The Sun.

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1882.

Amusements To-Day.

Academy of Music—L'Africaine.
Abbey's Park Theatre—Divorcons.
Bijou Opera House—The Pirates of Penzance.
Booth's Theatre—Billee Taylor.
Brooklyn Park Theatre—Sell-a-Mor.
Bunnell's Museum—Broadway and 9th st.
Daly's Theatre—Odette.
Grand Opera House—The World.
Globe Dime Museum—298 Bowery.
Haverly's Niblo's Garden—Sam'l of Posen.
Haverly's 14th St. Theatre—Mastodon Minstrels.
Haverly's 5th Av. Theatre—Crown of Thorns.
Haverly's Theatre, Brooklyn—Black Crook.
Madison Square Garden—Circus. Matinee.
Madison Square Theatre—Esmeralda.
Novelty Theatre, Brooklyn—Passing Regiment.
National Academy of Design—Exhibition.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Standard Theatre—Claude Duval.
Thalia Theatre—The Merry War.
Theatre Comique—Squatter Sovereignty.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Billee Taylor.
Union Square Theatre—The Lights o' London.
Wallack's Theatre—Youth.
Windsor Theatre—Joshua Whitcomb.
Worth's Museum.—101 Bowery.

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending March 25, 1882, was:*

Sunday	144,300	Weekly	66,525
Monday	137,267	Thursday	137,180
Tuesday	137,506	Friday	136,888
Wednesday	137,182	Saturday	138,480

Total for the week.....1,035,328

The New Bargain at Albany.

Tammany made a bargain with the Republicans in 1871, in consequence of which this city was robbed of millions of dollars. None of the Republicans concerned in that deal gloried in their shame. All sought excuses, and all were finally driven to private life.

This year Tammany has driven a new bargain. The negotiator is a prominent Republican and a leading member of the late Canal Ring. Senator McCARTHY of Syracuse, driven to cover, confesses that the negotiator was governed by personal considerations in making this bargain. He had been persecuted by Mr. TILDEN, said McCARTHY, and he had brought about a coalition of the Tammany and Republican Senators to punish that gentleman.

Just how Mr. TILDEN persecuted the negotiator is shown elsewhere by extracts from the leading Republican newspapers. These extracts stigmatize the members of the Canal Ring as thieves and robbers. They declare that Mr. TILDEN saved the State millions of dollars by his "persecution" of these thieves; and seven years ago they predicted that by such persecution he would excite a "furious personal hatred which would seek revenge."

Senator McCARTHY, unlike his Republican predecessors of 1871, glories in his shame. While speaking for himself, however, he assumes to speak for his Republican colleagues. "You and I," said he, referring to the negotiator, "would have done the same thing." This speech was made six weeks ago, and not a Republican Senator has denied the assumption. Are we to infer that such Senators as RUSSELL, McARTHUR, BOWEN (not GEORGE), LYNDE, LANSING, HOLMES, THOMAS, EVANS, BALDWIN, LORD (not JARVIS), PITTS, ELLSWORTH, and ALLEN are also the willing instruments of the revenge of the canal thieves?

The Useless Mission.

We are said to be on the very best terms with England; but when Mr. LOWELL meekly asked the reason why several respectable Irish-American citizens had been imprisoned nearly a year, without a hearing of any kind, Lord GRANVILLE snubbed him with the curt and contemptuous answer "that in no case could information be given beyond the statements of the warrant of arrest."

Now, these citizens may be held wholly on charges of perjured informers or of hired spies, without an opportunity of defence or relief, and with not the least prospect of redress so long as the Government refuses to bring them to trial. While Lord GRANVILLE insultingly declined to give any satisfaction to our Minister, and while Mr. LOWELL complacently pocketed the affront and officially declared it to be sufficient for him against any further application on behalf of our citizens, the outraged prisoners from their cells denounced the allegations in the warrants as false and fabricated.

This very unpleasant experience illustrates the absurdity of maintaining missions merely to gratify the vanity of persons whose first ambition is to gain favor at the courts where they may reside. An American Minister who is unwilling to disturb social relations by the least assertion of American manhood or by any defence of American citizenship ought to be called home.

What Ought to be Abolished.

The Consular and Diplomatic bill, as passed by the Senate on Wednesday, has been stripped of various provisions made by the House for consolidation and simplification, few and cautious as those provisions were.

The House had united the consulates at Panama and Aspinwall; the Senate now demands their separate maintenance. The House had classified anew the consulates to suit modern changes; the Senate accepts only a few of these arrangements, and mainly continues the present order. The House had merged the Argentine and Uruguay missions, and also the Brazil and Paraguay; the Senate restores the present system of a Chargé d'Affaires in Paraguay and Uruguay. The House had transferred the duties of the Secretaries of Legation at St. Petersburg, Vienna, and Rome to the Consuls-General at those cities; this proposition is also rejected. The only important House projects approved are those to give to the Minister and Consul-General at Bucharest the charge of any diplomatic business we may have with Greece and Servia, and to raise the rank of our representatives at Berne and Lisbon. The House proposition to reduce the pay of the Minister to Venezuela is rejected; so is the attempted abolition of the separate mission to the Netherlands, and the addition of the latter to Belgium; so is the effort to consolidate Denmark with Sweden and Norway.

The rights conferred on the Senate under that provision of the Constitution which declares that the President "shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate shall appoint, ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls," are evidently guarded with jealousy by that body. Seldom is any House suggestion for the improvement of the foreign service accepted by the Senate, and still more seldom is such a suggestion originated in the latter body. Yet there is great absurdity in not practically recognizing the changes in the means of transportation and the communication of intelligence since the diplomatic system was founded.

The whole system of steam locomotion, by land and sea, has been established since that epoch; so has the magnetic telegraph, stretching across continents and oceans. The original reason for sending resident ministers to do that diplomatic business which might not be seasonably accomplished from Washington has disappeared. Yet the Senate ignores these great changes in its routine arrangements for the diplomatic service.

Our foreign service, too, is notoriously full of scandals, in one part or another. HAYES sends INDEX NOYES to Paris, and President ARTHUR finds a place for EFFIGY SARGENT at Berlin and for JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG in China. It may be judged how the less important missions are used. There is always at least one United States Minister mixed up in some suspicious or disreputable scheme—if not a guano speculation, then a nitrate job or perhaps a railway concession. During the past year, on the South Pacific alone, the Minister to Colombia has offended the Foreign Office of that republic, while Minister KILPATRICK in Chili, Minister HURLBUT in Peru, and Minister ADAMS in Bolivia have contradicted each other, our South American diplomacy becoming a laughing stock and a disgrace. The multiplication of foreign resident diplomatic representatives in contiguous countries simply multiplies the chances of gross and dangerous errors in doing what could all be done at Washington.

But the Senate still refuses to do anything to reform this preposterous concern.

The Extermination of Game.

The day when our buffalo, or bison, will become extinct seems to be near at hand. The coming generation is likely to know the animal only as we know the mammoth and the great auk, by seeing preserved specimens in natural history museums. Nor is the buffalo alone passing away. All the other large game of the Western Territories is now slaughtered at such a rate by sportsmen and men who make a business of selling the hides and meat of the animals that they must before long become as rare at the far West as they now are at the East.

Large game is at present most plentiful in Montana and Wyoming. Consequently, the hunters for pelts have made those Territories the scene of their operations, and amateur sportsmen, domestic and foreign, are to be found there in considerable numbers throughout the open game season, which lasts from the first of August to the first of February or March. It is lawful then to kill the game, provided their meat is utilized. But, as matter of fact, the slaughter is done chiefly in order to secure the pelts, and these now being comparatively high in price, the incentive to destroy the buffaloes, deer, elk, and antelopes is greater than ever. In the closed season under the law, too, the work of destruction goes on with few checks. The region is so vast and thinly populated, there is so little vigor in enforcing the law, and the cost of its execution is so great, that it is almost a dead letter. Even at the East, despite the most strenuous exertions of sportsmen's associations, it has been found impossible to altogether prevent the killing of game out of season, or by methods which are illegal and outrageous. In Wyoming and Montana, of course, the difficulty of protecting it from wanton slaughter, or that done from motives of pecuniary greed, is far greater.

During the shooting season, the Adirondacks are overrun with sportsmen of one sort and another. That mountain region has become of late years the seat of many resorts which are growing more and more fashionable. The day when the comparatively small amount of game remaining will be driven out of the North Woods is therefore fast approaching. All the shooting grounds of Long Island which are not closely guarded by private owners are crowded with men with guns throughout the season of flight for the birds. It is the same in New Jersey and further south. Since Florida has become a great winter and spring resort, the banging of guns is heard constantly in all parts of the peninsula. The destruction of game is going on at a rate which is rapidly spoiling all the shooting grounds of the country.

The poor migratory birds have a hard struggle for life. As a correspondent of the *Forest and Stream* remarks, "From the time the ducks and geese cross the forty-ninth parallel in September on their way south, and their return again in May, they are under a constant fusillade, the badly wounded numbering about as many as those bagged; and so with the snipe." The grouse are going the same way. "The work on them is of shorter duration, but far more effective, for every sportsman of the Eastern States is dumped out on the prairies of the West, and there is a constant banging heard in every township for several months." The amount of game has much decreased in the Mississippi valley within six or seven years, and soon the condition with respect to it will be the same there as it is in the Northern States to the east of the Alleghanies.

As to the large game, the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad drove it out of Colorado, there being no efficient laws for its protection; and now the Northern Pacific promises to do the same thing for Montana and Wyoming. Two or three years ago the price of deer and antelope skins there was less than fifteen cents a pound, and of elk skins less than twelve cents. As a consequence, the motive to kill the animals was not great, unless they were wanted for food. The business of gathering pelts was not profitable enough. But since then deer and antelope pelts have risen to twenty-five and thirty-five cents, and elk skins, which had before been of little value, rose last spring to twenty-two and twenty-five cents a pound, $2.50 to $7 a hide. Accordingly, it has become profitable to destroy the animals. The writer from whom we have already quoted gives figures to show the rate at which the slaughter goes on since the price of pelts advanced. From the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers there were shipped in 1880 and 1881 the following number of hides:

	1880.	1881.
Buffalo	27,700	110,000
Deer and antelope	107,000	143,000
Elk		5,200
Total	134,700	258,200

The value of these shipments in money on the river bank was nearly $450,000 in 1881. But the sum had to be distributed among a large number of persons, the correspondent of the *Forest and Stream* estimating them at as many as fifteen hundred. With very few exceptions, he says, the buffalo hunters make only a bare living. Their expenses for provisions, ammunition, labor, and other necessities are high and constant, and the contingencies of their business are many. Their work, too, is of the hardest kind, and must be done during the severest winter weather.

The number of hides shipped does not by any means represent the whole number of animals killed. Twenty-five or thirty per cent. should be added before we include all. We must, therefore, estimate the total in 1881 at about three hundred thousand. This writer, even allowing for a considerable natural increase annually, concludes that "the large bands of buffaloes will last about four years at the present rate of killing." Then their entire extirpation will be only a matter of time.

In view of the futility of the efforts of the Territorial authorities to protect the game, Mr. POST of Wyoming has introduced into Congress a bill making it unlawful for any person or persons to kill or destroy any elk, deer, antelope, buffalo, mountain sheep, or bison in any of the Territories of the United States, at any time, except for food, and then only when necessary for human subsistence. The quantity required for domestic market food supply may, however, be killed, and nothing in the bill is to prevent that. The bill also forbids the transportation out of the Territories of any of the animals named, either dead or alive, or the skins or pelts of any. It makes it unlawful to deal in the animals or in their skins. Infractions of the law are to be punished after conviction by fine or fine and imprisonment.

Even if such a law is passed, however, it is not likely that it will put an effectual stop to the slaughter which is now threatening to render extinct our large game. But if it is honestly enforced it will lessen the rate of destruction. The bill is now with the Committee on Territories, who cannot allow it to remain unreported without earning the censure of every true sportsman.

The Pacific Railroads.

A report from the Secretary of the Interior, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, shows the net earnings for a series of years of five Pacific railroads. So much valuable information is conveyed by these figures that we present the exhibit in condensed form:

	Net Earnings.
Central Pacific from December, 1869, to December, 1881	$64,557,717 75
Union Pacific from November, 1869, to December, 1881	79,685,454 19
Central branch Union Pacific from October, 1868, to December, 1881	1,451,191 90
Kansas Pacific from November, 1868, to December, 1879	11,031,270 04
Sioux City and Pacific from September, 1868, to December, 1881	1,191,992 64
Total	$157,917,632 52

The subsidies in land grants and in money furnished a fund more than sufficient to build these roads. No such liberality was ever before exhibited by any Government. Under a decision of the Supreme Court, the Treasury has paid the interest on its own bonds, issued to construct these roads, and will continue to pay it until the bonds mature.

Yet with all these enormous benefits the corporations have fought the Government as a bitter enemy, and have refused to pay even the small percentage which the charters required. Now they are planning to overthrow the THURMAN act.

The net earnings, so called, do not represent by any means the entire profits of the roads. Many of the figures are of questionable veracity. The Southern Pacific is alleged to have been built entirely from the profits of the Central Pacific, both of them being controlled by half a dozen individuals.

When it is remembered that the capital for the Pacific roads came out of the public treasury, the stupendous value of the franchises may be estimated. And still the corporations are not happy. They have enlisted for another long war against the Government, which, partly in ignorance and partly through corruption, made these enormous grants.

Costly Building.

Preparations for building in the city on an extensive scale this spring were made throughout last winter. The architects were all busy with the drawing of plans for structures of many kinds, and the prospect was that even the unparalleled amount of capital put in new buildings in 1881 would be exceeded by that thus invested in 1882. A large number of the contemplated structures were even of extraordinary costliness and great architectural pretensions.

The cost of construction, however, has advanced so largely that it is now doubtful whether many of the projects for new buildings will not be either abandoned or held in abeyance. The erection of the proposed new opera house up town, for instance, has been put off to some indeterminable time in the future, and building on speculation has received a decided check. Houses are put on the market this spring at great figures, but their sale is not rapid enough to stimulate speculators to freely invest their money in new structures, whose cost at present prices for land, labor, and materials must be perhaps a third more than that of those already built. Brick have again advanced, Portland cement is higher, and all building materials are stiffly held at large prices.

Spite of these obstacles, however, a great amount of building will be done this year. In many cases the preparations have gone too far for the work to be abandoned. In others the confident expectation of high rents induces landlords to go ahead regardless of cost, or competition may force the outlay on them. A large number of men who are able to gratify their desires even at lavish expense are anxious for elegant residences which shall bear comparison with the more original, more beautiful and capacious, of those put up of late years in the fashionable part of the town. The handsome incomes derived from the best class of apartment houses already built encourage the erection of others of equal or greater elegance, and several are to be put up by the building associations which have recently been organized.

If, therefore, the great cost of construction shall put a temporary stop to speculative building, it still will not prevent the continuance of the erection of elegant and luxurious residences especially. The men who can afford to build them will not be deterred by the extra expense, nor will they delay unless they anticipate a speedy decline in prices, of which there is now no indication. Even residences grander than those of the VANDERBILTS are likely to be erected in the not distant future, for Mr. VANDERBILT made one grave mistake in building his house, by which other men of great capital will profit hereafter.

A house in New York may be of enormous size, of extraordinary architectural beauty and solidity, and of most costly adornment, and yet it will not be impressive by reason of its palatial grandeur if it is not surrounded by open space. It will not be so suggestive of unlimited wealth and luxurious taste as if it stood, though in a crowded city, in the midst of ample grounds. A magnificent residence placed in the centre of land equal in area to that of one of our blocks, with a lawn, cultivated grounds, handsome approaches, and suitable subsidiary structures, would put Mr. VANDERBILT's costly home far in the shade.

The action of the House Committee on Appropriations, at the close of the week, in deciding to recommend non-concurrence in the Senate's amendment to the Post Office bill, restoring the franking privilege to Congress, should be sustained in the House. It is such burdens as franking privileges and Star routes that stand in the way of cheaper postage for the people. Why should Congressmen favor themselves in this matter?

The retirement of Gen. McDOWELL, the promotion of Gen. POPE to the vacant Major-Generalship, and the promotion of Col. RANALD S. MACKENZIE of the Fourth Cavalry to the vacant Brigadiership form a series of events that have long been anticipated in the army, though there have always been chances of their not happening in this order, and of their being postponed still further. Gen. McDOWELL has been for years over the age when the President is authorized by statute, in his discretion, to place an army officer on the retired list; but under Mr. R. B. HAYES and under President GARFIELD his position was believed to be safe, from personal considerations, irrespective of his years. The friends of compulsory retirement at 62 have long looked upon Gen. McDOWELL, however, as being a marked individual obstacle to the general principle which they desire to see established. Gen. POPE deserves his promotion by virtue of seniority. It was at one time thought that some sustainers of FITZ JOHN PORTER would raise obstacles to POPE's advancement; but POPE would on that very account find friends to rally around him and insist on his rights. Gen. TERRY's name had been suggested for the vacancy, with the view of having one of the three Major Generals an officer wholly the product of the volunteer service. But this was not held to be a good ground for breaking the line of promotion, the reward of a Brigadiership in the regular army, even before the end of the war, being regarded as already a distinguished preference. The popularity of Gen. CROOK caused his name to be favorably presented for the vacant Major-Generalship; but there were four other officers his seniors by many years. Col. MACKENZIE was well understood to be practically sure of the Brigadier-Generalship, although two Colonels in his own arm, EDWARD HATCH of the Ninth Cavalry and GRIERSON of the Tenth, were his lineal seniors, besides one Colonel in the artillery, and half a dozen or more in the infantry, including several famous names. But MACKENZIE, like his predecessor on the list, MILES, has always been a dashing officer, and was the only candidate brought forward to contend with MILES when the latter was promoted. The suggestion, about that time, of a brother officer, who found him one night gazing at the sky, "MACKENZIE, it's no use—there's MILES between you and that star!" can now be remembered good-naturedly. HAZEN, who always had strong influences working for him in Washington, had already received his Brigadiership as signal officer, so that MACKENZIE's turn next became assured.

The first week of the English racing season opened with a share of its honors for America; for although Mistake and Aranza were unplaced on Wednesday in the Lincolnshire Handicap, Mistake finishing fifth in a field of twenty-five, yet on Saturday Wallenstein very easily won the Liverpool Spring Cup, finishing four lengths ahead of his nearest competitor. The brilliant way in which Wallenstein wound up his last season with winning the Great Shropshire Handicap, and has now opened his present one, will suggest that his change of ownership may improve his reputation. Prior to his sale to Lord ELLESMERE he had run many times, as a four-year old, without winning, and he had seemed unable to repeat the best performances of his previous year.

The ill feeling between some of the regiments on duty in Ireland, culminating in an attack by a part of the Eighty-eighth, the Connaught Rangers, upon the Eighty-fourth, which was recruited in England, is significant. The Connaughts were aided by some of the Irish people, who are likely to infer from this affair that at least they have sympathetic friends among the Irish regiments of the army.

The successful experiment made the other day on the Long Island Railroad in using petroleum instead of coal for fuel will probably lead to renewed trials. According to the reports, a combination of vapor from petroleum, superheated steam, and hot air was employed, and the cost of running a train on its regular time to Rockaway was only three-fifths of the cost of running it with coal. Should all drawbacks and disadvantages be removed and petroleum come into very general use for engines, it may be imagined how enormous would be the influence on the petroleum trade. This trade is already increasing greatly. For example, the exports for the first month of the present year were 30,148,954 gallons, as against 18,458,954 in January of last year. This rate of increase has been going on for many months. In the seven months ending with Feb. 1 there were 128,580,282 more gallons exported than in the corresponding months of the previous fiscal year, and a gain in value of nearly nine million dollars. The increasing use of petroleum as fuel will enormously stimulate its production.

Two more Readjuster members of the Virginia Legislature got into trouble last week, one calling the other a liar, and receiving a blow in return. After being arrested by the Sergeant-at-Arms they apologized and shook hands with much friendliness. The Readjusters at Richmond are prone to be belligerent, but it must be admitted that if swift to wrath they are also prompt at reconciliation. This was the case recently with Messrs. RIDDLEBERGER and SMITH, whose quarrel, starting with omens of a duel, ended in mutual explanations and a public handshaking. This seems to be the regular course for hasty but not vindictive Readjuster statesmen.

The people of the United States ought not soon to forget the name of KOOSMACH GUYMAYEFF, or, if they cannot remember that, at least they should be mindful of what this poor Russian exile did for Americans whom he found in distress. "On Oct. 8," says Engineer MELVILLE, in his official report of the pitiful wanderings of the crew of the Jeannette's whaleboat, under his command, "a Russian exile named KOOSMACH GUYMAYEFF discovered us accidentally. He gave us salt, *and all the food his scanty supply allowed.*" This was not all the banished wanderer did. After remaining to aid the party for a week, he went ahead to Belun, "to inform the commandant of that place of our presence, and obtain food and transportation." He was gone so long that his return was almost despaired of; but he came back a fortnight later, with food carried by himself, and the joyful news that the commandant was near by, with deer and sleds, to take the whole party to Belun. Nor does this complete the story. "On his way back, Oct. 26, KOOSMACH had met two of the first cutter's crew." These were NONOS and NINDERMANN of DE LONG's party, who had been without food for six days when this Russian exile, with two companions, succored them. A week later, when MELVILLE reached Belun, he found them still "in a very exhausted condition." In the letter of NONOS to his father, he says his feet had been frozen. "We walked 120 miles without anything to eat; for six days we had not a mouthful of food; we were most starved when found." Finally, the saving of their lives opened the only clue for MELVILLE to search for DE LONG's main party, left behind.

We find State Departments and Ministers exchanging compliments and thanks, over trifles, with courts and kings, and profuse in acknowledgments. But we do not observe as the result of this report received from MELVILLE any praises by our Government, in despatches sent to St. Petersburg, for this poor Siberian exile, himself perhaps banished from home and happiness, who thus saved our countrymen.

The Lawrence strike continues, and while a few of the operatives have gone to work in other cities, the great body are organizing and preparing for a long struggle. The manner in which they are supported by many of the business houses, the tradespeople, and other citizens of the town, indicates how much of the prosperity of this thriving community depends on the well-being of the factory operatives. It appears that on the very day when wages were cut down, the mills broke ground for a large five-story addition to their present capacious structures; and, according to accounts in the Lawrence papers, the foundation of the reduction is not in any state of the market, or of the times, but simply in the desire to get the cost of this new building out of what can be cut from the wages of their thousands of operatives.

Journalism in Florida.

From the Florida Union.

The Tampa *Progress* had a small leech, it says last Thursday. Possibly copies of the paper were sold within two hours after publication, and more could have been sold, but the supply ran out.

An Indiana Girl's Shoes.

From the Boston Post.

A Boston shoemaker has received an order for a pair of shoes for an Indiana girl. They are to be sixteen inches long by seven wide. The girl is aged 17, and weighs 195 pounds.

THE TARIFF LOBBY AT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The manufacturers have not been demonstrative here this winter, but it must not be supposed, for that reason, that they have been indifferent to or neglectful of their interests. They have the great committees in the Senate and in the House of Representatives at their back, and, therefore, do not feel any degree of alarm at the prospect of adverse legislation.

Some of the representative manufacturers, with an intelligent appreciation of advancing public sentiment, which demands thorough reform in the whole revenue system, profess a willingness for a revision of the present tariff, and are willing to make certain concessions, which, from their standpoint, might be considered liberal.

These great corporations, however, are in no hurry to give up their present profits, nor to make unnecessary sacrifices. They will not surrender until the last hour. It is an open secret that they have kept agents on guard during the whole session of Congress, to urge the appointment of a commission on the tariff. Some of these agents have recently occupied conspicuous positions in public life, and advocated the policy they are now pressing as attorneys.

The appointment of a commission of civilians, or of members of the two Houses mixed with experts, means substantially indefinite postponement of all tariff reform during the present Administration. No report would be made until the middle of January, 1883. In the remaining six weeks of the expiring Congress, any bill for a general revision would have no chance of being considered, with any desire to defeat it.

There are free traders and protectionists in both parties, and they would be equally concerned in avoiding any positive issue before the nominating conventions in 1884. After the Presidential election the question would naturally be put off for the new Administration. So that no real legislation need be expected in regard to the tariff, if the Republicans in Congress want to prevent it. And their bills for commissions, and all the performances before the public, have in view but the single object of delay and of continuing the existing iniquities.

THE DEMOCRATS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

HARRISBURG, March 25.—The meeting of the Democratic State Committee here developed a very satisfactory condition of things. Chairman Bogert and the wide-awake Secretary of the committee have succeeded in making a very creditable beginning toward an efficient organization. They looked closely after the spring elections, and, as a consequence, the Democrats have made large gains in election officers—an extremely important point. This was notably the case in Philadelphia, where, it is said, they have secured more than half these officers, and where in times past it made little difference how many votes the Democrats had, since to have them was one thing and to get them polled and honestly counted was quite another.

The committee embraced in the call for the convention a notice that it would be called to act upon a report in favor of new rules, providing for a permanent and better organization. A committee, of which Hensely was Chairman and Randall and Wallace were members, recommended the change at the last State Convention, but it failed then for want of time to consider. No such excuse will avail this year.

The members of the committee reported the feeling throughout the State—no factions, no dissensions, no dangerous rivalry, and a general opinion that with good nominations the Democrats can carry the State in November. For Governor, Mr. Hopkins of Pittsburgh appears to have the lead, with nobody else as yet in sight.

Another conference of the Ring bosses since the return of Cameron and Quay, from Florida has confirmed their previous nomination of Beaver. The Convention will have to swallow the dose prepared for it, but it will make no end of trouble before it is digested.

Struggling Against Strong Drink.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* How can I resist and overpower the influence of strong drink, which unmans me and leaves me no less than a drunkard in the eyes of those who have heretofore respected and honored me? This in itself is sufficient to deter many from ever again using the accursed stuff, or leaving themselves liable to its temptations and the misery arising therefrom. Knowing its effects, being cognizant of its consequences during the intervals of periodical spees, I endeavor to fortify myself with all the strength the Almighty has given me in order to be able, if possible, to resist and gain control over this terrible influence. But it is no avail, and in mortification I must admit that, unless some one introduces a method by which I can abstain at all times, I shall never more be able to call myself a man or be recognized as such. This is my subject; is a fair one for consideration. I am connected through marriage with a family whose character has always been irreproachable. I not only disgrace myself, but a wife and family to whom I am devotedly attached. It is certain I am aware of all this. Nevertheless, there appears to be no reformation. I struggle on from day to day as a lunatic, having no knowledge that I can cure of it, or even relief. My life's labor has been in vain, he can no longer pay his rent, and his heart is filled with a bitterness that none but he can know.

And the judgment is coming too. In London he cannot join in the festivities of the season; in Paris he is forced to forego his cherished Lafitte and to drink the red wine of the country; at Monte Carlo his stake is replaced by a modest franc in place of the lordly Napoleon. He is surely tried.

Who can blame the Irish people for their action and attitude to-day? Who, rather, considering these things, does not marvel at the patience, the fortitude, the trust in their imprisoned leaders, and the faith in their devoted clergy, which prevent them from casting all consideration to the winds and from the consummation of their revenge? The right of meeting abrogated, the right of speaking denied, their only champions thrown into jail, and their only friends driven to the prison or to other nations, they have to suffer, and nothing before them for the future but promises they have learned to distrust. Is not the wonder rather that they do not in the agony of despair dispel their dreams of rebellion and seek such succor as only the great revolution could parallel? Other nations less tried than this have sought and exacted a terrible revenge; but, with the exception of the Irish nation, they are steadily and peacefully persevering in a bloodless war for justice, in which it must be the hope of every honest man that they may in time succeed. D.

NEW YORK, March 23.

Remember that good resolutions generally fail, like other human endeavors, through lack of attention to details. Don't trust to any general resolution, which may have lost its force by lapse of time, but at the very moment that the temptation overtakes you, make up your mind to resist it, just as if the thought of resistance had never occurred to you before. Resolutions directed against that creature of the imagination called the demon of strong drink are worthless. It is a mere striking of the air, fatiguing the will without definite purpose. Recollect that the whole struggle hinges on this one point: That you put away each temptation to take a drink as it arises. Concentrate the whole strength of your will each time upon that act, remembering that as long as you hold that pass the enemy cannot advance.

You will increase your chances of success a hundred fold if you take special pains to keep away from places where any kind of liquor is sold.

There is a little book that may help you in training your will, John Foster's "Essay on Decision of Character."

But, after all, the taste for strong drink becomes in the end a sort of disease, and a treatment has been devised for it, the principal feature of which is the isolation of the patient from the cause of his misery. Walls and guardians are made to take the place of the broken-down will. If you cannot regain the mastery by your own efforts, have yourself committed to an asylum for drunkards.

The Sufferings of the Irish.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It makes the heart of a freeman sick to read the reports of affairs in Ireland. At Carrick on Shannon, "fifteen families, numbering 102 persons, have been turned out upon the road." At Ballinlaa "a large force of police have evicted Joseph O'Brien, with his family of ten children." At Abbeyfeale "some of the tenants' houses were levelled and burned down, and in others emergency men were placed in charge." From Tuesday to Friday last week the authorities were engaged in evicting between 300 and 400 people on properties around Belmullet. Five ships of war took up positions in Broadhaven and Blacksod Bays. The troops were landed at a point convenient to the scene of eviction.

Does any one reading these statements in this country realize all that they imply? In the parts of Ireland where these evictions took place houses are few and widely scattered; employment, other than agricultural, there is none; shelter is to be had only in the workhouses and the jails; it is obtainable for those innocent men, women, and children only in the former—they have not yet qualified for the latter—and the distances are so great that their weak, ill-fed bodies can hardly muster strength for the journey. What are they to do? The men in which cases I have seen have been a band of shouldering ruins; the cold March wind is sweeping across the hills and whistling through their thin rags; the night is coming on; and the sick, the aged, and the infants among them are unable to go any further. The husband and father sits by the roadside, his face buried in his hands, his ears filled with the mourning of the women who are clinging to him. His life's labor has been in vain, he can no longer pay his rent, and his heart is filled with a bitterness that none but he can know.

And the judgment is coming too. In London he cannot join in the festivities of the season; in Paris he is forced to forego his cherished Lafitte and to drink the red wine of the country; at Monte Carlo his stake is replaced by a modest franc in place of the lordly Napoleon. He is surely tried.

Who can blame the Irish people for their action and attitude to-day? Who, rather, considering these things, does not marvel at the patience, the fortitude, the trust in their imprisoned leaders, and the faith in their devoted clergy, which prevent them from casting all consideration to the winds and from the consummation of their revenge? The right of meeting abrogated, the right of speaking denied, their only champions thrown into jail, and their only friends driven to the prison or to other nations, they have to suffer, and nothing before them for the future but promises they have learned to distrust. Is not the wonder rather that they do not in the agony of despair dispel their dreams of rebellion and seek such succor as only the great revolution could parallel? Other nations less tried than this have sought and exacted a terrible revenge; but, with the exception of the Irish nation, they are steadily and peacefully persevering in a bloodless war for justice, in which it must be the hope of every honest man that they may in time succeed. D.

NEW YORK, March 23.

THE COMING GREAT COMET.

If the comet that was discovered by a young astronomer in Albany a week ago fulfils half of the promises made for it, we may expect to behold, in May or June, a celestial spectacle such as has not been equalled since 1858 or 1811. This comet, although some 200,000,000 miles from its perihelion, which it will not reach for three months, shows a bright tail and a star-like nucleus. The inference is fair that the comet is a very large one, and that when it gets into our neighborhood it will present a magnificent appearance. Moreover, Prof. Chandler's figures show that the comet is plunging almost straight at the sun, which it will probably approach within 100,000 miles. The only other comets, in the long list of those bodies whose orbits have been calculated, which approached anything like as near to the sun as this are the comet of 370 B. C., the comet of 1668, the comet of 1680, often called Newton's comet, the comet of 1843, and the comet of 1880. The last named was observed only in South America and Australia and at the Cape of Good Hope. Concerning the comet of 370 B. C., of which frightful things are related, and which is said to have split in two, not much is known, but the measurements made in the other cases are generally to be depended upon. In fact, it was the nearness of the approach of the comet of 1680 which led Newton to anticipate possible peril to the earth from the fall of a great comet into the sun. This is not the popular view of the danger from comets, the fear usually being that they may strike the earth, or produce pestilence by mingling the substance of their tails with our atmosphere. Of late, the other view has been made more conspicuous, especially since Mr. Proctor's recent article on what he calls the menacing comet of 1880, which he anticipates may return in 1897.

The appearance of this new comet on the heels of the discussion awakened by Mr. Proctor's suggestion gives the subject renewed interest, especially in view of the announcement that the coming comet is going so close to the sun. Unless the calculators have made a very great blunder it will pass through the corona, and, if large enough, may graze the luminous surface. It should be noticed that there is a discrepancy between the estimates of the perihelion distance made by Prof. Chandler of Harvard University and Prof. Boss of the Dudley Observatory, the latter making the distance considerably greater than that above given. Both agree, however, that the approach will be a close one. The question whether the earth may not at some time be in danger from a great comet is all the more interesting because men of science are not exactly in accord upon it. Mr. Proctor is not the only astronomer who thinks that if ever the world is to be destroyed with heat it will be when a great comet plunges into the sun. Even those who think Mr. Proctor is mistaken in his conclusions admit that given a comet big enough and massive enough, undoubtedly its fall upon the sun would prove disastrous to the earth. But they say it would require a body having a mass something like that of Jupiter to produce such effects, and compared with Jupiter the most massive comets ever seen are mere pigmies. Besides, there seems good reason to believe that a comet would, on approaching close enough to the sun, be pulled to pieces and so drop piecemeal into the great orb, the fall being prolonged perhaps through many revolutions, so that the accession of heat caused by the conversion of the comet's motion would be distributed over a considerable period of time. Besides, as Prof. Young has pointed out, if a comet fell into the sun the increase of heat would be mainly used up in producing expansion of the sun's orb, and would afterward be radiated out again through a long space of years. Another very interesting objection has been raised to Mr. Proctor's theory, namely, that as three-quarters of the surface which the earth presents to the sun is covered deep with water, such an increase of the sun's heat as the fall of a comet might produce would cause a great increase of evaporation, which would use up the extra heat, and so protect the earth from harm. According to this view we are reasonably safe so long as the oceans last and the sun does not get too hot.

Of course the reply may be made to these objections that, although no known comet is great enough to cause us harm by its downfall upon the earth, yet we do not know but that comets exist thousands of times more massive than any that human eyes have ever seen, and that such a comet may at some time pay us a visit. In fact we have had a rather distant view of one comet that really seemed to belong to an order of magnitude different from that of ordinary comets—a sort of celestial whale among fishes. This was the famous comet of 1811, which had a head almost as big as the sun itself. But it kept far away, its perihelion distance being some ninety million miles. If such a comet as that should rush upon the sun, Mr. Proctor thinks, it would soon show us what it could do. But his opponents say that even the downfall of the comet of 1811, although it might make the weather uncomfortably hot for us, would not "dissolve the elements with fervent heat." Those who may have a lingering suspicion of danger can take comfort in the fact that when this huge comet disappeared it was travelling on a track that must have carried it uncounted billions of miles away from the solar system, so that it is not likely to return in thousands of years, if ever. That the astronomers themselves are not much alarmed is shown by the fact that they are all very anxious to witness the promised spectacle of the downfall of a comet in 1897 or thereabouts.

Whether the coming comet's close approach to the sun will throw any light on this interesting question of course cannot be foretold, but all the present indications are that it will pay its respects to the ruler of the solar system with royal splendor, presenting perhaps such a scene as was witnessed when the great comet of 1264, which failed to return, as expected, in 1848, spanned the heavens with its tail. In the mean time there is no occasion for anybody to be alarmed, but good reason for everybody to rejoice that we are likely to witness one of the grandest phenomena of the skies.

Strange Things in the Land of Flowers.

From the Florida Union.

A shark, recently captured near Tampa, had seven rows of teeth and weighed 700 pounds.

A fort Meade man has a contract to deliver 5,000 alligator hides to a St. Louis firm by May 1.

Dr Wilcox has discovered two more teeth belonging to his mastodon, which weigh about ten pounds, and are said to be smooth and handsome. They measure five by six inches.

Capt. Richard Roach of Old Tampa has grafted in a grape fruit tree six varieties of the citrus family. Growing from the same stump, we find the shaddock, lemon, lime, citron, sweet and sour orange.

Capt. C. A. Bryan of Tallahassee has a strange but beautiful anomaly in his flower garden. A large rose bloomed on one of his bushes, and when the leaves began to fall from it four small but complete roses appeared in the centre, and now on the end of the stem where the large rose grew may be seen four fully developed roses not larger than a gold dollar.

It will Draw Only Six Per Cent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will a mortgage given in the year 1878 and not yet due, draw 7 per cent. interest since 1880, if that interest is not paid thereon? O. E. S.

HARLEM, MILES, N. Y., March 24.

The Tammany Game.

Anti monopoly, anti rorpopsti,
That was the card that we played,
Led it so gravely, and stuck to it bravely, and
Largely the venture has paid.

Though our temerity caused some asperity,
Nothing our leaders could fright,
Gradly the lucky one, gallant and plucky one,
Leading our lines in the fight.

What if democracy yields to bossocracy?
What if the voters are sold?
Little we care for that, much we can bear for that,
While we may get and may hold.

We are not partisans, nothing but artisans,
Working at jobs for our Boss;
He gets the votes for us, changes our coats for us,
His is the gain or the loss.

Anti monopoly, anti rorpopsti,
Suited as well for a day,
Spite of a crop