The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1882.

Amusements To-day.

Booth's Theatre—The Romany Rye.
Bijou Theatre—Patience.
Belgian Panorama—34th st. and 9th av.
Daly's Theatre—Mankind. Matinee.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—La Joie Parfaite.
Grand Opera House—The World. Matinee.
Haverly's 14th St. Theatre—My Sweetheart. Matinee.
Metropolitan Museum—Broadway and 41st st.
Madison Square Theatre—Esmeralda.
Niblo's Garden—The Lights of London. Matinee.
Park Theatre—Jane Eyre.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Standard Theatre—A Daughter of the Nile.
Thalia Theatre—The Merry Wife.
Theatre Comique—The Pink Khiot.
Union Square Theatre—The Rivals.
Windsor Theatre—Pink Dominoes, &c. Matinee.
Wallack's Theatre—Taken from Life.

An Interesting Occasion To-day.

This morning, at or after eleven o'clock, Mr. G. FRISBIE HOAR, with a gentle rap of the gavel and a mild Pickwickian glance through his spectacles, will call upon the Massachusetts Republicans to proceed to the nomination of a candidate for Governor. A little later in the day it will become the duty of Mr. FRISBIE HOAR to invite the Convention to pass upon certain resolutions, or articles of faith, setting forth the principles by which Massachusetts Republicans in office are expected to square their conduct.

Unless the platform to be adopted at Worcester belies the sentiment of an overwhelming majority of the party in the State, it will contain a resolution denouncing the River and Harbor steal and applauding President ARTHUR'S veto. The New Hampshire Republicans have already adopted such a resolution. It will be a cold day for the Bay State if she falls behind New Hampshire on a point of morals in politics.

But it happens, curiously enough, that the Worcester Convention cannot pass a resolution of this nature without voting condemnation upon both Mr. G. FRISBIE HOAR, its presiding officer, and Mr. WILLIAM WALLACE CRAPO, who is likely to be its candidate for Governor. HOAR, who in public life is usually wrong when he is not ridiculous, and ridiculous even when he happens to be right, voted for the River and Harbor bill as it passed the Senate, voted again for it when it came from the Conference Committee, and wound up by voting to override the veto. He is put forward as Chairman of this Convention as a preliminary move in his canvass for reélection to the United States Senate next January. He would give half an inch off each of his ears to reverse his record on the River and Harbor bill.

As for CRAPO, who on the whole would probably do less harm in the State House on Beacon Hill as the Commonwealth's figurehead than in the Capitol at Washington, where his vote counts one for every job, he also is recorded for the River and Harbor steal and for overriding the veto.

The friends of Mr. HOAR and Mr. CRAPO, therefore, are uncommonly anxious that the platform adopted by the Convention to-day shall omit all reference to the great steal of the year. In other words, they have their reasons for not wanting to be spanked in public.

The acts and utterances of Republican Conventions in Massachusetts do not, as a rule, possess thrilling interest for the millions. G. FRISBIE HOAR is likewise not a particularly interesting man. W. W. CRAPO is anything but an interesting man. But the question whether they are bigger than their party, whether they are able to stifle the honest sentiment of the Republican voters of Massachusetts in order to promote their personal ends, makes to-day's Convention an interesting event.

What Dr. Siemens Expects from the Gas Engine.

In his recent inaugural address as President of the British Association, Dr. C. W. SIEMENS suggested that the time might not be far distant when the gas engine would displace on board our ships "the somewhat complicated and dangerous steam boiler" now in use. The advent of such an engine and of the dynamo-machine, he declared, must mark a new era of material progress at least equal to that produced by the introduction of steam power in the early part of the century.

The great advantage of the gas engine is believed to be its saving of fuel. According to Dr. SIEMENS, the best steam engine yet constructed does not yield in mechanical effect more than one-seventh part of the heat energy residing in the fuel consumed, whereas the factor of efficiency of the gas engine is one-quarter. If, therefore, it shall be adapted to vessels, the gas engine, being of half the weight of the present steam engine and boilers, and working with only about half the present expenditure of fuel, will admit of an addition of thirty per cent. to the cargo of "an Atlantic propeller vessel—no longer to be called a steamer." That improvement accomplished, the balance of advantages in favor of such vessels would be sufficient, as he says, to restrict the use of sailing craft chiefly to the regattas of sportsmen.

As it is now, steam is rapidly driving sails from the ocean, just as iron and steel are superseding wood for ship construction. Out of the 780 vessels building, or preparing to be built, in the United Kingdom on the 30th of June last, only 130 were sailing craft, while 650 were steam ships; and of this whole number only 49 sailing vessels and 6 steam vessels were of wood, while steel or homogeneous iron, which is destined to become the great material for ship building, was used for 80 steam and 11 sailing vessels.

The great advances hitherto made in steam vessels have been in the direction of saving fuel, in lighter machinery, in the substitution of the screw for side wheels, and in the use of iron and steel instead of wood for their construction. A wooden ship could not be built to perform like the Alaska or the Arizona. Whereas in the days of the old Collins line the steam was expanded only twice, and the pressure carried was only 18 pounds, the expansion now is ten or twelve times, and the pressure is 90 to 100 pounds. The old Cunarders, the Asia, Africa, and Canada, carried a pressure of ten pounds merely.

The consequence has been the enormous increase in the size of the ocean steamers and the great advance in their speed. In April, 1838, the Sirius first crossed the Atlantic in seventeen days from Liverpool and fifteen days from Queenstown. She was of 700 tons and 320 horse power. The Servia, built in 1881, has an extreme length of 530 feet, and a displacement of 13,000 tons. The City of Rome, built in the same year, is 600 feet long, and has a displacement of 13,500 tons. The Alaska, which is 500 feet long, and of 12,000 tons displacement, has done the distance between Queenstown and New York in 7 days, 4 hours, and 32 minutes, and the return voyage in 6 days and 22 hours, a mean ocean speed of about 17 knots an hour, or more than double that of the first steam vessels which crossed the Atlantic.

Undoubtedly if the gas engine shall be able to do what Dr. SIEMENS anticipates, it will give ocean navigation another and a strong impulse. Its far greater lightness as compared with the steam engine and boilers, and its lesser consumption of coal to produce the same effect, will admit of a much larger cargo, and greater speed may be obtained without too much sacrifice of the cargo capacity of the vessel.

The Attorney-General and the Elevated Railroads.

The Attorney-General has only done his duty in deciding to bring a suit in the name of the people for the removal of the directors of the Metropolitan Elevated Railway Company. Such an action cannot be instituted without his sanction; and in view of all the facts, it would have been manifestly unjust for him to refuse the complaining stockholders an opportunity to assert their rights in a manner which will put the directors directly upon the defensive, and compel them to justify, if they can, a management of the corporate affairs which has resulted in the virtual absorption of the Metropolitan by the Manhattan. The only occasion for surprise has been that Mr. RUSSELL was so long in coming to this conclusion.

Of course, it will be well understood that his opinion just rendered amounts only to a declaration that the facts brought to his attention constitute a *prima facie* case against the Metropolitan directors. He does not undertake to say that their conduct is clearly and certainly indefensible, though he intimates that if it was actuated by good faith, it must have been due to extreme simplicity. "It is, of course, within the limits of possibility," he says, "that the manner and the methods by which the Manhattan Company has so greatly increased its value at the expense of the Metropolitan Company, and by which the owners of the Metropolitan have lost the control and the power of distribution over their own property, have been adopted by the trustees of the Metropolitan Company in entire good faith, and in sincere though very short-sighted ignorance;" but he shows that if the purpose was evil from the beginning, no more skilful means could have been adopted to carry it out.

The suit now authorized will directly test the validity of the various acts of the Metropolitan directors by which their corporation has been brought into its present subordinate relation to the other elevated railroad companies. Whatever may be the result of the trial in the court of first instance, the numerous and grave questions of law will undoubtedly go to the General Term of the Supreme Court, and thence to the Court of Appeals for review.

This probability suggests two bits of advice. One is to the Hon. LESLIE W. RUSSELL, Attorney-General of the State of New York: Do not bring your suit in a judicial department where a majority of the Judges of the General Term are gamblers in stocks.

The other is to the people of the State of New York: You are called upon to elect a Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals this autumn. See to it that you choose a man of whose impartiality you may feel sure when cases come before the court in which men of enormous wealth and immense power are directly interested.

Unreasonable Verdicts.

The express reasons assigned by Judge WYLIE for granting the defendants MINER and RERDELL a new trial in the Star route case, were the general unreasonableness of the verdict and the misconduct of the jury. The Court declared, however, that the unreasonableness alone would not have been sufficient without the misconduct. This consisted in discussing matters not in evidence.

The rule is well established that a verdict ought to be set aside if any testimony material to the issue is considered by the jury and is operative upon the result, when it has not been adduced in the course of the trial, but is communicated by one of the jurymen. Whether any statements which were made in reference to the alleged attempts at bribery could have had any effect to bring about the conviction of MINER and RERDELL, is extremely doubtful. Why should the jury connect such attempts with them rather than with the more prominent defendants? We do not believe this so-called misconduct of the jury would have been regarded in the same light by Judge WYLIE if BRADY and DORSEY had been convicted. As it was, he put too much emphasis upon it.

The true ground of his action was the unreasonableness of the verdict, however much he might seek to disclaim it. There his position was strong. "It is not easy to see," says BISHOP, in his well-known work on criminal procedure, "how a Judge, having it legally in his power to set aside a verdict, can sentence a defendant to imprisonment or to death, when for any reason which presents itself judicially to his understanding his judgment refuses to concur with the jury in the conclusion of guilt." But possibly the difficulty of referring to any precedent for his course which would be precisely in point, led Judge WYLIE to emphasize the alleged misconduct of the jury as his principal motive in allowing the convicted defendants a new trial.

Under the law of the State of New York, as declared in the new Code of Criminal Procedure, there would seem to be no power in our criminal courts to grant a new trial simply because the verdict against a defendant is unreasonable. In this respect our system is less liberal toward accused persons than the Federal practice, as exemplified in Judge WYLIE'S action, which was expressly based in part, and must have been solely based in fact, upon the unreasonableness of the conviction.

Pitying Arthur.

Mr. BLAINE is bestowing his pity on the Administration of President ARTHUR. "I wish it well, poor thing!" he said in Chicago the other day.

Now, the Administration certainly has its points of weakness, but it is not too much to say that it is infinitely stronger and wiser than that of Gen. GARFIELD, in which Mr. BLAINE performed a very conspicuous part; and no one can deny that the country feels itself safer and more comfortable with ARTHUR and his associates than it felt with BLAINE and GARFIELD.

When ARTHUR came into power, our foreign relations were in a state of critical disorder. Pursuing a most absurd policy, Mr. BLAINE had brought us to the verge of war with Chili, while everywhere else he had sought glory for himself by raising a needless disturbance, much like the mythical Irishman going about to find somebody to step on his coat tails or knock a chip off his shoulder, as a pretext for a fight. Instead of managing our business with other powers like a sensible, practical man, Brother BLAINE managed it like a half crazy Don QUIXOTE.

All this ARTHUR promptly changed, and every intelligent, conservative citizen thanks him for it. Instead of anxiety and dread lest some unaccountable international folly should be committed in the name of the Government, we all think ourselves reasonably safe in the hands of the President; whereas, in the days when BLAINE bore rule, there was no telling what might happen to us—and the people were like a family lying awake all night for fear of both fire and robbers. The relief of the change is something to be grateful for.

The saying of Brother BLAINE may very well be applied to his own restless ambition: "I wish it well, poor thing!" A successful speculator and a dashing politician, he has proved a failure under the test of an important executive trust. He may still flourish amid noise and excitement on the public stage; he may have power to defeat antagonists whom he hates—and we all owe him a great debt for his share in defeating the third term—but the American people will not again put the control of their public affairs into his hands. An English politician, far more clever than Mr. BLAINE, has been described as "a man of brilliant incapacity, vast and varied misinformation, and prodigious moral requirements;" and the description may answer for the Kennebec statesman. There may be those who have a right to view President ARTHUR with a feeling of commiseration; but Mr. BLAINE is not one among them.

The struggle at Saratoga will give us, when it is over, some interesting news.

While the ordinary census of population has given the number of persons resident in each State, including those born there and those of foreign birth, it is evident that a different sort of computation is needed in order to show how many persons born in each State are dwelling in some other. This information is supplied by the latest of the bulletins issued from the census office. It shows that in each of eleven States, namely, Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia, the total population, including the native born and those coming from other States and lands, is not as great as the number of natives of those States to be found in the whole country. In other words, they have actually sent more of their natives into other States than they have received from other States and from foreign lands combined. This is a new and interesting field of inquiry. It throws light on the question of State influence beyond State borders. The general result might have been suspected of some of the New England States whose youth proverbially push all over the country to make their fortunes, giving the fruits of their energy and industry to other communities. But it is particularly remarkable that eight out of the eleven States in this category are former slave States. Here the clue evidently is the exodus of the colored population during and after the war. The case of Ohio stands by itself, and is somewhat puzzling. Perhaps the Ohioans hold to the view of the distinguished New Englander who praised his native State as a great one to emigrate from.

We are requested to say a word in favor of the Hon. JOHN M. GLOVER, who is running for Congress in his old district, the Twelfth Missouri, against the Hon. W. H. HATCH, the present Representative. HATCH voted twice for the River and Harbor steal and did not vote against the Monitor steal. GLOVER would be a great improvement on HATCH.

We call Gov. CULLOM of Illinois to order. He is a man of intelligence and ambition, but neither that fact nor his official station can afford any warrant for violence done to the English language. He recently issued a circular to the Sheriffs of counties and the Mayors of cities urging them to make extra exertions to detect and punish criminals, especially, to borrow the Governor's phrase, "those who are ready to burglarize houses." Now, we say to Gov. CULLOM that this is an outrageous and a shocking expression. There is no such word as "burglarize." The English language does not know it; no respectable usage allows it. It is an invention of Mr. CULLOM'S own brain, and a very bad invention it is. If the Sheriffs of counties and the Mayors of cities in Illinois have many offenders to deal with whose sin is as great as that of Gov. CULLOM in the invention of this word, we can only say that the State must be in a very unfortunate condition indeed.

The late friends and followers of ARABI are now making friends with the English by telling tales about him. The one who can relate the most marvellous yarn becomes the centre of the greatest interest. No wonder that under such circumstances some very strange stories are fabricated, and that the British camp is filled with pashas of many tales.

A story of poker playing for high stakes is told in affidavits produced in the suit of CRAWFORD agt. MATTHEWS. The man who claims to have been the victim of expert gamblers sets forth that on board the steamship Germanic the limit of the game in which he was led to engage was widened until the purser interfered, and that subsequently, in Paris, he lost $35,000, of which $29,000 was won by two of the men with whom he played on shipboard.

Incidentally it is set forth in another affidavit that the two alleged experts at poker took passage on the Germanic for the purpose of winning money from Mr. JAMES GORDON BENNETT, owner and editor of the *New York Herald*, who was to be a passenger on the same steamship. The affidavit says, further, that Mr. BENNETT did sail on the Germanic, but the alleged sharpers did not succeed in inducing him to play poker with them.

The case against the men who raked the pots in the sittings alluded to is greatly weakened by the incidental testimony, of which the foregoing is an abstract. It is said by those who claim to understand the intricacies of the game designated as poker, that ability to "size up" with celerity and despatch any stranger who may be about to come into the game, or may be already in it, is one of the first requisites of an expert player. If the alleged experts in the case in question were so deficient in ability to judge of men as to start out with the faulty premise that Mr. BENNETT would play poker at all, and were so possessed by folly as to hope that he would not only sit in, but would stand a heavy raise under the suspicious circumstance, for instance, of having four ghosts dealt pat to him in a four-hand game—if the alleged experts at poker counted on that sort of thing they were not experts at all, but were mere novices.

Take a moment's look at Capt. JOHN HARTLEY of the War Department, promoted to the charge of a bureau during the absence of its chief, Col. SCOTT. Why was HARTLEY promoted? Well, here is a passage from our Washington despatch of yesterday about him:

"While on duty here, HARTLEY was known to play poker all night and until noon the next day without a break, and then go to the office decidedly the worse for wear. Of late his passion for cards was supplemented by a taste for drink, and between the two his official duties suffered."

These are interesting traits of an officeholder with a solid salary in the War Department. So Capt. HARTLEY has disappeared having won heavily at poker; but the War Department does not wish to lose him from the service, and is trying to tempt him back.

The notion that steamships may be suddenly stopped by a brake, as railroad trains are, seems queer at first, but a Boston Yankee has found a contrivance for this purpose, and has applied and tested it, with apparently perfect success. His invention consists of a pair of shutters, hinged on either side of the vessel's stern post, so that they will remain closed against the vessel until an apparatus, whose control is in the pilot house, opens them and fixes them at right angles to the ship's course. An ordinary side-wheel steamboat was stopped the other day in Boston Harbor by these fins, as they are called. Many gentlemen were on board, and, though the steamer was making, it is said, about twelve miles an hour, they testify that the vessel did not go ahead her own length after the fins were opened before reaching a full stop; and then the engineer, reversing his engines, moved her back, the shutters closing again. As for the shock, it was much less than that of a railroad train suddenly stopped by an air brake. Should this machine be applicable to large ships with powerful engines, half the fear of collisions would be gone. It would have prevented, for example, the last collision on the Ohio, with its great loss of life. Though it is yet to be seen how this contrivance would work on huge ocean-going vessels, with their great momentum, for many smaller steamboats its usefulness seems already established.

The arrest in Canada of PHIPPS, the Philadelphia almshouse Superintendent, will strike terror to some swindlers who have been living on that institution. A good deal has been told of doctoring the milk of the paupers, stealing their sugar and tea, and robbing them in various ways; but more is yet to be disclosed, and the capture of PHIPPS may help to bring the whole business to light.

Mr. OSCAR WILDE visited the brokers yesterday. It is to be feared that he took them for weird, fleshly things. When they spied him in the visitors' gallery of the Stock Exchange they gave vent to their emotions in unearthly howls, and his escort quickly hustled him out. It is unfortunate that the visit was not prolonged until an understanding was arrived at. Mr. WILDE is wiser than he looks, and the brokers are not so bad as they appear to be.

The report that the two companies of the Ninth Infantry which have been suddenly ordered to Fort Douglas are designed for the suppression of anticipated election disorders by the Mormons, revives many reminiscences, partly relating to the former presence of United States troops in Utah to quell disturbances, and partly to the employment of such troops in regulating elections at the South, a practice long since abandoned. The statement of the despatch which represents the present garrison of Fort Douglas to consist of only two companies does not seem to be correct, as at last accounts there were three, E, I, and K, Sixth Infantry.

We have closely watched, during the past three weeks, the predictions of the Weather Prophet DE VOE. We have found that nearly every one of his predictions for each successive day of these three weeks has turned out to be almost exactly correct. We shall from time to time hereafter keep an eye upon DE VOE, though we still hold to the opinion that he is a fool.

ALARM IN THE BOSOM OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

Chandler's Treachery—Arthur's Sudden Awaking.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Singular rumors floating down the coast from the junketing ground of the Despatch and the Tallapoosa have reached the Capitol within the last few days. They are in substance that the perfect accord existing between Gen. Arthur and Secretary Chandler has been disturbed. The date of it is immediately after the Maine election, and the blow-out on the Tallapoosa when Chandler is reported to have ordered the Plumed Knight's salute of forty guns.

Arthur's departure from the Despatch, and the sudden break up of the picnic which was to have been prolonged for some time, were, it is reported, pursuant to the purpose formed on becoming possessed of the evidence of Chandler's betrayal of him to serve Blaine.

According to the rumors which from time to time have reached the capital from the Presidential picnic, Arthur became alarmed by intelligence of what was transpiring, not at the capital only, but in the country at large, of the dissatisfaction that had come to exist with his desertion of his post, with the desertion by the Cabinet officials of their posts, with the desertion by nearly every other official of his post, till the absenteeism had become complete and there was neither responsibility nor the pretense of it at the seat of Government.

Gen. Arthur was warned to lose no time in returning to the main land, if not to the capital, as his absence and the universal imitation of his example were destroying him.

Along with these warnings came tidings of the appearances of Blaine in the West, having for their purpose the organizing of a campaign preliminary to the grand movement he will make for the Presidential nomination, and of the success which was everywhere attending them.

Not only these things but the condition of the contest in New York and Folger's bad predicament were reported to Arthur. Folger himself sent to him to come to his help in difficulties into which he had been drawn by its having become apparent that he was the Administration's favorite without adequate practical support.

Here was a double difficulty for Arthur: First, the failure of Folger would have the appearance, and, as a matter of fact, it would be a disagreeable reality, of defeat to himself, and this would have the effect to place another feather in Blaine's cap. Secondly, Folger's failure to become Governor, would give him an indefinite hold on the Treasury, to release which was the prime purpose in favoring him for Governor.

These were troubles enough. Nothing less would have impelled our President to ride a dozen miles over hard roads in an open express wagon to reach a railroad station and buy the papers—which latter, the report states specially, gave him no comfort—least of all THE SUN, which he read, as he always does, with the greatest attention. On this point the account is minute.

Gen. Arthur's arrival in New York was late in the evening, and Roscoe Conkling left the city early the following morning. There is a report that Mr. Conkling's interest in Judge Folger's nomination for Governor is of the kind he manifested at Mentor when the question of Folger's going into Garfield's Cabinet was brought up.

Officials here, with whom Gen. Arthur communicated as soon as time would allow, went over to New York to assist in the labor of pulling Folger through.

This part of the account is amply verified, as is also that part which relates to the President's anxiety lest through Folger's failure it should not only appear that his own State was not willing to endorse him, but that the Secretary would be left on his hands.

While Arthur was hurrying homeward to straighten out matters in New York, Chandler steamed away with the Tallapoosa, here and there picking up new junketers, protracting the rejoicings over Blaine's victory in Maine and the wonderful success of his circus in the West under Raum's management.

As Arthur lowered his flag on the Despatch Chandler showed his true colors on the Tallapoosa.

The circumstances surrounding Arthur are not only perplexing, but they are growing more and more difficult.

Federal Officers at Saratoga.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Since Gen. Arthur reached New York a number of Administration officials have left Washington, at his instance, to take a hand in advancing the cause of Folger. His nomination is regarded as essential to the Administration. His defeat under the circumstances, would, in the estimation of Arthur, be a blow to avoid which special efforts must be made. This was the chief reason for Arthur's sudden return here.

It was believed at the start that Folger would experience little difficulty in obtaining the nomination; but last week his case became so doubtful that Arthur, on being made acquainted with the precise facts, hurried to New York, and instantly summoned aids to form combinations and do such other things as should be necessary to give the Judge the nomination and pave the way for a new Secretary of the Treasury.

Republican Losses in the Next Congress.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—It is conceded by intelligent Republicans that in both Ohio and Indiana there will be a loss to that party of three or four members of Congress. The loss of one in Missouri is also conceded. The split in the Milwaukee district, if continued, will entail the loss of another; while the loss in Pennsylvania and New York, though certain, is still an unknown quantity. Outside of Virginia the prospect for gains in the South is not overwhelming.

Debating Societies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I am desirous of joining some social and debating society (not theological). Cannot some member introduce or recommend me to one? LEX.

NEW YORK, Sept. 19.

Herbert Spencer Not Gaining in Health.

From the Buffalo Courier.

Should his health permit, a banquet will be tendered to Mr. Herbert Spencer at Delmonico's previous to his departure from this country, an event which we learn will be hastened unless he receives more benefit from his future sojourn in America than he has thus far done.

STATE CLUBS IN WASHINGTON.

Twenty-five in Active Operation—Their Object and Influence.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—The political year has its seasons as well as the natural. Just now is the blossoming time of the Republican State clubs. They suffered a blighting frost during the early days of the Hayes Administration, but now again flourish in pristine vigor. There are now in active operation twenty-five of these clubs, representing as many States. The largest and most powerful are those of New York, Pennsylvania, Maine, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Indiana. The general plan and object of these organizations is the same in all. Membership is confined to Republican voters who have a residence at their homes, and the central purpose of the club is to get reduced rates from transportation companies for the members when going home to vote. The list of membership varies greatly in length in the various clubs. The Pennsylvania association is the largest; it numbers 600 members. New York comes next with a membership of 400. Then follow Massachusetts with 150, and Maine, Vermont, Indiana, and New Jersey with a slightly smaller number. Some of the organizations are very small, the membership not exceeding twenty or thirty. Most of the clubs rent rooms for their accommodation. They are, as a rule, plainly furnished, and are generally occupied only during the fall, as the clubs lie dormant the rest of the year.

It will be remembered that negotiations were recently entered into between the Ohio association and Mrs. Garfield looking to the purchase of the Garfield residence as a home for the Ohio Club. The scheme was abandoned, however, as the club felt itself unable to meet the necessary expenses involved in its purchase and occupation. The Ohio Club is perhaps the liveliest of the lot. Several of its members are tonight busily at work packing up documents and sending them to their State.

The clubs celebrate victory with a torchlight procession, and then relapse into a comatose state, from which they only arouse once during the winter to give a ball in honor of their lady friends. All these organizations offer fealty to a central club or committee, which has a general supervision over the whole confederation. The President of this general club is A. M. Clapp, a well-known Republican politician. The Presidents of the various State organizations are generally picked from the State bosses or influential department officers. The main object of these organizations, has been stated. Their notorious assumption of control over matters affecting the liberty of suffrage among the clerks led to the famous edict of death launched against them by Mr. Hayes. This, however, was a pope's bull to the moon. They never altogether died, and are now more flourishing than ever before. The club, through its committee, has access to the clerical rolls of the various departments, and knows to a dot every clerk's standing, disposition, and backing. As a general rule the clubs do not nominate clerks, but they have an important influence in their retention. The members hang together, and so long as a clerk is a good member, that is, a good Republican, in the full financial sense of the term, and is personally a good fellow, he can generally depend upon his associates for their help in a fight for life. The relation of these clubs to the Hubbell committee are generally friendly. Two or three of the organizations voted to make and disburse their own assessments, but such cases of friction are exceptional. As one of the members said tonight: "The Hubbell committee get the money and we get the men."

THE STAR ROUTE CASES.

A New Trial in December.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 18.—W. W. Ker, whose services Attorney-General Brewster enlisted in the prosecution of the Star route contractors, has returned temporarily to his home in this city. In speaking of the trial to-day Mr. Ker said that it was the intention of the Government to bring the accused persons before a jury again as speedily as possible, and that energetic efforts would be made to convict Brady, Dorsey, and their associates. He thought it more than likely that the cases would be called again on the first Monday of December. "The cases," said Mr. Ker, "will be tried until the conspirators are either convicted or acquitted. The verdict of the late jury was certainly a ridiculous one. We should probably have taken steps to have it set aside ourselves if the counsel for Miner and Rerdell had not done so. The defence evidently thought that we would oppose the motion for a new trial and hold on to the two men we had caught, but in that they were mistaken. I think the defendants did not look for such a result. They evidently anticipated the acquittal of all. The Dorseys in particular I think were surprised at the verdict. When the jury came in and said they had agreed upon some of the defendants, Col. Ingersoll arose and requested that a verdict be taken as to those the jury had acquitted, and then let them deliberate on the rest. Ingersoll seemed to act as if he knew the Dorsey's were free, though the jury had not said that they had acquitted any one. Dickson has lost caste in Washington since the verdict. The people generally seem to have had their confidence in him pretty well shaken. Dickson saved Brady and the Dorseys from conviction, and if it had not been for him there is no doubt that a verdict of guilty would have been rendered in all cases. Col. Turner, who was practically out of the case from the beginning, and Peck, who was dead."

On being asked what progress had been made in the bribery investigation, Mr. Ker replied that they were awaiting the arrival of Mr. Brewster, and Cameron and Bowen, the two special agents whom Dickson says offered him bribes. "These men," said Mr. Ker, "are looked for at the capital some time this week. As soon as they arrive I expect to be telegraphed for, and shall then go to Washington. Nothing, of course, can be done until these men arrive, and whenever they do the investigation will go forward at once. We had great difficulty in getting witnesses to attend the trial. Most of the men we wanted lived in the far West. We had to trace them from the mining camps of New Mexico up to Canada. Then, after we found them, means had to be provided for getting them to Washington. Mr. Bliss spent $13,000 out of his own pocket in getting these witnesses to the capital. The Government makes no provision for these things, and the witnesses had to be gotten somehow. Of course Mr. Bliss will be reimbursed by the Government for the amount he expended, and after we got the witnesses to Washington, many of them were bought off and sent away again. The Government had no way of detaining these people, and where they were dishonest they were made use of. Some of them were honest, and helped us a great deal. Then there was a third class, who thought the Administration did not want the defendants convicted—like Senator Spencer of Alabama, on whom a subpœna had been served—who ran away and hid themselves. I have never doubted myself that the Administration meant from the beginning to have these cases tried and the guilt or innocence of Dorsey, Brady, and others determined. Brady's newspapers debauched and demoralized the community in Washington to a great extent. These men left no means untried that they thought would create a sentiment in their favor and help their case. I think they will all be convicted in the next trial. I thought so in the former trial, and have the same opinion still. The defence they set up was decidedly weak, and no answer to the allegations contained in the indictment."

William R. Travers for Governor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Why would not the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this communication, namely, William R. Travers, be a highly creditable and probably eminently successful Democratic nominee for Governor at the approaching Convention at Syracuse? Though he has never taken much part in active politics, he a thoroughly patriotic citizen, possessing all the qualifications requisite for the intelligent discharge of the duties pertaining to that high position, and is, moreover, well known as a gentleman of the very highest character in his personal and social relations. He is wealthy, liberal, and hospitable, immensely popular with all who know him, is son-in-law of that illustrious patriot and statesman, the late Hon. Reverdy Johnson, and is himself the father-in-law of a possible nominee for the same high office by the Republican Convention now about to assemble at Saratoga, namely, the Hon. James N. Wadsworth. A race between these two family rivals would be intensely interesting and exciting, and in the winner on either side we should have a good Governor. H.

NEW YORK, Sept. 19, 1882.

Justice to a Practical Business Man.

From the New York Times.

It is stated that the official report of the receipts and expenditures of the Post Office Department will show that for the last fiscal year the department earned at least one million of dollars in excess of its expenditures. It is thirty two years since the postal service of the United States ceased to be self-sustaining, and for the last ten years it has shown an annual average deficiency of about five millions of dollars. Since 1850 the extent of post routes in miles has nearly doubled, the number of post offices has more than doubled, the salaries of Postmasters have increased five and one half times, and the cost of transporting the mails eight times. The achievement of placing our postal system on a paying basis is one for which the credit belongs almost solely to Mr. Thomas L. James. In the hands of a man less able and resolute than he the task would have been impossible, and had he done nothing more than to restore honest administration to the Star route department of his office he would have deserved the lasting gratitude of his fellow countrymen. The two millions saved on Star route expenses in one year represent but a part of Mr. James's administrative success, though it was the part which needed all his energy and firmness to carry out, and called down on his head the most vindictive assaults.

THOSE STORIES ABOUT MR. WEBSTER.

Mr. George Ticknor Curtis Chasing them into the Realms of Oblivion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: There seems to be no end to the stories about Mr. Webster which demand contradiction on close scrutiny. A few weeks ago a fiction made out of the whole cloth was started in a Boston paper, purporting to rest on the authority of Mr. Charles A. Stetson, about a midnight interview which some Southern delegates, who had been in the Baltimore Whig Convention of 1852, had with Mr. Webster at the Astor House, and in which he gave them an angry rebuke for not supporting him as a candidate for the Presidency, charged them with ingratitude, and so on. Mr. Stetson, on my calling his attention to this story, gave it a point blank contradiction, and said that no such interview ever took place. I added a multitude of facts which made it impossible that Mr. Webster should have been at the Astor House at the time he was said to have been there. The venue of the story was badly laid.

Now comes "Jacob Owen, Pitcher's Point, East Carroll Parish, La.," and writes to THE SUN that, "a short time before the meeting of the Convention," he and a New Orleans merchant, named Hill, Mr. Trotter of Lexington, Ky., and several other Southern and Western gentlemen were at the Revere House in Boston. Mr. Webster, he says, was also there; and he puts the time as being "not a great while before the scene Mr. Stetson so graphically describes." Mr. Stetson had never described any scene; but the time of the scene at the Astor House, invented by some writer who pretended to have had the account from Mr. Stetson, was on the night next after the final adjournment of the Baltimore Convention, which occurred on the 22d of June, 1852. The incident which Mr. Owen says he witnessed in Boston, if it ever happened, must therefore have happened some time before the 16th of June, which was the day the Convention assembled in Baltimore. Any one who will take the the trouble to consult the second volume of my "Life of Webster" will be able to determine precisely where he was from the 29th of April to the 9th of July, 1852. Mr. Owen relates that while he was at the Revere House printed handbills were circulated about the hotel, headed, "Ten Reasons Why Daniel Webster Should be the Nominee of the Convention," which he says was "about to assemble." The "reasons" assigned in these papers were that Mr. Webster's political course, while it had been for the good of the country without regard to section, had been "particularly serviceable to the South." Persons were soliciting signatures to these papers. Mr. Webster and his private secretary were in the parlor of the hotel. Men were brought into the room to sign the handbill in Mr. Webster's presence, and as they signed he bowed politely and thanked them. Some of the signers were "without coats, and evidently of the working class." Mr. Owen and his Southern friends stood, he says, around the door, much disgusted by the spectacle; and "just as a very ordinary man received Mr. Webster's thanks," Mr. Trotter, who was a "large man, with a deep, sonorous voice," said loudly to Mr. Hill: "Hill, Henry Clay would see the Presidency in hell before he would do that." Mr. Owen goes on: "Mr. Webster and his secretary, under great embarrassment, and in the midst of some confusion, left the town, and we never saw him afterward." Mr. Owen adds that the remembrance of that scene went a long way to reconcile him to the nomination of Gen Scott, and he closes his letter to THE SUN as follows: "I offer you the accompanying to show that Kentuckians and Southern men place a higher value on personal independence and dignity of character than on the possession of office, even it it is the Presidency."

Now for a few facts. Mr. Webster was at that time Secretary of State in President Fillmore's Administration. He left Washington for Marshfield, on a short vacation, on the 29th of April. On the 8th of May, while driving in an open carriage with Mr. Charles Lanman, his private secretary, on the hills which overlook Plymouth bay, the transom bolt of the carriage broke, and Mr. Webster was thrown violently to the ground, striking on his head and hands. He was taken up insensible, removed to a neighboring house, and after he was somewhat restored he was carried home. The shock to his whole system was very great, and it was not until the 18th of May that he was able to go to Boston. He was there just one week, and I saw him repeatedly. He did not stay at the Revere House, and I have very strong reason for believing that he did not enter that hotel during that week. He was for seven days at the house of his brother-in-law, Mr. Paige, in Summer street, a considerable distance from the Revere House; he was constantly attended by his physician, Dr. Jeffries, and was all the while suffering much pain in his arm, which he wore in a sling. With the exception of one drive in a carriage, out to the house of Col. Perkins in Brookline, on the 23d, and his speaking in Faneuil Hall on Saturday, the 22d of May, before he returned to Washington, I do not remember or believe that he was abroad anywhere until the 25th. It was with very great difficulty that he could go to Faneuil Hall and make a public address. But the people of Boston were extremely anxious to see him, and to know that he was mentally all that he had been. Dr. Jeffries reluctantly consented, and Mr. Webster made the effort, conquering his pain for the time by his great strength of will. But, as he wrote to President Fillmore on the 24th, it gave him "a troubled night." On the afternoon of the 25th, being very desirous to return to the State Department, he drove quickly to the steamboat train, and reached New York by one of the Sound boats on the morning of the 26th, with no other embarrassment or confusion than such as came from the suffering which he was still undergoing. On the 1st of June he was in Washington, and he was not again in Boston until the 9th of July. Mr. Owen is therefore confined, for the location of his "incident," to the seven days extending from about noon on the 18th of May to the afternoon of the 25th. Inasmuch as the Baltimore Convention did not assemble until the 16th of June, and as Mr. Webster was not in Boston after the 25th of May until the 9th of July, one would like to know on what day or evening between the 18th and the 25th of May your correspondent saw Mr. Webster in the Revere House soliciting people to sign papers to be sent to the Convention or thinking them for having signed such papers. Mr. Webster's speech in Faneuil Hall was made in the daytime; and I do not believe that he was out of Mr. Paige's house on any evening of the seven days that he passed there. If he was at the Revere House during those seven days, it must have been in the daytime. Mr. Owen ought, one would think, to have some means of fixing the time when he and his Southern friends became so disgusted with Mr. Webster's personal electioneering for his own candidacy.

Mr. Webster's letters to the President, written on the 9th and 12th of May from Marshfield, and on the 19th and 24th from Boston, give his personal record for those fifteen days. Let any one read them and judge of the probability that a man who was in the hands of physicians, keeping, as he wrote on the 24th, "as still as possible," and who could sign his name with difficulty, was at the Revere House transacting the scene described by Mr. Owen.

GEO. TICKNOR CURTIS.

P. S.—Distant readers, unacquainted with the locality, should know that Mr. Webster's house at Marshfield was forty miles from Boston, and that it was nine miles from the nearest railroad station.

RICHFIELD SPRINGS, Sept. 14, 1882.

Our Firemen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Can any one give me some information in regard to the London Fire Department, their mode of operation, style of dress, and so on. I have read a letter from the Chief of that body, Capt. Shaw, in which he says that the American system is "simply rotten," and that the magnificent drill, of which there has been so much boasting, amounts to nothing, but "a little harnessing of horses." But the most peculiar f