The Sun.

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1882.

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending July 1, 1882, was:*

Sunday	139,757	Thursday	146,746
Monday	144,822	Friday	150,799
Tuesday	145,142	Saturday	174,478
Wednesday	146,228	Weekly	65,762

Total for the week.....1,114,035

The Result of the Malley Trial.

The acquittal of the three defendants in the MALLEY case was right. To persons outside the State of Connecticut the evidence that JENNIE CRAMER had been murdered at all has always seemed very slight, and the evidence that the defendants, or either of them, killed her appeared scarcely sufficient to warrant their indictment. The verdict of not guilty was expected from the first, and was certain when the prosecution rested. We think the defence might safely have adopted the course advised by Mr. LEWIS C. CASSIDY of Philadelphia, and allowed the case to go to the jury without putting in any testimony.

So far, then, as man's law against murder is concerned, JAMES MALLEY, Jr., WALTER E. MALLEY, and BLANCHE DOUGLAS have rightfully been pronounced guiltless. But that their wicked conduct brought JENNIE CRAMER to her death, although not so as to make them legally responsible for it, cannot be doubted by those who have followed the testimony on the trial.

They leagued themselves together to ruin a virtuous girl. Concede that they had no idea of killing her—they conspired to do what an honest woman would dread more than death. They made a courtesan the active agent of their conspiracy, and even introduced her to the home and mother of the victim. A more detestable or depraved piece of villainy never disgraced a civilized community.

They have gone forth from the court room acquitted of murder, but branded for life with the shame of a crime that is quite as black, though legally less heinous.

The Internal Revenue Imposition.

The Committee of Ways and Means lately brought in a bill to appoint the collectors of internal revenue for four years. They now have no fixed tenure by commission. The original law seems to have contemplated an abandonment of this sort of taxation whenever the absolute necessity for its existence ceased. Hence these officers were not put on the usual footing with Collectors of ports, Postmasters, Marshals, and the like, but were treated as temporary expedients that might suddenly be dispensed with.

The effect of this movement would be to fasten the service four years more on the country. It was an indirect device to commit Congress to an extension of the internal revenue. Mr. RAUM, the Commissioner, who modestly aspires to Judge DAVIS's seat in the Senate, backed by the Whiskey Ring, recommended the scheme, and doubtless did his best to pass it. Mr. DUNNELL, who reported the Whiskey bill and rushed it through by parliamentary sharp practice, tried to repeat the game in this case. He demanded a suspension of the rules, which requires two-thirds, in order to put the bill on its passage. But the vote showed that he could not muster one-third for this audacious proposition to rivet the Internal Revenue Bureau on the country for four years longer.

The internal revenue system was created twenty years ago, as a war measure. Our people were willing to make any sacrifices to preserve the Union, and this burden, in addition to others, was freely accepted as one of the penalties of civil strife. More than half a generation has passed away since the close of the rebellion. Sectional lines are nearly obliterated. The country has grown prosperous, and there is an enormous accumulation of surplus revenues in the Treasury.

The internal tax gatherers, and the regulations under which they operate, are constantly creating bad blood among the people, and are making the Government odious in the eyes of millions. Inquisition is repugnant to the ideas, to the habits, and to the tastes of the American people. The internal revenue is now sustained mainly as an instrument of party. Dismiss the army of officeholders attached to this bureau and to its dependencies, and the machine would be weakened in much of its active vigor.

The whole system is odious, unnecessary, and in many respects profligate. It ought to have been abolished long ago. It should be abolished now.

A Scandalous Abuse of Power in the House of Commons.

The House of Commons adjourned last night after a continuous session of thirty-two hours, in the course of which the last fourteen clauses of the Repression bill were passed in committee, and the whole measure was reported in the House. The motives of the Ministry for wishing to expedite Irish legislation are intelligible enough in view of the Egyptian crisis, and the necessity of concentrating the energies of the Government on foreign affairs accounts for the support received from the Conservative opposition. But no pressure, however urgent, resulting from Mr. GLADSTONE'S mismanagement of foreign politics can justify the flagrant breach of constitutional rights committed by the Chairman in expelling twenty-five members of the Irish party, none of whom seem to have exceeded their legitimate powers, and some of whom were absent at the time when the alleged obstruction was offered.

The conflict arose over the seventeenth clause of the bill, which provides that whenever an extra force of constabulary is required in a particular district, the pay of such officers shall be chargeable upon the occupants of land, and, moreover, that compensation for any crimes committed shall be made by the tenants residing in such district. This is in effect a revival of the old Anglo-Saxon rule by which the kinsmen and neighbors of a criminal were mulcted in blood money for his offence. It is plain enough that no civilized community that had the power to protect itself would tolerate a recourse to such a barbarous kind of justice, which makes the innocent suffer for the guilty, and aims to transform every citizen into a policeman. No British Minister would dare to propose such a law for England or Scotland, and Mr. PARNELL and his associates would have been grossly recreant to their obvious duty had they failed to resist its enactment by all legitimate weapons of parliamentary opposition.

It does not appear, however, that during the session held throughout Friday night Mr. PARNELL and his colleagues resorted to such purely obstructive measures as motions to report progress or that the Chairman leave the chair. On the contrary, every one of their motions took the form of substantive amendments, which had they been supported by the Conservatives would have been deemed perfectly reasonable, and which excited the wrath of the House merely because they happened to express the sentiments of only a small minority. The facts that the question under debate was exclusively concerned with Ireland, and that the minority, small as it was, indisputably represented the Irish people (for it is acknowledged on all hands that in the event of a new general election Mr. PARNELL's friends would control three-fourths of the Irish delegation), were scornfully disregarded, though it is, as we have said, notorious that Englishmen would never venture to take a like high-handed course in the making of laws for Scotland.

Nevertheless, Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT at 9 o'clock yesterday morning denounced the legitimate opposition of the Parnellite members in such insulting terms as to draw from the Irish leader an acrimonious rejoinder. Evidently the Chairman had been watching all night for an opportunity to apply his disciplinary powers, for he at once proceeded to "name" Mr. PARNELL and fifteen of his followers, who, by a vote of 126 to 27, were at once ordered to withdraw. Now, if Mr. PARNELL were to be suspended, justice seemed to require that Sir W. HARCOURT, who gave the provocation, should be visited with the same penalty. But admitting that Mr. PARNELL, in a moment of indignation, may have been guilty of infringing parliamentary rules, we can see no pretext for including in the same sentence thirteen of his companions who certainly had not been guilty of the same infraction? No doubt they sympathized with their leader; but will the House of Commons sustain a construction of parliamentary law, under which, if Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE should chance to incur the censure of the Chair, the whole Conservative party may be expelled on the ground of participation in his sentiments? No wonder that Mr. JOSEPH COWEN, who seems to be one of the few Liberals who can keep their heads cool at such junctures, gave notice that he would ask on Monday whether the suspension of the Irish members was regular.

We have not yet named, however, the worst feature of the action taken by the Chairman on this occasion. It turned out that two of the members suspended in company with Mr. PARNELL had never opened their lips during the evening, and that three or four others, including Mr. O'DONNELL, had actually been absent from the House. Their connivance, therefore, in the alleged breach of the rules was purely a matter of inference with the Speaker, who virtually held that a member could be deprived of his constitutional rights on the ground of obstruction offered while he was abed and asleep. This blunder was too monstrous even for Mr. GLADSTONE'S henchmen, and accordingly the order of suspension was amended so as to charge the members who had been silent or absent during this particular debate with antecedent obstruction during the discussion of the bill. The subterfuge merely served to show to what extraordinary lengths Englishmen are willing to go in their contempt and detestation of Irishmen. For what would become of the freedom of debate if members could be suspended, not at the time of an alleged offence, and for specific reasons given, but weeks and months afterward, upon the vague charge that their previous demeanor had been unsatisfactory to the presiding officer?

There is no doubt that the action of the GLADSTONE Ministry, in expelling from the House of Commons men who had committed no offence, will have to be rescinded in the interest of the vital principles of free government. As to the nine additional members expelled last evening, it may be argued that they were actually guilty of illegitimate obstruction by reiterated motions to report progress and that the Chairman leave the chair. But something should have been excused to men who were smarting under the unjust treatment inflicted on their comrades. The net result of the two clearances effected by this shameful display of political animosity and race hatred is that nearly the whole body of Mr. PARNELL'S followers have been stripped of the functions conferred on them by their constituents. Suppose the men thus dealt with should refuse again to enter a House from which they have been iniquitously expelled. Suppose they should return in a vindictive and irreconcilable temper to their constituents at this juncture, when England is likely to need in Egypt every soldier hitherto employed in Ireland. Might it not again be demonstrated—as it was proved so signally when the war of the American Revolution helped GRATTAN to demand successfully legislative independence for his country—that England's peril is Ireland's opportunity?

The Crime of Bigamy.

We have before us half a dozen letters from women who have discovered since their marriage that their husbands already had living wives from whom they were not divorced when they wedded them. Of course, their situation is very painful. The women were the victims of a villainous deception. Though they went through the form of marriage, they are not legitimate wives.

Most of these women are mothers, and they are naturally alarmed concerning the status of their children. To save them from disgrace, they would bear much and conceal everything. They live in fear of public exposure, reasonably distrustful of their husbands, poor, and ignorant of their rights. And the men have proved themselves to be cruel, lazy, tyrannical, or meanly suspicious; just what fellows capable of making a fraudulent marriage would be likely to turn out. They take advantage of the women because they know that they are fearful of exposure since the children are involved. The women can get no advice in which they have confidence from their husbands, or rather the men whom they supposed they had a right to call so, and they cannot afford to consult a lawyer.

Surely their lot is a very wretched one, and we are not surprised at the agony of mind to which their letters give expression. They are the victims of our loose marriage laws.

Here is one of the letters, and it comes from a well-educated woman:

"I am thirty-four years of age, the daughter of a farmer, and lived in a distant country place until eight years ago, when I came to New York, an utter stranger, that I might more advantageously pursue my vocation. A few months after, I married a man whom I believed to be in every way desirable as a husband. In less than a year I discovered that my husband had another wife and two sons, one married. He persuaded me that he had been divorced from this woman, and I, believing him and loving him dearly, forgave the deception for which he plausibly apologized. At that time I had a salary of something more than one thousand dollars per year, and he was not in business. I spent very little for myself, and saved nothing, thinking that he would be grateful and make me some sort of compensation when he should have occupation. Finally I lost my work. Then he began to change toward me; and until then I had never known that he was addicted to the excessive use of intoxicants. Meanwhile I began to be annoyed by anonymous letters threatening me with all kinds of violence and disgrace. At one time I did fancy that he and his former wife—from whom I am convinced he is not legally separated—were in collusion, but of that I have no proof.

"The terror and the shame to which I have been subjected during the last four years almost craze me. When intoxicated he is no longer human; and he is habitually coarse and unfeeling in his manner toward me. There is no vile name that he has not called me; there is no fault, no vice, no crime, of which he has not accused me; and several times he has dared to strike me. And yet he will not allow me to leave him; he threatens to kill me and to disgrace me if I do, and I fully believe he will attempt to do so. I shudder at the scandal of any police proceedings, that I fear would utterly ruin my reputation; and although I have tried hard to earn enough to engage a lawyer, I have not been able to do so.

"I have stated the pitiful story, but not the thousandth part of the sickening details, and now I will beg advice.

"A WRETCHED WOMAN."

Of course, the thing for her to do is to leave the man at once. Fortunately, in her case there seem to be no children to complicate the matter, and it is comparatively easy for her to abandon her home. The other women who tell stories so like hers are mothers, whose first thought is of what is best for their young ones, who not only have wretches for fathers, but whose careers may be marred if the facts concerning the fraudulent marriages are made public.

Our correspondent asks us if it would be advisable for her to advertise for a loan, as she sees that some women do. But to do that would be to give the impression that she was a disreputable character. Her advertisement would only be responded to under that supposition, and she would be likely to fall into the hands of another scoundrel. That is not the way for an honest woman to get money. It is only a method devised by the dissolute.

If, however, she was once able to make a thousand dollars a year, she ought not to fail to earn enough now for her support. Nor need she fear that her husband would do her the bodily harm he threatens if she left him. He would be too afraid of exposure for that. But if she continues to have the fear, let her state her case to a Police Justice. Exposure is not disgrace for her, since she has done nothing disgraceful. She has only been deceived, like a good many other women.

Her case and the others of which we have spoken are only a few of the many which are described to us by correspondents. It is evident that these fraudulent marriages are frequent. And why should they not be so when marriages can be so easily contracted in New York? All that is necessary is to go to a minister, and ask him to perform the ceremony. No certificate is required from the pair, and the minister knows nothing whatever about them. He simply pronounces them man and wife, and takes his fee, perhaps never even recording the marriage. Of course, under such circumstances fraud is easy. And by the time the fraud is discovered by the wife, perhaps she has a baby, and dreads to expose the bigamy.

As we have before said, the divorce laws of New York are as strict as they can be made, if any divorce at all is allowed; but our marriage laws need to be more precise. There should be more efficient safeguards against fraud and imposition, and marriage records should be as complete and accessible as the registry of deeds.

England's Slave Trade in the Pacific.

Heretofore most persons have received with incredulity the accounts of the atrocities perpetrated in connection with the so-called "free labor" trade which is countenanced by Great Britain in one of the Australian colonies. It was hard to believe that a country which has figured before the world as the inflexible opponent of slavery, in all its forms, would tolerate a traffic even more merciless and inhuman than that which has proved a curse to the blacks of Africa. Unhappily, it is no longer possible to misconceive the true character of the contracts by which the natives of certain islands in the South Sea are doomed to the most grinding labor and a speedy death. The disgraceful facts are attested by official investigations, whose results are now published in the *Fortnightly Review*.

No more flagrant misnomer can be imagined than the term "free labor" as applied to the engagement by which the natives of the New Hebrides group are bound to work on the sugar plantations in Queensland for a term of years. In almost every instance the assent of the laborers is procured by force or fraud. Sometimes a chief delivers a given number of his subjects at so much a head, and sometimes the arrangement is made with a European who has bought an island, the power of selling the inhabitants into slavery being one of the recognized rights acquired by the purchaser. The recent murder of Mr. KLINESMITH in the neighborhood of New Britain was due to an attempt to enforce the right mentioned. Even where the contract is originally made with the prospective workmen, the latter are deceived by promises which their employers have no intention of keeping, and which they invariably violate.

The conditions of these labor contracts are regulated by a law of the Queensland Legislature, a body made up of the representatives of the traders and planters directly interested in the scandalous traffic. It is provided that the islanders shall be engaged for the term of three years at the rate of $30 a year, at the end of which time the employer is bound to restore the workman to his native land. Certain conditions as to food and clothing are nominally imposed. This act appears to have satisfied the British Government, although its workings are far more detrimental to the Kanakas than was the English and American system of slavery to the blacks. During the term for which he is engaged the native workman is in the strictest sense a slave, for if he is idle or refractory he is sharply disciplined, and if he tries to escape he is brought back by the police. But the worst feature of the scheme is that it offers a premium for maltreatment, and makes the death of a laborer a source of gain to his master. The wages fixed by law are not paid till the termination of the three years, and they are pocketed by the employer in case the workman should die in the interval.

The frightful consequences of this arrangement were soon visible, and it was remarked in the colony that laborers were very apt to die toward the end of the triennial term. The fact was brought to the notice of the Queensland Parliament by a Government inspector, a Mr. SHERIDAN, who was promptly punished for his display of zeal, and superseded by a Mr. HARROCKS, who in his turn expressed indignation at the abuses committed under the "free labor" system. The planters and their friends then selected for the post of inspector a police magistrate who they supposed would be more tractable, but he, too, was so revolted by his discoveries that he forwarded a report to the Colonial Secretary which compelled that functionary to order a rigorous inquiry. All the charges of cruelty which had been made against the Queensland employers were officially confirmed. It was shown that the islanders for the most part suffered from poor feeding, bad water, overwork, and the absence of care in time of sickness. On one plantation, for instance, the Kanakas were required to work five hours on a ration of bread and tea. The bread was pronounced uneatable by the Commission, and the so-called tea was an infusion of seven ounces of the leaf in fifteen gallons of water. It was proved that the demands on the physical strength of the blacks were aggravated toward the close of the three years' term, while at the same time they were more grossly neglected. The observations of the Commission bore out the assertion of the police magistrate that if the Queensland employers do not actively bring about the deaths of the Polynesians in order to save their wages, the same end is indirectly attained by starving them and withholding medical aid. To what extent the lives of the native laborers are wasted may be judged from the fact that, whereas in England the average annual death rate among the male population between the ages of 16 and 52 is nine per thousand, among the Polynesians imported into Queensland it is from *nine to eleven times as great*.

It needs no argument to prove that this "free labor" system is far more hurtful to its victims than was the West Indian slavery abolished by Great Britain. It was the interest of the West Indian planter to keep his slaves alive, whereas it is to the pecuniary advantage of the Queensland employer that his workmen should not survive the period of three years for which they are engaged. It has been suggested that the temptation to cruel treatment might be removed by a provision that the wages of islanders dying before their term of service has expired should be claimed by the Queensland Government; but the danger would be that the planters who control the Legislature would contrive some means of profiting by this fund. The one remedy for the outrages committed on the helpless blacks would be to abolish altogether the "free labor" traffic, and, in view of the disclosures made in the *Fortnightly*, no other course now seems to be open to the British Government.

Interest in Foreign Missions Declining.

An American missionary makes the frank acknowledgment that the interest in foreign missions has of late years been declining among the religious people of this country. He is the Rev. GEORGE WASHBURN, President of Robert College, at Constantinople, an institution founded and supported for the conversion of the Mohammedans by contributions from the United States; and what he says is as follows:

"There is less interest in foreign missions in America than there has been at any time during the last thirty years. There has been no increase of contributions commensurate with the increase of wealth and population in the country. The societies depend more and more upon legacies, which represent the feeling of a past rather than a present generation."

There can be no doubt of the truth of the above. In proportion to their wealth the church-going people are now giving to foreign missions, to missions for the conversion of the heathens, far less than they contributed a generation ago. And what money is obtained is only got after the most painful efforts. The cost of collecting it eats up a very considerable fraction of the amount.

Formerly the evangelical denominations, as they are called, made the degree of interest in missionary work a test of the religious zeal of their churches. The most important contributions were those for the conversion of the heathens. The foreign missionary societies held the first place in esteem among all those organized for the propagation of the Gospel. The hearts of the people were fired by reports and appeals from the missionaries, and faith in the wisdom and efficacy of their efforts was not lacking. In proportion to the wealth of the churches at that time the contributions were large.

Now, however, the solicitors for missionary money are frequently turned away by those who can well afford to give what they ask for, and much more. Their stories of hardships encountered and of triumphs to be achieved are not heeded. Perhaps they are even received with concealed skepticism. The old appeals which once stirred the enthusiasm of all pious souls, and made a missionary meeting peculiarly fervid, have largely lost their inflammatory power.

What is the cause of this decline in missionary zeal among the religious people of the present time? In the first place, it is due to the prevalence of religious skepticism, or, if not that, religious indifference among church members. It is necessary that a church should be firm in its faith and earnest in its convictions, quick, zealous, and enthusiastic, and take a consuming interest in the propagation of its religion. Is that the condition of the Church at the present day?

Moreover, the younger generation have not the old confidence in the efficacy of the missions to the heathens. They know far more about them as they actually are than was known thirty years ago. There is less glamour than formerly in regard to missionary work. Exactly what sort of work it is, oftentimes by no means disagreeable, begins to be understood, whereas then it was only imagined, and usually very falsely imagined. Accurate knowledge has dissipated the old romance touching the lives of missionaries and of heathens.

People, too, now put the cost of missions to the heathens against the results accomplished, and they are apt to think that the money might be better spent in other ways. They do not think it necessary or wise to go to Asia to convert wicked people, and to enlighten the darkened, when we have at home so many wicked to convert, so many in darkness who need to be led into the light, and so many in suffering whose wounds Christian charity should bind up.

An Important Change in Our Criminal Courts.

The Court of Oyer and Terminer is the highest court of original criminal jurisdiction in the several counties of this State. Formerly it was always held by more than one Judge. In the city of New York, however, the Associate Judges, who were members of the Board of Aldermen, were long since dispensed with; and here the Court of Oyer and Terminer has been held for many years by a single Justice of the Supreme Court sitting alone.

In all the other counties the Associate Justices have been retained until now. Thus, the code of criminal procedure passed a year ago provided that in counties other than the city and county of New York a Court of Oyer and Terminer should be composed of a Justice of the Supreme Court, who must preside, with any two of the following officers: The County Judge and the Justices of the Sessions of the county. The Justices of the Sessions are simply Justices of the Peace designated to sit in the Court of Sessions.

This section has been amended by an act of the Legislature, which has just received the approval of the Governor, so that it now reads as follows: "Sec. 23. A Court of Oyer and Terminer is held by a Justice of the Supreme Court without an associate."

By this enactment the constitution of the court is made the same all over the State.

The constitutional power of the Legislature to make the change is established by a decision of the Court of Appeals. With the single exception that the Justice of the Supreme Court must be a member of the Oyer and Terminer and preside there, the whole subject of the organization of the court is declared to be still with the Legislature. The Legislature, according to the Court of Appeals, may associate other judicial officers with the presiding Justice, or provide for Commissioners to sit with him, or allow him to preside without assistants or associates, making him the sole Judge of the court.

The last of these alternatives has been adopted, and, as we are inclined to think, wisely adopted. One Judge is enough to preside over the deliberations of a jury. In theory, and sometimes in practice, two Justices of the Peace, constituting the majority of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, are entitled to control, and do control, the action of that tribunal, and thus we have presented the spectacle of two men who may not know any law at all overruling a Judge of the Supreme Court, who is, or ought to be, in all cases, an accomplished lawyer.

The Justices of Sessions have also sometimes interposed to shield their political friends from punishment, as in two noted cases which arose in Brooklyn, where they insisted upon imposing a fine, in lieu of the imprisonment favored by the presiding Judge.

In the Courts of Sessions of the counties which possess criminal jurisdiction inferior to that of the Oyer and Terminer, Justices of the Peace are still allowed to sit as associates with the County Judge who presides. The provisions of the State Constitution in reference to this court are such that it is doubtful whether the Legislature has power to change its organization in this respect.

The Cruelty of Nature.

"We are in the hands of GOD, and unless He relents we are lost."

These pathetic words were written by the heroic commander of the Jeannette expedition a few days before his death in the wintry solitudes of Arctic Siberia.

The writer was a religious man. The entries in his last journal, which lay near his dead body, show this. Again and again he speaks of reading prayers. Thus, on the very day he wrote the sentence we have quoted, we find this also: "Missed LEE. Went down in a hole in the bank and camped. Sent back for LEE. He had lain down and was waiting to die. All united in saying Lord's Prayer and creed. After supper, strong gale of wind. Horrible night."

But the forces of nature were relentless. The fast-failing band of explorers sought help in prayer as instinctively as children turn to their father for aid in distress. There was no kind answer. The white earth, the cold sky, the icy wind, seemed to ask in the mocking words of the English poet:

"Shall gravitation cease when you go by?"

Nature's laws know nothing of mercy to man; and while the power to change their operation is involved in the very idea of GOD, people are every day less and less disposed to believe that the power is exercised.

The great cosmic forces, says JOHN STUART MILL, in one of his most impressive essays, go straight to their end without regarding what or whom they crush on the road:

"Nature impales men, breaks them as if on the wheel, casts them to be devoured by wild beasts, burns them to death, crushes them with stones like the first Christian martyr, starves them with hunger, freezes them with cold, poisons them by the quick or slow venom of her exhalations, and has hundreds of other hideous deaths in reserve, such as the ingenious cruelty of a NERO or a DOMITIAN never surpassed."

This view is terrible; but if it is true, religion should recognize the fact, and not uniformly teach the existence of a benignity in nature which is not confirmed by experience.

The value of the complaints of overwork which Senators are fond of making is shown by some incautious admissions during a recent debate. A motion was pending for the reference of a matter to the Committee on Education and Labor. Senator GEORGE, a member of the committee, opposed the reference, on the ground that the committee would not attend to it, and it was too important to be neglected. He said that the committee had not been able to get a quorum for two months. This brought out Senator BLAIR, the Chairman of the committee, in its defence. He did not deny what had been said, but declared that every committee in the Senate had difficulty in getting a quorum. Now, the matter which it was feared would be thus slightingly dealt with was a resolution for a special investigation of labor strikes. Senator MORGAN introduced the subject in a speech setting forth the widespread and serious character of the disagreements between workingmen and their employers, and arguing that they indicated a diseased condition of affairs which should be examined into. He asked that the Committee on Education and Labor would report whether it would undertake such an inquiry, or whether a special committee should be appointed, and for answer he got the information that it was doubtful whether the committee would bestir itself sufficiently even to hold a meeting. The Senate finally laid upon the committee its injunction to report inside of a week.

If the arrest of the prize fighters TRACY and BROWN in Brooklyn is not a mere spasm of official energy, Coney Island may be saved the disgrace of being the resort for a contest between bruisers, and prize fighting may cease to be a pleasant spectacle for Brooklyn politicians. It seems to be taken for granted that a Brooklyn Alderman is given to abetting prize fights, and not the least surprise is manifested over the arrest of Alderman O'CONNELL, or ex-Alderman and ex-Deputy Coroner JAMES DUNNE. It is easy enough for talking officials to pledge that these, among other prisoners, will be looking out upon the world through iron gratings before long. Nevertheless, Alderman JONES, who was accused of helping to steal $250,000 from the Board of Education, is still a fashionable young man about town.

California has more than once sent us pedestrians who proved lamentable failures in competing with the walkers and runners of the East. But she has made up for these mishaps in her latest product, Mr. H. S. BROOKS, Jr., of San Francisco, who defeated the renowned MYERS in the late 220 yards' championship race at the Polo grounds. As Mr. BROOKS became a student at Yale College a year ago, he will no doubt be seen often at the amateur championship races in New York, and will presumably meet Mr. MYERS at the various short distances where the latter has achieved his renown.

Probably the most exhaustive test ever given to the use of steam as a motor for street railways has been that of the Paris Tramway Company, which has tried twenty-one different systems, occupying five years in the experiments. Not one succeeded, and the company is now using horses. The difficulty was mainly in the expense; for with the original cost of engines, the pay of the driver and stoker, the fuel and maintenance, and the many accidents, the company found its experiments expensive. The end came in a prohibition by the city authorities; but the company was hardly sorry to be thus released from its persistent efforts. Yet it is conceivable that any day some new device may render the use of steam more practicable, while the resources of hot air, compressed air, electricity, and coiled springs are still unexhausted.

The morbid interest in persons made famous by crime is invariably overestimated, as those who endeavor to turn such fame into profit find out. The widow of the late Mr. JESSE JAMES of Missouri started with her two children on a tour of exhibition with a lecturer who dilated upon her husband's career as a highwayman, and the experiment has come to grief because of small audiences. EPHRAIM LITTLEFIELD, the janitor of the Cambridge Medical College, whose testimony was most important upon the trial of Prof. JOHN W. WEBSTER for the murder of Dr. GEORGE PARKMAN, carried about on a lecturing tour some of the relics of that trial, including a blood-stained bowie knife, a horrible tea chest, a Turkish yatagban with a richly chased silver handle found in the prisoner's laboratory, a hatchet, three large fishhooks, and busts of PARKMAN and WEBSTER; but he was hooted and hissed off the platform after a brief unprofitable season. The Rev. HERBERT H. HAYDEN, who was tried for the murder of MARY STANNARD, made money by the sale of his photograph and that of his faithful wife, but not by lecturing; and he has been obliged to return to his trade as a carpenter. GUITEAU'S sister utterly failed in lecturing, and GUITEAU himself, if free, would scarcely be a lyceum attraction. COYE BENNETT, who was once under sentence of death in Jersey City for the murder of Policeman SMITH, went back to his vocation—that of an actor—under an assumed name, and his identity has been carefully concealed from the public. In literature, famous criminals, or those made famous by them, succeed no better. Publishers have found this out to their sorrow, and the recent publication of GUITEAU'S book, of which hardly a dozen copies have been sold according to the latest accounts, points in the same direction.

It was a coincidence that the typical marble statue of the Confederate soldier at Columbia was shattered by lightning at the very time the Union veterans of the war, the Grand Army of the Republic, were in session at Baltimore. The accident is an unusual one. It would be an awkward addition to the present difficulties of open air sculpture, if designers should hereafter have to manage a lightning rod in connection with it. Perhaps in that case the German spiked helmet might be in favor on military figures.

We notice the frequent appearance of an Assistant District Attorney of King's County as a speaker at the meetings of the movement to "save the boys." There is a law prohibiting the sale of liquor to minors, but it is complained that it is treated as a dead letter, and hence the effort to create a public sentiment to require its enforcement. The law is plain. It provides for a fine for all liquor dealers who sell liquor to persons between eighteen and fifteen years of age, and provides punishment as for misdemeanor for all who sell to children under fourteen years of age. It seems like firing at the clouds to waste energy in public meetings. Those who want to save the boys should turn upon the officials selected to enforce the law.

There must be an interesting lot of policemen in Brooklyn, for in a force of 475 members there were 5,078 days lost last year, equal to nearly fourteen years' service of one man. There were, however, but seven funerals out of about 825 cases of sickness in the force, which shows that the death rate is small. The enumeration of the diseases that attacked the policemen is most amusing. Six of them were affected with gout, twenty-one with dyspepsia, and twenty with dipsomania. One had hay fever, twenty-seven had lumbago, thirty-two had quinsy, two were frostbitten, two are tabled under the head of bites, thirty-two had the colic, sixty-eight had malaria, and 126 were excused from duty for slight ailments, which may include an affection of the heart, something like that of the flirting policeman, BOWES. Ten had sciatica, thirty had sprains, eleven had vertigo, thirty-three had unspecified injuries, not including two who had gunshot wounds. This year one of the force dislocated his shoulder while yawning and stretching himself. The perils of police life are thus seen to be numerous.

How Robert Browning was Made a D. C. L.

From the London Daily News.

At commemoration at Oxford, yesterday, June 14, Mr. Robert Browning was the third distinguished stranger to be introduced by the Public Orator. The cheering which welcomed this great poet was very general, but the appreciation of his genius did not prevent the sportive undergraduates from preparing a little surprise for the author of "Redcotton Nightcap Country." This was nothing less than the appearance of a large conical-shaped cap, with ribbons and tassels, and made of silk or satin, and suspended by a string from one of the galleries.

Mr. Browning had no sooner taken his place among the newly elected members of Convocation than this ridiculous nightcap floated gracefully down at the end of its string, and settled on the head or the shoulders of the astonished bard. Of course the incident produced hearty laughter, in which Mr. Browning himself joined with great good humor.

Clergymen and Horse Races.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I claim that a limited amount of horse racing is eminently proper for the development of that noble animal, the horse, the trusted servant of man since the world began, and I do fully approve of clergymen, our would-be teachers, witnessing these contests; for assuredly the horse, whether in his wild state or in his domesticated state, so-called, which really is a state of slavery, can and does teach theologians many valuable lessons. In his uncultivated state he is loyal to his own; never vindictive, always self-sustaining, and requiring no one to work for his support. His dam never deserts her offspring nor disowns her consort. He never indulges in foolish or extravagant excesses. In his domesticated state the horse is a model of patience, a prodigy in endurance, and a faithful friend, even to his tormentors. His nobility and bravery are famous. He is only proud when he is conscious of real merit, and when he fails to win he never blames some one else, or steals away and commits suicide. Therefore, I say, by all means let clergymen attend the races occasionally and imitate the horse and strive to emulate some of his noble qualities. They need not remove their white chokers for fear of being recognized by the laity. M. WESTBROOK.

NEW YORK, June 30.

Not an Admirer of England.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* England will not send 20,000 soldiers, as announced by cable the other day, to Egypt or elsewhere, for the simple but sufficient reason that, outside the British Islands or India, she cannot under any possible contingency muster such a force.

Secondly, she will not land any number of soldiers in Egypt unless she can cajole France to send a much larger force to save the mighty Britons from annihilation, as in the Crimea.

Thirdly, any force that England, single-handed, could send to Egypt can be thoroughly beaten by the Egyptian troops under Arabi Pasha, and the knowledge of this fact is shared alike by England, Egypt, and all the rest of the world.

And, finally, England is not a great military power, and America is the only nation, great or small, civilized or savage, that still gives credence to that ancient and exploded sham, and permits the super-grandiose Briton to kick and buffet her at will. FULL PRIVATE.

DOVER, June 30.

A Christian's View.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I wish you to record my earnest protest against the practice of railroading the Guiteaus, Coxes, Balbos, and other scoundrels straightway to heaven. If continued it will, I think, soon be in order to select some other place as the future home of the truly righteous. The presence of so many of earth's candidates for heaven cannot but have a demoralizing effect upon the angels and saints in paradise, which will soon cease to be looked upon as a desirable locality for the everlasting residence of some truly, NEW YORK, July 1. A CHRISTIAN ON THE FENCE.

Selling the Sprague Estate.

PROVIDENCE, July 1.—A lot on Washington street, opposite the City Hall, a part of the Sprague mortgaged estate, sold to-day for $8.30 per foot. Messrs. Butler and Prior, Sprague's counsellors, are in town, but no protest was made.

Tapestry Held to be Real Estate.

From the London Times.

Yesterday, June 14, in Chancery, before Mr. Justice Kay, in an action by the administrators of the estate of the late Mr. George Nelson of Cadeby, in Leicestershire, who died intestate, a curious question arose as to whether some ancient tapestry, which had been purchased by his father from the Henegge family, was personalty and belonged to his next of kin or formed part of the freehold and went to his heir at law.

It appeared from the evidence that this tapestry, which was said to be worth upward of £1,000, was hung in two of the rooms at Cadeby, and was stretched upon pieces of wood which were fixed to the walls, and was further kept in position by a cornice at the ceiling and the skirting at the floor of the rooms. The portions of the walls of the two rooms not covered by tapestry were panelled in wood, and the spaces filled by the tapestry appeared to have been left unpanelled for the purpose of receiving the tapestry, and it was stated that the tapestry could be easily removed without injury to the tapestry, and the spaces filled up by panel similar to those in the other parts of the rooms.

Mr. Justice Kay said that, as the tapestry was in a frame, fixed to the walls of the house, it was impossible not to regard it as a fixed decoration of a character distinct from a movable chattel, and his lordship accordingly decided that it was a fixture not separable from the tenement, and as such belonged to the heir at law as part of the inheritance.

Public Schools in Kentucky.

From the Springfield Republican.

The cowardly Kentucky Legislature provided for a popular vote on a law equalizing the distribution of school money among white and black children, but it is suggested that under a decision of the Federal court a proper division can be compelled, whether the State adopts a civilized law or not.

There are about 6,000 school districts in the State, but in not one half of them are schools supported for first-class common schools are found in only half a dozen localities; in other places wretched pretences are made for a few weeks in the year with ignorant teachers, and the declaration is solemnly made that whole counties are too poor to support schools at all.

We are sorry to blame the *Albany Evening Times*, but justice compels. Finding a good poem in its columns, we transferred it to our own, giving credit to the *Times*, of course; and now we learn that this poem had been stolen by that journal, and really belonged to *Harper's Weekly*. This is a kind of conduct that we are greatly surprised at in the *Times*.

There is one honest rule for a newspaper to follow, namely, to credit everything which it copies to the periodical in which that thing originally appeared. We trust that the *Albany Evening Times* will hereafter pursue the strict line of this virtue.

When the mucous surfaces of the bronchia are sore or inflamed, Dr. Jayne's Expectorant will afford prompt relief. For breaking up a cold or subduing a cough you will find in it a certain remedy.—Adv.

SUNBEAMS.

—The Teloogoos in India seem to be more responsive to missionary persuasion than any other people on earth. A new harvest is reported of more than 500 conversions in addition to the many thousands reported converted and baptized in former years.

—Lord Shaftesbury is more popular as the presiding officer at religious anniversary meetings than any other man in England. This year there were 250 May anniversaries. He presided at fifty of these. He presides with grace and dignity, and with a sprightliness which is very remarkable considering his advanced years. He is now 81 years of age.

—The Rev. R. R. Meredith of Boston, who was formerly a prominent Methodist, said in a recent speech: "A man's place to work is in some church. Religious tramps are of no account. Every man must do something for his denomination. I am a Congregationalist because I think I can thus do more for God. Show me where I can do more, and I will go at once."

—On the Sunday which Barnum's circus spent in Boston some young men from the Clarendon Street Church went to the grounds and distributed tracts to the employees and to the throngs that lingered about the place. The Rev. Mr. Davis, an evangelist, held a religious service inside the encampment for the benefit of the employees, who number about 800. A well-played cornet and an able choir furnished the music. The company joined with great energy in the singing of some of the hymns.

—How the venerable George Muller manages to carry on his great work at the Bristol Opera House in England, and yet to take so many and such protracted journeys, is a mystery even to those who know the old gentleman's great executive ability. Some months ago, after an extensive preaching tour in this country, he took a notion to go to Palestine. He has now returned thence to England, and has been preaching and making speeches in various places in connection with anniversary and other meetings. He intends to sail for this country in August, and to spend some months in visiting some of the parts of the United States which he has not yet seen.

—The Second Presbyterian Fishing Club of Philadelphia might be supposed to be a sectarian concern, but it is not. It went to sea yesterday in a substantial yacht, provided with every comfort and advantage, both physical and spiritual, for a cruise of two weeks. Among its other possessions is a chaplain, who is to edify his fellow mariners to-day with gospel instruction unless the roughness of the waves should prove too much for him. The club is composed of wealthy gentlemen, who have indicated by the name they have chosen their unflinching disapproval of all that is light and trivial. It is said that even when these brethren tell fish stories on Sunday they do it with grave faces and an air of unfathomable solemnity.

—The case of the Rev. Dr. Thomas of Chicago is still fresh in the public mind. He was tried for heresy, and, on being found guilty, was expelled from the Methodist Episcopal Church, not only as a minister, but also as a man and a church member. During the discussion which raged in regard to Dr. Thomas, s