich men, live in luxuriously furnished houses, are clothed in broadcloth and fine linen, eat daintily every day, and pass their lives in an atmosphere of self-indulgence. Has the cry of the times ever entered into their ears? Have they ever really done anything, or tried to do anything, for those swarming multitudes of men and women of whom it is written in their sacred books that their wail will not be forgotten by the Lord when He comes to make inquisition for blood? If not, what business have they to be undertaking to convert others?

But suppose all the Brooklyn preachers themselves converted. Then they should have bent all their energies in the first place to converting the Brooklyn sinners who belong to the church, and whose wickedness shows all the more repulsively for the veneer of hypocrisy which covers without concealing it. That was an indispensable preliminary, if there was to be a genuine revival.

The process of starting a revival may be likened to the lighting of a fire. It is only when fire has been applied to the kindling wood and this is in a blaze that the mass of dull coal begins to glow. If the preachers have the sacred fire themselves, if the churches are all aflame with it, it will quickly communicate itself. There will be no difficulty about the revival.

Let the reverend men of Brooklyn take a fresh start, and start right.

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At the Tuesday session of the sub-committee of the Assembly Committee on Commerce at the Metropolitan Hotel, Dock Commissioner DIMOCK said that before 1875 the harbor masters had practised an organized system of blackmail on all steamships which entered this port. The inference from this remark was that a better system prevailed at present, and that blackmailing had been done away with.

Yesterday, at another session of the same committee, Col. GEORGE BLISS said that he had been credably informed on Tuesday that a harbor master had, within twenty-four hours, demanded $150 of a small vessel for the privilege of taking a berth at a pier. Captain of the Port COLE demanded the name of the harbor master, but Col. BLISS declined to give it, saying he would name the man and produce his witnesses to-morrow.

If what Col. BLISS said is proved to be true, it does not seem that harbor masters have improved for the better within six years. Deprived of the chance of bringing down the great steamship companies, they let fly at smaller game.

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The new movement of the New York State authorities to diminish the attention paid to rifle practice comes at an ill-chosen moment. Everybody has been struck by the fact that the victory of the Boers in South Africa over the trained regulars of Great Britain shows the enormous efficiency of the modern breech-loader in the hands of skilled marksmen, even though the latter may not be professional soldiers. This lesson comes to America as to other countries. Skill in rifle shooting in the National Guard can only be retained by the same means which created it, namely, the stimulation of the desire to excel. Badges for marksmanship, and competitive shooting of all descriptions, designed to excite the corps pride of regiments and companies, and the personal ambition of individuals, have been found the best means for this purpose. It is strange, therefore, to see efforts made to diminish the interest taken in the rifle practice of the National Guard, and to withdraw the facilities and inducements for marksmanship.

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The Greek troops are said to be eager to get at the Turks. Probably the first battle or two, if it comes to that, will noticeably cool their warlike ardor. Fighting the Turks in imagination to a jolly accompaniment of popping corks and patriotic choruses is a pleasant enough way of passing the time; but the first screech of a Turkish shell overhead will put another face on the affair. The young Greeks may stand the strain on their nerves and harden into admirable soldiers; but most of them who survive will never again talk of going to war as a holiday amusement.

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A bill now before the Legislature, making it a misdemeanor to sell a theatre ticket for more than the advertised price, would if enacted do away with ticket speculation. A person who wished to see a performance would then be able to know beforehand what his amusement was going to cost, and managers would not be hindered, when their attractions were strong enough, from getting increased rates without employing ticket sellers outside of their box offices.

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BERGH now wants a well-appointed and well-utilized whipping post for every ten "rum shops." As there are about 8,000 liquor, wine, and beer saloons in New York, this would make 800 whipping posts for this city alone. BERGH should cultivate moderation in his desires.

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Ever since the Republican party took MAHONE, RIDDLEBERGER, and Republication in tow, it has been making sternway at a rate that must be rather disquieting to the more experienced navigators.

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### Why Stanley Matthews was Reappointed by Garfield.

PHILADELPHIA, April 6.—When Senator Cameron visited Garfield at Mentor, in the early part of February last, he was told that it was his intention to give Pennsylvania a Cabinet officer, provided both factions of the party could unite upon a Senator, but in the event of failure to elect a Senator the most that Pennsylvania could expect would be a Justice of the Supreme Court, in case Stanley Matthews failed of confirmation. Three names—Wayne MacVeagh, Wharton Barker, and T. J. Phillips—were handed by Garfield to Senator Cameron, with the statement that one of the three would be chosen for the Cabinet, and Cameron was asked to indicate the one acceptable to him.

The young Senator preferred to submit three names of his own choosing, and presented those of Hartranft, Quay, and Beaver; but the President elect declined any proposition except the one submitted by him. Senator Cameron as promptly indicated his preference for MacVeagh. Meantime it leaked out that Pennsylvania was likely to be put off with a Justice of the Supreme Court, and the corporation interests of our Commonwealth went to work with vigor to make Judge Paxon of our Supreme Court the Justice, but MacVeagh was appointed Attorney-General, and Jay Gould got his work in for Matthews.

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### John Brown of Ossawatomie.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The despatch in to-day's SUN about the venerable widow of Ossawatomie Brown, grieves me. That she should thus suffer in her old age is a disgrace to the United States. Let a fund for her relief be started at once. If the circumstances be as announced in THE SUN's despatch, and if she really be in need, I here with offer to contribute to any fund that may be raised the sum of $25. I neither pled to make the sum ten times as much, it is equally true, yet at least $500 ought to be raised in this city in behalf of

A NEW YORKER.

APRIL 6.

### Why Massachusetts People Work on New Year's Day.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your editorial in Monday's SUN, while admitting that Massachusetts is a fine old state, you seem to think she is wrong in not making a holiday of New Year's. I think you fail to hit the true reason. As a native of Old Bay State I was brought up to begin the year as I expected to go through it, and my way was to have a good day's work. I think and I believe that the majority of Massachusetts people look upon the opening of the new year in preference to getting it up to calling, eating, drinking, and dissipation.

FAR WEST.

WINCHESTER, N. H., April 5.

### Prayers Requested by Burnham Wardwell.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On Sunday, 17th inst., I am to hold a meeting in Investigator Hall, Boston, which the two women so cruelly imprisoned, Wardwell, who had to do with their imprisonment in the New Hampshire State prison, will be in the city with me. Through the columns of your paper, I wish to ask the prayers of all Christian persons that God may bless, and direct us in our humble efforts to free the victims and hypocrites through.

BURNHAM WARDWELL.

No. 40 Bloomfield street, Boston.

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The first of a series of lectures in the French language, under the auspices of the Alliance Française of this city, will be given this evening at Steck Hall, in East Fourteenth street, by Mr. L. Monnier. The subject of the address is "Un Voyage Autour du Monde."

## POSTPONEMENT OF THE PARTY WAR.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—Mr. Conkling has achieved a temporary triumph, which is not, however, a proof of his power. His policy has been temporarily adopted. Contrary to the well-known views of the Secretary-President, communicated through his Lieutenants, Hale and Frye, the Republican caucus decided to continue the contest for carrying out the bargain with Mahone.

It was contended that to retreat in the face of the enemy would be equal to an absolute surrender. To abandon the Virginia repudiator, after having welcomed him with exceptional honors into the Republican ranks and killed the fatted calf for him as if he were a prodigal son, would be the confession of a blunder worse than a crime.

The negotiators of the trade with Mahone insisted that good faith required the contract to be kept, and that failure to do so would bring disgrace upon all concerned in the arrangement. These arguments prevailed, not because they were acceptable to some of the best Republicans, but because the caucus had committed the party before the country, and it was forced into a false position when to go forward or to go backward was equally embarrassing.

This decision plays into Mr. Conkling's hand precisely as if he had stocked the cards. Every day of delay out of executive session is a gain to his plans. He gets time to operate outside and inside, and time at this juncture is the most important factor in the struggle between the opposing factions.

It enables him to sound the politicians, and to survey the situation calmly in New York. If Judge Robertson will accept a compromise by withdrawing from the Collectorship, no opposition will be made to him for any other place. Notwithstanding all the warlike manifestoes from Washington, and the blatant utterances of Mr. Conkling's organ, the Senator himself prefers accomodation and peace to battle. Hence, his present effort is to exhaust means of conciliation before taking the last step, the result of which, beyond the disruption of the Republican party, cannot be now foreseen.

Mr. Blaine knows all the advantages of the Administration, and will press them ardently. He can close the dead lock in the Senate whenever he pleases, by a method which has not been recently employed, but which is perfectly proper and quite as well founded as the mode by which the so-called "constitutional majority" was obtained.

He knows very well the country is weary of this long scramble for little offices, and that the Republicans have lost ground in the discussion of the bargain and sale. They have been compelled by miserable shifts to defend a self-exposed coalition, and to be identified with pernicious politics, which they have hitherto most professed to condemn.

Washington and the early Presidents frequently conferred with the Senate in executive session upon treaties and other matters requiring the advice and consent of that body. The President might ask the Senate, in an extreme case, to convene at the White House. The sixty-fifth standing rule contemplates the contingency of his presence in the chamber, and also a meeting elsewhere, as follows:

"When the President of the United States shall meet the Senate in the Senate Chamber, or the conference room of executive business, he shall take a seat on the right of the Chair. When the Senate shall be convened by the President of the United States to any other place, the presiding officer of the Senate and the Senators shall attend at the place appointed, with the necessary officers of the Senate."

The practice of late years has been for the President to communicate with the Senate by messages in writing. But there is no obstacle ought to be broken and notify the Senate of his intention to appear in the Chamber to state his reasons in person, how many Republicans would record themselves in favor of prolonging the struggle over the Mahone bargain?

Gen. Garfield could easily make out a case, showing that the public business was seriously obstructed by the failure to get over the pending nominations. To be sure, he might not care to confront Mr. Conkling, and face to face to go over the terms of their conferences at Mentor and at Washington. But if, as a last resort, the Secretary-President should command him to go to the Senate, he could not refuse to obey orders. If the Republicans really intend to "stick," as Sumner advised Stanton to do, they may as well arrange for summer quarters, for the dog star will rage before Morham and Riddleberger are sworn into office.

Mr. Blaine is right about bringing this unseemly business to an end. Sooner or later the living issue must come. Mr. Conkling will have to face the music in the end, because the nomination of Robertson cannot now be withdrawn without a virtual abdication of Executive authority.

## A STRANGE DISCOVERY,

### By Which We May Yet Hear the Sounds of the Fires Raging in the Sun.

*From the Philadelphia Times.*

Prof. Tyndall of London has just invented a new scientific apparatus that, when properly used, gives most singular results, and shows that the wonders of the photophone have only just begun.

The photophone has already been described in the Times, and you may remember it is an instrument invented by Prof. Bell for producing a form of light to convey a telephonic message by distance.

In the new apparatus, a beam of light from a lime light, or even a candle, is thrown upon a common glass flask having a long neck. To this is fastened a rubber speaking tube that may be placed to the ear, so that any sounds in the flask may be heard through the tube.

Between the flask and the light is placed a circular disk of metal, having narrow slots or openings, placed like the spokes or a wheel round the edge. When the disk is at rest, the beam of light may pass through one of the slots and fall on the flask.

If, now, the disk is made to turn rapidly on its axis, the light will reach the flask in a series of flashes, as it shines through the slots one after the other. Here the curious discovery comes in. When the flask is filled with a gas, or a vapor, say the vapor of sulphuric ether, common street gas, carbon bisulphide, parchment or cotton, or even smoke, and the beam of light is made to fall on the flask in a series of alternate flashes, the operator, listening with the speaking tube at his ear, will hear strange musical sounds inside the flask.

The pitch of these tones will correspond exactly with the speed with which the disk is made to turn, and each kind of gas, or vapor, in the flask will give a different kind of note, some soft, some loud, and some very sweet and musical.

This is certainly the most remarkable discovery since the photophone, and it shows that light may be made the means of making sounds audible at a distance, even when the eye can see no difference in the light. It even suggests the idea that we may yet be able to hear the sounds of the fires raging in the sun. It may, indeed, be only a hint to yet more wonderful and authoritative relationships between light and sound, which may be utilized as a medium of communication.

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### Canadian Competition Growing Dangerous.

*From the Journal of Commerce.*

By a bold stroke the Montreal harbor charges will be reduced $75,000 a year. The union reduction will be in tonnage dues, which will be cut down a fifth part. The other concessions will apply to items of exports and imports at Montreal. In other words, the shrewd government of Canada is willing to stand an immediate loss of $75,000 revenue yearly in order to increase the trade of Montreal and the prosperity of the whole Dominion, which is identified with that of each one of her parts. This is the Dominion Canada is building.

Every time the railway canal falls and profits and improves, terminal facilities, she finds a decided profit quickly realizing from the operation. The export trade is the last, the home industries multiply and each move money, the people are more contented and happy, and the exchequer gets a larger income from other taxable sources. The end of this can be easily predicted.

In a few years no doubt will be collected from any Canadian canal. The river St. Lawrence will be free to the commerce of the world. Harbor dues of every description will cease to be levied at Montreal, Quebec, St. John, and Halifax. New docks, elevators, and terminal facilities of all kinds will arise, new lines of steamships will soon be required.

The Dominion will have two new ocean ports, and be able to carry on her export trade at the lowest cost.

To meet this competition, Portland, the very life of New York, considers trade, and manufactures, there is but one course open to us.

The Erie Canal must be made to run both ways. All tolls and charges must be abolished. Commerce and trade must be protected. Economical methods must be provided for the direct expense of Portland and Montreal, and the saving must be accounted to the people, and not from time to time diverted to make the pay of operatives who divide their profits with Albany politicians.

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### The Power of a Snowdrift.

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

The Northwestern Railway Company has spent over one hundred thousand dollars in the last [illegible] in building snow fences along its lines in Dakota, and the road has not been blocked by a drift since the fences were built. The road has been [illegible] to pay for the fences in the saving of expense in keeping its lines open, and the road is now building fences on its lines in Iowa and Nebraska.

## CONCERNING OUR MAGAZINES AND CERTAIN MAGAZINE PROPERTY.

The growth of the popularity of our magazines has been very nearly related to their progress in the art of pictorial illustration. On the other hand, we are indebted in great part for our progress in the art of wood engraving to the wholesome competition stimulated by the magazines. Our wood engravers are not equalled in their art to-day by those of any other country, and the improvement that has taken place in their work within five or six years is directly attributable to the labors of Messrs. C. H. Parsons and A. W. Drake, the managers of the departments of illustration of the rival establishments of *Harper's Magazine* and *Scribner's Monthly*.

Engravers found an incentive to improvement in the better market afforded them for their work; in the competition that was aroused, and in the elevation of their craft that ensued. They were greatly aided by the intelligent instruction given by their employers; by being brought into contact with the artists whose work they engraved, and by the better quality of the subjects intrusted to them. Like every other branch of art, theirs did not fail to thrive under the influence of more favorable commercial conditions, it being a distressing fact that there can be no great progress in the fine arts unless plenty of money is forthcoming.

*Harper's Magazine* has a circulation of over 160,000 copies monthly. *Scribner* publishes 115,000. In beauty and costliness of illustration they are as nearly equal as may be. *Harper's* is the leading magazine of the country, by the prerogative of age and circulation, and that it is as good a magazine as it is may be attributed to the energy which its management developed under the spur of competition with *Scribner*. Nothing could be keener than this competition, and nothing more interesting than the effects of it in a business and artistic aspect.

In the former regard it involved the disappearance of that worthy periodical, the *Galaxy*, and others of less note; it imparted a painful chill to that high-toned plant of American literature, the *Atlantic Monthly*; it so enormously increased the cost of producing an illustrated magazine as to effectively discourage independent competition from outside sources, and it gave to the business an extent and importance that had not previously been thought possible.

From the point of view of its effect upon art it had the agreeable result of creating an extraordinary demand for drawings, and for new and original explorations in the methods of illustration, the subjects used, and their treatment. Promising young artists were absorbed bodily, immeshed in contracts of great pecuniary attractiveness, and packed up and sent to places of safe keeping in foreign lands. Nothing could be more liberal, or, in the way of enterprise, more commendable, than the course of these rival publishers toward the artists. With the engravers it was similar. They paid them the highest prices for their work, pushed them forward for the approval of the public, and gave them as a class a most unexpected prominence. Every nerve has been strained in the race to secure the best artists and the best engravers, and if possible to obtain the exclusive control of their services. The expedients of the competition have been honorable and costly, and to the artists and engravers decidedly agreeable, and to the public and to the cause of art of no little profit.

*Scribner's Monthly* has lately undergone several changes, the most recent of which involved the purchase of the interest of Charles Scribner's Sons by Mr. J. Roswell Smith. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, it is generally understood, was the sum paid for it, and as it amounted to four-tenths of the stock of the corporation doing business under the title of Scribner & Co., it would apparently indicate a value of the whole equal to $625,000. That sum would not fairly represent the estimated value of the property of Scribner & Co., as contained in the *Monthly*, *St. Nicholas*, the Roswell Smith hymn books, and some minor matters. There were other considerations that made Charles Scribner's Sons content to dispose of their interest, but those considerations have not been stated. Among publishers it has been thought that as their interest was at best a minority interest, and as Mr. Roswell Smith had the control any how, and was determined to have all, and was, moreover, a particularly agile, shrewd, and able business man, it was probably just as well that Charles Scribner's Sons should let him have it.

A circular sent from the house, and apparently emanating from both concerns jointly, has been sent to THE SUN. It announces the sale of Charles Scribner's Sons' stock, and goes on to say that, "while it is expected that the most cordial relations will continue between the two houses," the business of each will "in future be entirely distinct." Further, that the name of the corporation is to be changed at an early day, and nine the names of *Scribner's Monthly* and *St. Nicholas*, *Scribner's Illustrated Magazine for Boys and Girls*. The nature of these changes of title is not stated, but it is clearly implied that the name of Scribner is to be eliminated from the firm of the present corporation of Scribner & Co. Indeed, it appears to be generally understood that the abandonment of the use of the name of Scribner was stipulated by Mr. Charles Scribner as a condition indispensable to his transfer to Mr. Roswell Smith of his interest.

It has been said that the public will be gradually habituated to the new title, which will probably be *The Manhattan Monthly* or *Manhattan Magazine*, while *St. Nicholas* will probably simply drop the word *Scribner* from its supplementary or descriptive title, and otherwise remain, as at present, under the skilful and judicious guidance of Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge. It is said to be a profitable publication, and it certainly ought to be, for there has been in its conduct very much that should commend it as literature for young people. *Scribner's Monthly* has undoubtedly become a profitable and valuable property, and it is understood to have earned a net profit last year of $72,000, which is equivalent to six per cent. on $1,200,000.

Some mention has been made of the intention of Mr. Smith to move to a separate building, and it is believed that he has chosen one on the north side of Union square. It is not thought that the "cordial relations" mentioned in the circular will be impaired by the separation which is implied by the distance between 743 Broadway and Seventeenth street.

In the mean time rumor is diligent with the affairs of Mr. Charles Scribner, who is also a peculiarly agile, fertile, and resourceful business man, and who is the head of the industrial and respected house of Charles Scribner's Sons, in which capacity he succeeded his much esteemed and lamented brother, the late Mr. Blair Scribner. Mr. Scribner is a young man, but he is possessed of great experience in his business, and of equal ambition. Report has it that he has long desired to found a great illustrated weekly paper, one which should have upon *Harper's Weekly* an effect like that which *Scribner's Monthly* wrought upon *Harper's Magazine*. Also, that, when the restrictions imposed upon him by the conditions of his sale to Mr. Smith shall have matured and disappeared, he will start a new *Scribner's Magazine*, or *Scribner's Monthly*, and descend with an all-compelling check book upon the expectant circles of art and literature. Either enterprise would consume half a million of money at least; and if he really contemplates one or both, he should have a hearty welcome. The man who can and will spend half a million or a whole million in such an enterprise, distributing it among artists, engravers, writers, printers, paper makers, and a hundred others, producers, improvers, and useful members of the community, is a man worthy of respectful attention, and of the assistance and encouragement that are implied by good will. Even if he lose his money, he is a public benefactor, and if he loses it and can afford to lose it, he is still more interesting, because he spares us the expenditure of our sympathy.

Perhaps Mr. Scribner does not really entertain those projects. If he does not, THE SUN may have the effect of showing him that he ought to entertain them; and that if he does, he will find them exceedingly agreeable to contemplate as they are developed.

The stock of Scribner & Co. was divided by the late Charles Scribner between himself and Dr. J. G. Holland and Mr. J. Roswell Smith. Mr. Scribner retained the forty per cent. which his son has just sold, while the remaining sixty per cent. was shared between Mr. Smith and Dr. Holland. Dr. Holland and Mr. Smith always worked most harmoniously, Mr. Smith invariably having everything his own way, except the poetry and some of the prose literature, neither of which concerned him deeply so long as he was satisfied of their salable quality. He was thus able to guide the enterprise on its prosperous path, and when Dr. Holland came to look upon himself as full of years, and entering upon the agreeable stages of an honorable decay, he relieved himself of the embarrassments and responsibilities which his Scribner & Co. stock involved, and sold out to Mr. Smith. That gentleman thereby became the owner of sixty per cent. of the stock, and as his views were perhaps incompatible with the ambition of Mr. Charles Scribner, and as the latter gentleman possibly had most decided ideas as to the use of his name by a corporation that he did not himself control, Mr. Smith acquired the whole establishment, and agreed to forego the title. That the properties will prosper under Mr. Smith's management cannot well be doubted; and that Mr. Scribner, now that he is left to himself, will be heard from in no uncertain fashion, appears to be equally a matter of prospective certainty.

## GRANT IN MEXICO.

### The Scheme of Gould and Grant for Developing Mexico through Railroads—Grant Foresees the Growth of Prosperity, but Fancies The Sun is Opposed to Him.

*From the Galveston News.*

The Grant party, which left New York last Monday, arrived here over the Santa Fé line yesterday in the directors' coach.

The party comprises Gen. U. S. Grant and wife, U. S. Grant, Jr., and wife, Señor Romero, and three servants. As early as 9½ o'clock the gathering of sight-seers around the depot commenced. No sooner had the train stopped than there was a general rush for the President's car. At first it was thought that of course he would descend from the front end, and that was at once blocked. The General was too much of a strategist for that, however, and, while skillfully deploying some of his forces to the front, he, with his main forces, or, to come to a plain statement, accompanied by Mrs. Grant, his son, and daughter-in-law, and the other members of the party, sought an exit by the rear door. It was with difficulty that the crowd could be swayed sufficiently to admit a passage to the carriages in waiting, but this was finally done, and the great man was hurried, with his family and friends, to the Tremont.

Gen. Grant appears to have aged somewhat since his last visit to Texas. In every particular, he has the same quiet, reserved manner which has characterized him so long, and, except the graying of his hair and beard, does not show a marked evidence of wear from the excitement of events through which he has passed during the twelvemonth gone.

The *News* man began his search after knowledge by a general inquiry after the plans of the new corporation of which Gen. Grant had but recently been elected President. For reply, he was informed by Gen. Grant that the company had but recently been organized, and that the object of this visit is to overlook the situation, as it were, preparatory to the commencement of the active operation of construction.

"Is this line to be a part of what is known as the Gould system?"

"Yes; Mr. Gould is one of the stockholders, and a director in the line."

"What are to be your termini?"

"The city of Mexico and Tehuantepec, the line passing through Oajaca. At the City of Mexico connection will be made with all the roads centering there and diverging toward the North. Upon these construction is being pushed as rapidly as possible, 10,000 men being now employed on the line of the Mexican Central. Before the end of the year there will be 50,000 laborers at work on the railroads throughout the republic."

"From this it would seem that effective organization and abundance of capital are both behind these enterprises?"

"There are sufficient brains, energy, and money at hand to accomplish the results that are sought."

"Do you fix upon any time for the accomplishment of the enterprise?"

"Circumstances will largely control that. Of course, no time will be lost, and delays will be avoided as much as possible."

"What is the general feeling, as far as you can judge, among Mexicans regarding the influx of American capital?"

"Favorable. The great body of the people—the intelligent masses, who govern and control everywhere—have come to see that their interests lie in this direction. They have not the requisite means for this development, and therefore are glad to see the presence of American capital."

"But will not the old bugbear 'annexation' create a feeling of distrust against your enterprises?"

"I do not fear anything on that score. When I visited Mexico I found something of this feeling, but I proved satisfactorily, I think, to their minds (or to my own, at least), the folly of the change which had taken place in our institutions. Twenty years ago, when slavery was in existence, there might have been a feeling favorable to the acquisition of this territory, for the reason that, with new growth, slavery might within it be found have required additional room in this direction, as it was stated in others had been checked. But the abolition of that institution had effectually done away with this argument for annexation, and at this time I was satisfied that the American people would oppose the acquirement of further possessions except upon terms honorable and satisfactory to us. Again, as regards area, we have, I stated, that we possess $500,000,000 worth of tropical and semi-tropical fruits, which we now obtain from countries that, in the first place, employ slave labor, which is distasteful to us; then they impose heavy duties, which we have to pay; and, in the end, the money is returned with as only to the extent of receiving certain articles in exchange. This trade, I argued, they could control and command, and by an interchange of products and trade relations would be established equally and mutually profitable and satisfactory."

"I notice in the Mexican correspondence of a New York paper a remark of opposition, and comment by Mexican papers upon extracts from the American press hostile to these projects. Do you conceive this to be a reflex of the sentiments of any element of strength in opposition?"

"No, not to a serious extent. The Mexicans understand their own press, and know how to gauge it. It is not an own press which can do us harm. The SUN has been opposing this enterprise, but that means nothing. It is not so much opposition to the railroad as it is to the personality. The Herald and other leading journals have treated the enterprise fairly."

"Will the foreign element now in Mexico prove antagonistic to the advent of further American enterprises?"

"Not to any serious extent. Of course, some of the foreigners will oppose it, but their numbers or influence are not dangerous."

"I understand, then, that the sentiment of the people is favorable. Are the Government concessions in keeping with this spirit?"

"Yes. The Government has made greater concessions than should have been made; greater than she will be able to pay."

"In the opening of the country by these roads, do you anticipate any extensive, immediate growth or development of the resources of the country?"

"Yes, most assuredly. Already attention has been directed to the increase of the agricultural features. Large sugar, coffee, and wheat plantations are now being opened, and these will be opened and widened upon an extended scale. Land and labor are cheap, and the native population, finding a means of transportation for their products, will all the more readily engage in these pursuits. The traffic between the two countries will develop immensely with the progress of carrying facilities."

"Then, taken, as a whole, you think the future prosperity of the country?"

"Decidedly. The whole country will experience it. Texas first and more immediately, but the influence will be general."

"This gigantic system of roads, connecting the two republics, must needs have an outlet to the sea. Where do you think this will be?"

"Galveston, of course, if you can get deep water. You have a city here already, and have all the advantages of geographical position. If your efforts to deepen your harbor are successful, the railroads will naturally point to this place. If not, they will have to seek some other port. However, I learn that the engineer in charge of the works is confident of success."

Here the conversation was turned into a discussion of the narrow-gauge system, which Gen. Grant pronounced to be the most valuable as pioneer roads, on account of their cheapness of construction, and the fact that from their own earnings they could be changed to the standard gauge.