The Sun.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1882.

Amusements To-Day.

Abbey's Park Theatre—[illegible]
Academy of Design—[illegible]
Bijou Opera House—L'Afrique.
Booth's Theatre—Richard the Third.
Bunnell's Museum—Broadway and 9th st.
Daly's Theatre—The Passing Regiment.
Globe Dime Museum—[illegible] Bowery.
Grand Opera House—Incognita.
Haverly's Chik's Garden—Banker's Daughter.
Haverly's 14th St. Theatre—[illegible] the Race.
Haverly's 5th Ave. Theatre—Rose Pavant.
Madison Square Theatre—Pinafore.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Standard Theatre—Patience.
Thalia Theatre—Diversions.
Theatre Comique—Squatter Sovereignty.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Patience.
Union Square Theatre—The Lights o' London. Refined.
Wallack's Theatre—The Money Spinner.
Windsor Theatre—Kerry Gow.

Advertising Rates.

DAILY AND SUNDAY, 60 cents a line, ordinary advertising; large type, 60 cents; and preferred positions, 50 cents to $2.50, according to classification.

WEEKLY, 50 cents a line; no extra charge for large type. Preferred positions from 75 cents to $2.

An Early Apportionment Needed.

If the last Congress had passed an act apportioning among the States the number of members of the House which is to be allotted to them under the census of 1880, the State Legislatures now in session would have had time to arrange their representative districts accordingly. The next House must be elected next fall. The new apportionment may necessitate a change in the Congress districts in nearly every State.

Unless the present Congress promptly disposes of this matter, the Legislatures of many States will adjourn before they can know whether their representation is to be increased or diminished or is to remain unaltered.

Congressmen are reading set speeches on this matter. It affords an inexhaustible topic for members of an arithmetical turn of mind. But to delay the passage of an apportionment law may compel half the States to call special sessions of their Legislatures during the summer, so as to rearrange their representative districts in time for electing the new House. There is no need of more ciphering. The last Congress illustrated the subject by a great variety of computations. The Census Bureau has worked out all sorts of results in scores of statistical tables. The present Congress has access to these sources of information. Many plans are before it. Some would keep the number of members as it now is; a few would slightly diminish it; but the most of them would increase it by twenty or thirty.

The scheme that appears to be most favored is to raise the representation from 293, the present number, to 320. This would give an increase of one and two members each in about twenty States, giving New York 34 instead of its present 33, and would take from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Florida one member each. But what is now of most importance, in view of the condition of the State Legislatures, is early action by Congress.

Reforming the Whole Public Service.

There has lately been produced in Washington a weekly journal called the *American Register*, which professes to advocate the ideas of democracy; and in the last number of this journal we find the following suggestive remarks:

"Judge GEDDES of Ohio introduced into Congress on Monday last a resolution to so amend the Constitution of the United States as to take away from the President *the appointing power*, and confer it upon a Commission consisting of two Commissioners to be appointed by nomination of the President and confirmation by the Senate, acting with the head of the department in which the appointments are required to be made, and making the term of office of all appointees six years.

"This is the most important movement which has been made in Congress for many years. It would bring about civil service reform thoroughly and effectually, and break down the spoils system which has corrupted and degraded all branches of the public service. It would do more. It would relieve the President from the degradation and pressure of the multitudes of office seekers who incessantly crowd the Executive Mansion, and require all the time of the President to hear the innumerable applications and counter-applications for appointments to office, and which allow him no time to attend to the great interests and matters of public policy involved in the affairs of this great nation, internal and external. And more than all this it would put an end to the wrangling connections of our Presidential elections, which every four years convulse the whole country and disturb business affairs."

Neither the *American Register* nor Judge GEDDES of Ohio goes far enough. A single Commission charged with the appointing power is not sufficient to realize their great purpose. They should have proposed a great many more. As the First Commission makes all appointments, the Second should have charge of all the foreign affairs of the country, with the Secretary of State for its executive agent. This Commission would, of course, receive foreign Ministers, issue exequaturs to consuls, and direct the composition and tenor of all diplomatic correspondence. A Third Commission should have control of the Treasury, the payment of the interest on the public debt, and everything relating to the management of the national finances. A Fourth should direct the army, and have exclusive power to call it into active service, whether at home or abroad, declare war, and to recognize the restoration of peace. The Fifth Commission should likewise superintend the navy, its organization, its shipbuilding, its machinery contracts, its management, its discipline, and the uses to which it should be applied. A Sixth Commission should control all those concerns which are now under the oversight of the Interior Department, such as the Indians, the public lands, and the relations of subsidized railroads. A Seventh Commission should look after the Federal courts and officers of justice, and should exercise the power of pardoning criminals and granting reprieves. An Eighth Commission should have authority to issue proclamations for thanksgivings, days of fasting and prayer, and other occasions of the sort, if any should arise. A Ninth Commission should be empowered to apply the veto to any bills which the Commissioners might think objectionable. And the Tenth should be charged with the duty of sending messages, annual and occasional, to Congress, conveying information as to the state of the country, and proposing such legislation as the Commissioners might find desirable.

By such an arrangement as this all the evils that can in any way originate in connection with the office and authority of the President of the United States would be removed from that functionary, and, so far as can now be made plain to the unaided mind, he would become a wholly harmless officer.

The *American Register* also recommends the precious plan which Judge GEDDES has devised, on the ground that it would "put an end to the wrangling connections of our Presidential elections, which every four years convulse the whole country and disturb business affairs." These are notions which we have often heard of like this, and we respectfully invite the attention of our Washington contemporary to the fact that the consideration of elections, and all the disturbances which belong to the exercise of government by the people, might be wholly obviated by the simple expedient of committing the entire power of the country, legislative, administrative, and judicial, into the hands of a single autocrat.

Vulgar Manners in Boston.

The Harvard freshmen who made fools of themselves at Mr. OSCAR WILDE'S lecture at Boston the other evening are very young men. They thought they were doing something exceedingly funny in caricaturing the speaker before his eyes, but their joke was not original enough to be worth attempting under any circumstances, and it was in very bad taste, as it was carried out. It is creditable to them, however, that they soon grew ashamed of their folly and rudeness. After all, the joke was only a boyish conception, and pardonable at that.

But the behavior of the older persons in the Boston audience who guyed the lecturer was not at all excusable. They showed themselves to be vulgar people. Their conduct was disgraceful, and their refusal to give Mr. WILDE a respectful hearing and the attention they paid to his mere eccentricities of manner to the neglect of the sentiments he uttered, proved their provinciality, their narrowmindedness, and their bad breeding. They could properly have expressed their approval or disapproval of his opinions, but to insult him to his face because of his method of delivery, or because they saw something peculiar in his clothes, was blackguardism. If they had made up their minds in advance that he would have nothing to say to them worth listening to, why did they go to his lecture? If they had a contempt for him, the best way of showing it was by staying at home. By attending and behaving as they did they made themselves contemptible.

In truth, there is nothing in the lecture which Mr. WILDE is now delivering in this country to excite derision. It is a fair piece of work in a literary sense, so far as that goes, much above the average lectures to which our people are asked. If its thought is not profound, its expression is by no means cheap and commonplace. It is not a performance so trifling as to insult the intelligence of an audience, but a carefully prepared essay which proves its author to be a man of cultivation, of taste, imagination, education, and refinement. If the Boston audience did not discover that, they showed themselves to be lacking in literary judgment and the capacity of appreciating the qualities and acquirements displayed by Mr. WILDE.

Harvard students especially should never refuse to recognize the evidences of liberal education. How many of them are there who will be able at Mr. WILDE'S age to write as well as this Oxford graduate? He is only a few years the senior of the older ones of them, and yet he has done literary work which is very creditable, though it may not be very great. He took the prize for English verse at his college. Is the current verse of our colleges of better quality?

Such ridicule of Mr. WILDE and his personal peculiarities as that indulged in at Boston is only a coarse and vulgar imitation of English satire of him as a leader in what is called the aesthetic movement. The original has now become stale. Mr. DU MAURIER has passed to other subjects for caricature. Mr. GILBERT is finding new themes for his clever treatment. But the Boston practical jokers can do nothing better than borrow from them and then grossly vulgarize the copy.

If an apostle of aestheticism is not needed at the Puritan capital, at least a preacher of decent manners seems to be required there. The people should be taught that it is petty, vulgar, impertinent, provincial, to stare a man out of countenance because his manner of speech and dress is not exactly like that adopted in Boston.

The only city in which Mr. OSCAR WILDE has been openly insulted, so far, is Boston. And why did his audience insult him? Because they had not independence of judgment enough, nor enough capacity for literary criticism, to make up their own minds as to the value of his discourse, and could only show in a coarse and rude way that they had read what other people had said of him.

What is silly about Mr. WILDE'S ways and views is obvious. Sensible people, therefore, take him as he is, a clever enough young fellow, who has been advertised as man was never advertised before, and who can make himself very entertaining; or they let him alone if his methods disgust them.

The Programme of Gambetta's Successor.

The plans of M. DE FREYCINET have been laid before the Chamber of Deputies, and they bear upon their face the proof of the awkward situation in which the new Cabinet finds itself. They were no sooner announced than the Extreme Left gave notice of attack; and, with one exception, the only features of the programme calculated to satisfy the French people are borrowed from the scheme of its predecessor.

The substitution in the Treasury Department of a cautious and experienced financier like M. LÉON SAY for M. ALAIN-TARGÉ, whose capacity had not been sufficiently attested, will naturally enough be welcome in the grave financial crisis through which Paris is now passing. But we must remember that the late Ministry was not beaten on a question of finance, and that in order to secure the coöperation of M. SAY, the only popular measure with which the name of M. DE FREYCINET has been associated had to be distinctly disavowed. We refer, of course, to the colossal scheme of public works which would have insured prolonged employment to a multitude of workmen, but which would also have entailed such an addition to the fiscal burdens of the State as M. SAY has positively refused to sanction. The assertion, therefore, that the efforts of the Cabinet will be directed to giving an impetus to labor will be recognized as quite meaningless, seeing that the Finance Minister has taken office on the express understanding that none of the public moneys shall be diverted to any such purpose.

The new Ministry has endeavored to secure the temporary support, or at least the benevolent neutrality, of GAMBETTA by confirming the concessions offered to England by the late Cabinet in regard to the treaty of commerce, and by declaring that the judicial and educational reforms proposed by their predecessors will be carried out. In other words, M. DE FREYCINET, who is known to hold views much less progressive and radical than GAMBETTA'S touching the purification of the magistracy and the separation of Church and State, retracts his deliberate opinions and avows his willingness to adopt, for the sake of office, a policy he has discommoned for years. But in what an unpleasant plight will this abrupt and interested conversion to GAMBETTA'S views leave the Ministry. If the reforms it proposes are satisfactory to the majority of Republicans, it will get no credit for them; while, should these fail in any respect to content the French people, the new Cabinet will be charged with mutilating or distorting the programme of the late Premier. It is plain, indeed, that the mass of Republican voters, if they were consulted on the subject, would not intrust the execution of reforms to men whose former attitude toward such measures has been marked by indifference or by deficient zeal. They would be apt to regard the professed acceptance by M. DE FREYCINET of GAMBETTA'S plans as in itself a conclusive proof of insincerity and untrustworthiness.

There is something peculiarly absurd in the declaration of the new Ministry that revision of the Constitution ought to be postponed until the expiration of the term of the present Legislature. The object, of course, of the announcement is to reassure conservative republicans and conciliate the reactionists. But the majority of the Chamber must have heard the statement with astonishment when they called to mind the report of the committee to which GAMBETTA'S scheme of revision had been referred, and when they reflected that the new Ministry owes its existence to the vote by which that report was sanctioned. The committee differed from GAMBETTA as to the power of the Chambers to limit the range of discussion in the joint constitutional convention, and they refused to recommend the *scrutin de liste*, but they expressly agreed with him in declaring revision of some kind to be expedient. They were as anxious as the late Premier himself to deprive the Senate of the power of interfering with money bills and to hasten the infusion of republican opinions in that body by changing the methods of electing both departmental and life Senators. No wonder the Extreme Left were aghast when they heard the Ministry, which is the creature of the recent Committee on Revision, repudiate the fundamental principle laid down by its author. They at once signified their purpose to call the Government to account for its avowed intentions in this matter, and the first crisis with which the new Ministry is threatened may be looked for on the day fixed for this interpellation. Heretofore the 200 members composing the Republican Union have shown themselves well nigh as eager for revision as their 130 colleagues of the Extreme Left; and should they now adhere to their opinions, the present Ministry will fall before the voters in some of the French colonies shall have heard of its existence. It was the distrust with which the Republican Union viewed M. DE FREYCINET and M. FERRY that caused the former overthrow of those statesmen, and no pains have been taken to conciliate this important section of the Chamber by giving it a representative in the Cabinet. It would not be surprising, therefore, if the new Ministry succumbed in the contest already forced upon it by the Extreme Left; and its escape from strangulation almost in the hour of birth will be owing to the open advocacy or silent influence of GAMBETTA. Thus propped and rescued by the man whose place it has tried to occupy, it cannot hope to retain much weight or dignity in the Chamber, and it will figure before the country as one of those puppet Ministries which their master tolerates so long as they execute his orders, and which are brushed aside when he deems the hour propitious for his own assumption of office. That hour, according to GAMBETTA'S organ, will not come until the Chamber consents to ratify the *scrutin de liste*, or until an appeal is taken to the country on that issue.

Mayor Low's Second Batch.

Mayor LOW of Brooklyn made his second batch of municipal appointments yesterday, filling the most important offices under the city government, and those to which belongs the most patronage.

The selection of Mr. RIPLEY ROPES for Commissioner of City Works is as good a choice as could be made. By his integrity, ability, and energetic interest in public affairs, Mr. ROPES has won the respect of the good citizens of Brooklyn, irrespective of party, and they will rely with entire confidence upon a wise and honest administration of the important department now committed to his charge.

Col. JOHN N. PARTRIDGE, the newly appointed Fire Commissioner, commands the Twenty-third Regiment, which is the best known militia organization in Brooklyn. Although without political experience, his military training ought to be a qualification for his new office.

Major-Gen. JAMES JOURDAN is continued at the head of the Police Department, and his reappointment is fully justified by the general efficiency and discipline of the Brooklyn police force.

The new Health Commissioner is Dr. JOSEPH H. RAYMOND, who has long been connected with the department over which he is now called upon to preside, and who has acquired an excellent reputation in the office of Sanitary Superintendent.

These gentlemen are all Republicans. The Democratic party is not recognized in Mayor Low's second batch of appointments, except in the bestowal of one comparatively inferior office. However, the Mayor has appointed men who will be likely to do their duties well, and, being himself a Republican, it is not strange he has chosen Republicans.

Our Vacant Pulpits.

The death of the late Dr. BELLOWS leaves vacant another of the prominent pulpits of New York, and it is hard to see how his parish can find a successor who will keep them together.

Unitarianism has never got any very strong hold in New York. But it was more powerful here as a distinct sect a quarter of a century ago than it is now.

The energy of Dr. BELLOWS has kept one church of the denomination alive in the city, though even that one has not been growing, and the pulpit eloquence of Mr. COLLYER has put some vitality into the other society. Besides these two, the Unitarians have no church here, with the exception of a struggling chapel in Harlem.

Among the Unitarians, as also among other religious denominations, the scarcity of exceptional pulpit talent begins to attract attention. Even communions far more aggressive and more enthusiastic in their devotion to their faith confess that the recruits now furnished to the ministry from their theological seminaries are not of promising material. If All Souls Church shall find difficulty in getting a suitable minister, they will not be alone in their embarrassment.

The Presbyterians went abroad to find occupants for their most conspicuous vacant pulpits. The Dutch Reformed people did the same thing when the rich collegiate church at Fifth avenue and Twenty-ninth street wanted a pastor. The Congregationalists crossed the ocean to seek a successor to Dr. THOMPSON at the Tabernacle. Calvary Church has been without a rector since the death of Dr. WASHBURN a year ago, though the vestry have searched far and near to find one to fill his place. And when they did call one he was a Scotchman from Canada, who did not answer them favorably. Dr. TYNG'S place has never been supplied in St. George's Church. The death of Dr. JOHN COTTON SMITH leaves another leading Episcopal church without a rector; and now, we understand, there is on foot a movement to call to that pulpit the Rev. Mr. COURTNEY, an Englishman.

The Union Theological Seminary of this city, a Presbyterian divinity school, has lately succeeded in raising a large sum of money to increase its endowment and to extend its buildings; but what our theological seminaries need more than money is a better quality of students. In no profession are the opportunities for advancement for a young man of real talent and real power so great as in the ministry. Elsewhere the competition is stronger, and progress much slower. Law, medicine, and, nowadays, the profession of engineering are overloaded. The brightest graduates of colleges rarely think of serving the Church, and clever young men generally prefer business to the ministry. Perhaps, having no devout belief, they could not preach the faith without an hypocrisy they will not assume. The consequence is that the pupils of the divinity schools are often of mediocre intellectual capacity, and many of them, we are sorry to say, are slothful fellows, who, entering a theological seminary because there they will be supported, or young men who can never make a living by the independent exercise of their talents.

It is a remarkable and suggestive circumstance that there are now several churches of the greatest prominence and largest wealth in New York which are hunting in vain for pastors. They are ready to pay high salaries, salaries equal to the incomes of men in the secular professions who have won exceptional success, and yet they cannot fill their pulpits satisfactorily.

Referring to the deadlock in the Legislature, the *Tribune* exclaims: "How long would it take a party with some first-class leaders to settle the disgraceful quarrel at Albany? Just about twenty-four hours."

If this be true, the Republicans are to be pitied. They are one of the mainsprings in the deadlock. Are there no first-class leaders of that party in New York? Mr. CONKLING, we know, was supposed to be exterminated last summer, and Gen. ARTHUR has left the State, and Gov. CORNELL is in an equivocal position. But where are WILLIAM A. WHEELER, who figured for a while as Fraudulent Vice-President, and EVARTS and SCHURZ, the ex-Secretaries, and Collector ROBERTSON and the Custom House, and the eloquent DEFREY, who came so near getting TOM PLATT'S seat, and WARNER MILLER, who actually got it, and Gov. FENTON, and scores of other Half Breed statesmen of the size of LORIN B. SESSIONS? Are these not first-class leaders? And why don't they go to Albany and settle this quarrel?

Star Route BRADY has sold the *National Republican* to a syndicate of the President's friends. The price is not reported.

The House bill which has been under the consideration of the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, creating a commission to investigate this traffic and its relation to the cause of temperance, will not accomplish anything of importance, if passed, beyond giving fat places to the various commissioners, as they are to have a salary of $5,000 each. Presumably, also, they can get their drinks free, if they choose, during the term of their continuance in office.

Every such commission is a humbug of purest ray serene.

The resolution introduced into the Senate at Albany yesterday by Mr. TITUS is worth noting. It is as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the Superintendent of State Prisons be required to report to the Senate within ten days, in addition to such matters as are usually reported, first, the number of convicts in the different prisons employed in contract labor; second, the different occupations in which such labor is employed; third, the price paid per day or hour, and the number of hours work each day; fourth, the names of persons employing such convict labor; fifth, whether such labor is let to the highest bidder or by private contract; sixth, whether any and if so, what legislation is necessary to protect honest industry against unfair competition from the convict labor system."

Considering that the Superintendent has reported that the net profits of contract labor last year reached a large surplus over the entire prison expenses, and since for the month of January the total earnings at Sing Sing prison were $20,709.65, and the total expenditures for the same month $17,668, leaving a net profit for the month of $3,041.65, there is ground for making the investigations called for by the resolution of Mr. TITUS.

The world moves queerly. The Virginia House of Delegates yesterday reported adversely the bills abolishing whipping posts and chain gangs.

The direct despatch from Lieut. DANENHOWER throws some light on the voyage of the Jeannette, and its few words indicate how little that voyage really accomplished. She entered the ice Sept. 6, 1879, and her fortune was twisted from the 1st of January. Lieut. DANENHOWER proceeds as follows:

"We pumped for eighteen months. The vessel drifted to the northwest during twenty-one months. She was crushed and sank on June 12, in latitude 70° 15' north, longitude 156° 39' west."

It is clear, then, that the Jeannette was at once controlled by the ice, even before she had reached her main field of service, and drifted during the entire twenty-one months from Sept. 6, 1879, to the loss of the vessel, June 12, 1881. The latitude, too, where this final disaster occurred, presumably the highest reached, was too low to make the voyage one of much consequence in Arctic discoveries. Yet this was a misfortune which could not be foreseen. The element of chance must largely enter into any campaign in the polar seas, no matter with what energy and skill the expedition is fitted out and conducted. The Jeannette did discover three islands, and in other ways her experience, when known, will unquestionably have its uses. That her crew stuck to her a year and a half after the injury to her, pumping through all that weary time, and not abandoning her till she sank, is proof enough of their pluck and persistency against ill fortune.

Tuesday's fall of snow will try the mettle of the men who have contracted to keep the city's streets clean, and who began work on their contracts last night. If Mr. PLUNGER WALTON, who is one of the contractors, succeeds in doing the job well, he will make himself a great name in New York. He may not make as much money or get as much notoriety as he did by backing winning racehorses in England, but he will do more good.

SINDERAM's counsel succeeded yesterday in getting a writ of error, under which his case may be reviewed by the Court of Appeals. As he was to have been hanged next week, the Sheriff's death watch having been already set on him, no doubt a respite will be asked and granted until the Court of Appeals looks over the case. Thus the indifference to life manifested by this murderer will be followed by giving him a few extra days of existence, while others who have passionately begged for more time have begged in vain.

The English racing season always begins in advance of the New York season; but at Charleston the so-called spring races opened yesterday with a meeting which is to last four days, four races being run each day. They could not begin much earlier without dating back into the previous season.

Capt. EADS has received a severe set-back from the House Committee on Commerce, which decided on Tuesday to report adversely on the bill guaranteeing him six per cent. interest on $50,000,000 worth of bonds, for fifteen years, with which to pay his stockholders. On the same day he turned to the Senate Committee on Commerce and made a plea to them for his project; but there is no reason why the Senate Committee should not take the same sensible view of the matter as the House, and thus relieve Congress even from the discussion of a scheme so preposterous.

Mediation in South America.

LONDON, Feb. 1.—The *Times*, in a leading article this morning, says: "Mediation in the South American war seems as Mr. Evarts intends has commenced in Mr. Trescot's mission. Conducted with the degree of private good feeling which is the utmost that peace-loving people can hope for, the mediation must be regarded by all the nations with as sincere good will as it deserves on their previous behalf."

DEMOCRATIC CLUBS.

A Suggestion from a Relic of the Days when Democracy was Understood.

SYRACUSE, Jan. 31.—During the recent gathering of the Grand Army here, I was introduced to the father of a middle-aged delegate, a hale old man of some 76 or 77 years, who had come down from the north to see what his son was up to, as he said. I learned that the old man had been a clerk of some sort at Washington, in the Senate, I think, while Silas Wright was Senator—away back in the days of Van Buren's Administration. The subject was introduced by some stray comment on the current fashion of comparing Arthur with Van Buren. The old man laughed at this:

"I can't see any points of resemblance at all," he said, "unless it be that both have good manners. There has been such a succession of rough Westerners in the White House, that the moment they get a man there who knows how to wear kid gloves and can enter a room politely, they fall to searching history for a parallel for him. But Van Buren was a man of altogether different mould from Arthur. In their relations to politics they are not alike. Mr. Van Buren was something more than a politician, something larger than a mere heir of Jackson's policy and mantle. He had made a big reputation as Governor of New York, as Senator, and as Vice-President before he went to the White House. He stood on a foundation of his own making. He was a reserved and cautious man; his enemies used to call him Old Non-Committal, as we call a man a straddler nowadays. But he knew how to handle men well, and kept faction out of his party. When his term expired he got the unanimous renomination of his party, and would have been elected but for the bank troubles and the business panic. Do you think Arthur will get the unanimous renomination of his party in 1884? I guess not.

"I saw an article in THE SUN a few days ago which spoke of the Democratic clubs formed along the first part of the century which broke the back of Federalism, and it set me thinking. When I was in Washington forty-five years ago there were such Democrats in the Senate as Silas Wright (my patron), Thomas H. Benton, Franklin Pierce, John C. Calhoun, William R. King, and James Buchanan. I remember William Allen, too, who had just succeeded old Thomas Ewing, and a Richard Bayard, some ancestor of the present Thomas F. Bayard. I might name a dozen others who were strong in debate, and had great reputations. Probably there are just as able men in the Democratic half of the Senate to-day. But they don't seem to know Democracy as the old ones knew it. They fight for economy—sometimes—and for party capital. But I miss the old ring of the Constitution and the common law, the old 'Age of Reason' ring which we used to hear. They have lost it, and the people behind them have lost it. To tell the truth, Democracy seems to mean now a refuge for people when Republicanism gets too rotten for them to stand it any longer. It isn't very creditable for a party to occupy such a position. There is nothing attractive to young men of spirit in a party which follows the other around, shying stones at it from a safe distance, and looking to profit by its mistakes.

"Now, Democracy, rightly pictured, is the most attractive of all things to young men. Jefferson and his fellows were all young men when they overthrew Adams and Hamilton. The young blood of the republic won that fight. We are in much such a condition now as they were in under the administrations of Washington and Adams. We are recovering from the effects of a long civil war, as they were from the Revolution. Now, as then, the rich men of a certain class, either from snobbishness or greed, think that a separate set of laws should be passed for them. It takes a little more practical turn now than it did then. Warner Miller's pulp monopoly on the tariff sheet, for instance, is more practical than the old Federalist Sedition law, and Jay Gould gets a man on the Supreme bench now for purposes of his pocket, while then a class put a Judge on that bench because he sneered at Jefferson's trousers and powdered his hair in the good old aristocratic way. The rich, the snobbish, the shoddy, the un-American, are using the names and deeds of Lincoln and Grant for the benefit of their class, just as Hamilton's party used the name of Washington and the memories of the Revolution eighty odd years ago. Now, as then, the pomp and parade and fine equipage are on that side, and will attract our young men, unless Democracy sets up something still more inviting on the other side. In my village, for an illustration, I know several sons of Democratic fathers who train with the Republican side. The Democrats, they say, never elect anybody, and don't seem likely to, and are generally no good. I do not know any sons of Republican families who are Democrats. What is true of my village is true of others, I assume.

"Let us have our Democratic clubs again, Get Paine, and Jefferson, and Madison and Jackson out from the dusty shelves, and rather our young men—yes, and their elders, too—to discuss them, turn them over in their minds, and learn what Democracy really is. Then we will find the tide of young blood speedily turning one way, for all the logic, all the humanity, all the splendid arguments and eloquent appeals, are on our side.

"I found that this old man, who had many other comparisons to draw between the yesterday of Marcy and Wright and the to-day of Warner Miller and E. G. Lapham, had a theory that John Kelly was to Mahone in this State, or attempt it, under the direct supervision and encouragement of President Arthur, and elect Conkling Governor next fall.

A Grave Question of Law Answered.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Two of My friends, Mr. J. F. Mims and Paul Cullen, wishes to know through the columns of your paper if they ar Responsible when they Borrow a horse to Ride and the horse will not carry two and throws them of and kills himself If the Law compels them to Pay for the horse or not.

Yours Truly, N. B. ROBINSON.

SALMON CITY, Idaho Territory, Jan. the 22, 1882.

Major W. Bourke Corkran, a noted New York lawyer, to whom this question was referred, says:

If the owner of the horse knew that he was engaged to carry two persons, and it, by reason of any inherent defect in the horse's system he was unable to do so, neither of the riders is responsible. On the contrary, it is a grave question at law whether the riders cannot recover damages for injuries and delays. At all events, there ought to be a post mortem on the horse to ascertain whether death was due to defects in riding or to the inherent cussedness of the animal.

It gives us great pleasure to add that Col. John R. Fellows of the District Attorney's staff coincides with Major Corkran in this opinion.

An Amateur Athlete's Complaint.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I am an amateur athlete, but am debarred from competing in games given by the National Association, which are supposed to be open to all amateurs, because I competed in games given by a club which did not belong to the association, but whose members are strictly amateurs. They tried to join the association, but had their money refunded, and were rejected. Why, they were never able to find out; for they have applied to the association again and again without receiving any satisfaction. Now, is this right? I do not want to be a professional, as I only run for health and amusement. Has the National Association any power to do this? Let us straighten things up. In Canada, where we are using the names and deeds of Lincoln and Grant for the benefit of their class, just as Hamilton's party used the name of Washington and the memories of the Revolution eighty odd years ago. Now, as then, the pomp and parade and fine equipage are on that side, and will attract our young men, unless Democracy sets up something still more inviting on the other side. In my village, for an illustration, I know several sons of Democratic fathers who train with the Republican side. The Democrats, they say, never elect anybody, and don't seem likely to, and are generally no good. I do not know any sons of Republican families who are Democrats. What is true of my village is true of others, I assume.

"Let us have our Democratic clubs again, Get Paine, and Jefferson, and Madison and Jackson out from the dusty shelves, and rather our young men—yes, and their elders, too—to discuss them, turn them over in their minds, and learn what Democracy really is. Then we will find the tide of young blood speedily turning one way, for all the logic, all the humanity, all the splendid arguments and eloquent appeals, are on our side.

I found that this old man, who had many other comparisons to draw between the yesterday of Marcy and Wright and the to-day of Warner Miller and E. G. Lapham, had a theory that John Kelly was to Mahone in this State, or attempt it, under the direct supervision and encouragement of President Arthur, and elect Conkling Governor next fall.

A Grave Question of Law Answered.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Two of My friends, Mr. J. F. Mims and Paul Cullen, wishes to know through the columns of your paper if they ar Responsible when they Borrow a horse to Ride and the horse will not carry two and throws them of and kills himself If the Law compels them to Pay for the horse or not.

Yours Truly, N. B. ROBINSON.

SALMON CITY, Idaho Territory, Jan. the 22, 1882.

Major W. Bourke Corkran, a noted New York lawyer, to whom this question was referred, says:

If the owner of the horse knew that he was engaged to carry two persons, and it, by reason of any inherent defect in the horse's system he was unable to do so, neither of the riders is responsible. On the contrary, it is a grave question at law whether the riders cannot recover damages for injuries and delays. At all events, there ought to be a post mortem on the horse to ascertain whether death was due to defects in riding or to the inherent cussedness of the animal.

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D. W.

BROOKLYN, Jan. 31.

Soldiers' Fare.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: In the name of the four batteries of the Fifth Artillery stationed at this post, I desire to enter a protest against the manner in which we are fed. To say that the food is insufficient would be putting it altogether too mildly; to say that we not unfrequently go absolutely hungry would come nearer the truth. At breakfast we have cold, salty, greasy fat pork, with a piece of bread long by eight inches, and a bowl of weak watery coffee. For a change we sometimes get about half a pound of baked beans. Who ever heard of baked beans for breakfast? Our dinners are slightly better and sometimes tolerable, but supper—what a misnomer in Fort Hamilton!—is almost utterly useless, for bread and coffee, and that is served to us at 4 o'clock A.M. on the afternoon. Think of our coming in from general police duty, after being out all day, and getting nothing to appease their appetite but bread and coffee! It is preposterous and shameful. But who is to blame?

FIFTH ARTILLERY.

FORT HAMILTON, Jan. 31.

The Bow and Arrow to Save Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: In viewing the ruins caused by the late fire, an idea occurred to me that might have been of use in saving life if it had been thought of before, and is by cannot it be of use hereafter. Let one or more of the fire companies carry one of the long rope ladders and also bows and arrows with the bow and arrow, with which he could shoot a small cord into the upper story windows, so that the ladder could be raised by those whose lives were in peril.

J.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.

An Expert on Barbed Fences.

From the Boston Post.

"Yes," said the farmer, "barbed wire fence is an article that the hired man doesn't stand any chance in competition on the legend, it every time he hits the fence."

Aged 112.

BOSTON, Feb. 1.—Boston's oldest inhabitant died to-day. He is a native Russian, who was in his one hundred and twenty-first.

EX-JUDGE SPEIR'S AGE.

Testimony Taken in the Quo Warranto Proceedings Against Judge Arnoux.

BALLSTON, N. Y., Feb. 1.—The Hon. John H. McFarland of Salem, special referee appointed by Judge Potter to take and perpetuate the testimony of William Wilson of Saratoga Springs, an aged and infirm man, for the relator in the quo warranto action of the People ex rel. Richard O'Gorman agt. William H. Arnoux, to determine which is entitled to the seat on the New York Superior bench made vacant by the arrival of ex-Judge Gilbert M. Speir to the age of 70 years, sat in the Court House here to-day for that purpose. The relator was present with his counsel, William C. Traill of New York, and Langdon, Duke, and Whalen of Ballston Spa. The respondent was also present, and had the legal aid of Gen. Stewart L. Woodford.

Mr. Wilson was in very feeble health, and had to be allowed frequent intervals of rest during the examination. He testified that he was a cousin of ex-Judge Speir, his mother being sister to the Judge's father. Their fathers lived on adjoining farms in the town of Ballston. He was born on Aug. 14, 1802. Judge Speir's father had fourteen children. Archibald Speir, older brother of the Judge, was born in the same year as witness, Jeannette in 1804, John J. in 1806, Moses G. in 1808, Gilbert M. and William, twins, in 1810, Bradford in 1812, and Mary in 1814. All the others are dead. But the Judge has heard the two years' difference between all their ages discussed in his youth by members of the Speir family, and has heard his mother speak of it. Witness never heard the mother disputed until within two or three years, and then only by Judge Speir himself. Witness lived the first fifty years of his life either on the farm with his father, or on his own farm, near by, in Milton, about three miles from his native farm. He moved to Saratoga Springs about ten years ago. He had been a member and trustee of the West Milton Presbyterian church many years, and an elder in it over forty years. There is a cemetery adjoining that church, and the deceased members of Judge Speir's family lie buried in it. He has seen their tombstones. The Judge's twin brother lived a few days only. The Judge lived at home until he entered college, when about 20 years of age. Witness was very intimate with him in his youth, and uninterrupted social relations have always existed between them. Had frequently exchanged family visits. He last saw the Judge at the funeral of his brother, John Speir, about two years ago. Witness gave the dates from memory. He had no memoranda of these events. He had been a farmer and paper manufacturer, and was for many years a magistrate of his town, and was one time a member of the County Court.

On cross-examination by Gen. Woodford, witness said that he knew his own age from his mother's statements, corroborated by his elder sisters and brothers. His mother said he was born on Aug. 14, 1802. If his aunt, Mrs. Speir, had said he was born in 1800, he would have believed the best supported evidence after he had come to the age of reason. He never saw the Speir family record nor knew that there was one until he was told of it last fall. He was interviewed on the subject then by two New York reporters. He had heard that the Speir family Bible and record had been kept by Bradford Speir, and that his widow had let it pass from her possession, and that it was now deposited in the Saratoga County Clerk's office. He saw what purported to be a copy of that record, published in a New York paper. It was wrong in giving only four or five months' difference between the ages of Bradford and Mary Speir. She married Richard Wager, and is yet living. Witness remembers the date of her birth in 1814, and knows that it was over two years after the birth of Bradford.

At this point the old gentleman became greatly fatigued, and, by consent, the examination was adjourned to Saratoga Springs at 10 A. M. on Thursday. The venue in this action is laid in Schenectady County. The next circuit convenes there on April 10, at which Justice Charles P. Tappan will preside.

American Manufactures Abroad.

Although the general impression is that the important position held by America in foreign markets is due almost wholly to our immense production of raw material, yet American manufactures also obtain a recognition, all the more notable from the fact that it is generally reluctant. Even in Russia, to which our direct exports are inconsiderable, the reputation of American hardware is so high that it is sold to some extent by German and English houses, but the most of the goods sold as American are imitations. The American Consul at Moscow says even the names of the makers of goods selected for imitation are retained in the spurious and inferior products. The Consul at Crefeld, Germany, reports that the preference for American sewing machines is so great that the German manufacturers adopt the brands of American makers, and attempt to justify the deceit on the ground that the makers' names are mere commercial terms, like Bessemer steel or Windsor soap, and do not designate any special make. It is also reported that German manufacturers vigorously assail the character and quality of American goods, while constantly putting cheap imitations of them on the market. An adjustable chair vaunted as superior to anything made in America was found, on examination, to be an exact imitation of an American chair. Nevertheless, stores in Germany making a specialty of the sale of American sewing machines, stoves, agricultural implements, and labor saving articles, are doing a flourishing business. The market would become extensive were it not for the tariff imposed by the empire. A growing trade in American shirting and paste has already been wiped out by tariff exactions. But while American products are gradually received, there is no indisposition to appropriate the discoveries of American inventors. Our Consul at Leipsic reports that a machine for producing silk tape, which is coming into general use in France and Italy, is the design of an American inventor.

Candlemas Day.

To-day at noon, if the traditions of the past are true, the woodchuck, the ground hog, or the bear, just as you please, will come out of the hole in which he has been spending the winter, and will take his bearings. The legend says that if he sees his shadow on