The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1882.

Amusements To-day.

Academy of Music—La Sonnambula.
Alcazar—Our Goblins.
Bijou Opera House—The Sorcerer.
Booth's Theatre—As You Like It.
Bunnell's Museum—Broadway, cor. 9th st.
Daly's Theatre—Our English Friend. Matinee.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Forbidden Fruit.
Globe Museum—298 Bowery.
Grand Opera House—Rigoletto. Matinee.
Haverly's Theatre—Sam'l of Posen.
Madison Square Theatre—Young Mrs. Winthrop.
New York Museum—218 Bowery.
Niblo's Garden—"40." Matinee.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Standard Theatre—Islanthe.
Thalia Theatre—A Frivolous Person.
Theatre Comique—McSorley's Inflation.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Variety.
Union Square Theatre—The Rantzaus.
Wallack's Theatre—The Queen's Shilling.
Windsor Theatre—The Mighty Dollar.

No Union of State and Church.

"Europeans coming to America, as to an asylum from oppression," said the Rev. Dr. KING, a Methodist minister, on Sunday, "must not be allowed to bring in the Continental Sabbath, and destroy the foundations of liberties secured for them, but without their assistance."

Substantially that remark is often made in our pulpits. The assumption is that by law we have here an established and characteristic Sabbath which everybody ought to be made to respect. But at the very foundation of this republic lies the separation of State and Church. Consequently in the State of New York the first day of the week can only be regarded by the law as a day of rest, as a holiday. Legally it is that, and not a Sabbath which there is any religious obligation to keep. The State has nothing to do with its religious character, except so far as to protect citizens in their right to worship on Sunday without disturbance. Such other regulations as are justifiable are those only which are necessary because of its peculiar character as a weekly holiday.

Moreover, the majority of voters must decide what restrictions shall be put about Sunday; and both in this State and many other States foreigners and the descendants of foreigners who have come to this country within fifty years are getting to be the majority, or are already the majority. Their ideas as to Sunday, whether it shall be what the Methodist preacher calls a Continental Sabbath or otherwise, must inevitably prevail in the long run.

It is true that formerly it was not easy for the lawmakers to stick to their theory, and carry it to its logical conclusion, in their treatment of Sunday. They slipped in restrictions which would only be justifiable if the State undertook religious control. But the laws wherein they so offended became a dead letter, of course, as soon as popular opinion refused to sustain them. And if now they are revived and so enforced as to become troublesome, they will speedily be abolished once for all, for only a small portion of the community, native and of foreign birth, would tolerate them as laws to which obedience was actually compelled.

Nor has anybody a right to complain of foreigners because they come here, qualify themselves as voters, and undertake to make our laws and customs to suit themselves. That is their right. They were invited to come to this republic on that understanding. They were to have a share in making the laws when they became citizens. They emigrated from countries where kings and State churches oppressed and hampered them, to come to one where there was liberty of conscience, where religion was an individual matter, and not one of Government regulation. To force them to keep Sunday as a Sabbath in accordance with the notions of this Methodist preacher and the small minority he represents in New York, would, therefore, be "to destroy the foundations of the liberties secured for them." It would be to upset our whole republican theory.

But the Rev. Dr. KING and those who think like him can do this with all propriety: they can go to work and try to convert these foreigners and the natives who sympathize with them to their way of thinking in regard to Sunday observance. The law cannot make the day sacred, for the law has nothing to do with religion; and therefore Sunday here will be made holy only so far as men believe that GOD commanded it to be so kept, and, believing, render obedience accordingly.

The Nicaraguan Job.

It is not at all surprising, when we bear in mind how committees were made up by Speaker KEIFER, that a majority of the Committee on Foreign Affairs should have reported in a highly objectionable form the bill to incorporate a Nicaraguan Canal. We are quite prepared, moreover, to see this scheme supported by the river and harbor statesmen who have been elected to stay at home hereafter. They feel an instinctive sympathy for any job that aims to impose a charge upon the Treasury; and as they are about to retire permanently from politics, they are in no wise concerned about the political complications in which this country may be involved. But we do not believe that the Nicaraguan bill, unless it is shorn of all its obnoxious features, can be passed by the Senate; and if it were, we predict that it would be vetoed by the President.

Some of the objections to this project were set forth last August in a minority report signed by Representatives BLOUNT and DEUSTER, and the whole case against it is now vigorously stated by Mr. BELMONT. The chief grounds of the latter's opposition to the scheme are, first, that it proposes to bolster the financial operations of private speculators by a loan of the public credit; and, secondly, that it entangles the United States in relations with foreign powers whose results cannot be foreseen. The bill, as amended by a majority of the committee, binds the United States to guarantee that the annual net receipts from traffic in the Nicaraguan Canal shall not fall short of three per cent. upon $75,000,000. Should the directors see fit at any time to declare that the profits of their enterprise had failed to come up to that sum, the deficit would have to be made good from the Federal Treasury.

The authors of this cool proposition seem to have forgotten that there is a time for all things, even for railway and canal swindles, and that a demand which might have seemed relatively modest in the day of the colossal Pacific Railroad jobs is now altogether out of date. Even if the contemplated canal were to run through our own territory, a request that the Government should guarantee the profits of its promoters would now be looked upon as singularly impudent. We have stopped pledging the public credit for the payment of interest on railroad bonds, our Government having been already sufficiently plundered by that operation. Moreover, the country has determined not only that the Secretary of the Treasury must find something else to do besides paying or guaranteeing the interest on a private debt, but that the public lands also shall no longer be squandered in order to enrich gangs of speculators. So, too, the lavish subsidizing of ocean steamships has become a matter of tradition since the Pacific Mail scandal was exposed. It is, we repeat, too late for any such raids upon the Treasury. They belong to another era—to the time when SCHUYLER COLFAX presided over the Senate, when Brother BLAINE was Speaker of the House, and when OAKES AMES was jotting down the suggestive figures "329" in his little memorandum book.

We have said that if the projected Nicaraguan Canal ran through our own territory, the demand that the Secretary of the Treasury, who is simply a custodian for the taxpayers, should make good the losses of the private capitalists who choose to invest in the enterprise, ought to be treated with derision. How much more brazen is the effrontery which puts forth such a claim when the waterway is to run through the territory of a foreign power! Who ever heard of a Government guaranteeing the earnings of its citizens under such circumstances? Was France asked to pledge its credit to secure the payment of interest on the shares of the Suez Canal Company? Did the men who built the Panama Railroad ask Congress to insure them against a failure to pay a dividend? Has M. DE LESSEPS made any proposition of the kind to the French Legislature in relation to the Panama Canal? On the contrary, the promoters of the enterprises mentioned made up their minds that the chance of success was good enough to justify investment, and they never dreamed of asking for any other security than was afforded by the nature of the undertaking and the character of its managers. Now, what is there, pray, about this Nicaraguan Canal scheme that should entitle its projectors to favors never asked for by analogous enterprises? If one-tenth of what its advocates say about the commercial necessity and value of their project be true, they should find it no more difficult to get the capital required than did the Panama Railroad Company thirty years ago, or the Panama Canal Company the other day in Paris. If, on the other hand, there is grave doubt in the minds of well-informed persons touching the capacity of a Nicaraguan Canal to pay a dividend, we can perfectly understand the eagerness of its lobby representatives to obtain a Government guarantee for its coupons.

Let us look next at the so-called concessions by which the speculators who are pushing this Nicaraguan job offer to compensate the Government for the loan of the public credit. The Government of the United States is to be allowed to nominate one member of a Board of eleven directors. One vote out of eleven votes—truly a precious privilege! It is to be hoped that this unique director would be able to do more for his constituents, the taxpayers of the United States, than does the Government director of the Union Pacific Railway. Another sham concession empowers the United States to occupy and manage the canal, temporarily or otherwise, *so far as this can be done without encroachment on the sovereign rights of the Government of Nicaragua and consistently with treaty obligations.* It was quite unnecessary to add this limitation, because neither the private individuals calling themselves the "Provisional Interoceanic Canal Company" nor the Congress of the United States are competent to invalidate the sovereign rights of a foreign nation. By the way, the phrase "treaty obligations" is, as Mr BELMONT notices, ominously vague. It may contemplate the compacts which by treaty Nicaragua has already made, or may in the future enter into, with Governments other than our own. Or it may refer to obligations which our own Government has contracted toward certain foreign powers. Whether the framers of this bill did or did not have in mind the latter class of contracts, is a question which does not in the slightest degree affect the binding force of such obligations. Treaties are not rescinded by a clause in an act incorporating a stock company. Here it is well to remember that the only outcome of the FRELINGHUYSEN correspondence touching the CLAYTON-BULWER treaty was a distinct intimation on the part of Lord GRANVILLE that England considers that compact to be fully in force at the present time. But until that treaty has been abrogated or materially modified, the pretended concession to the United States of a right to occupy and manage the Nicaraguan Canal is not worth the paper upon which it is written.

Civil Service Reform Run Mad.

In the House of Representatives a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution, introduced by Mr. NORCROSS, deserves notice as being the silliest project of civil service reform yet brought forward; and that is saying a great deal.

Mr. NORCROSS wants to create a national body "to be known as the House of Electors, which shall consist of one from each State, elected by the people of the respective States." The members shall possess the same qualifications as Representatives in Congress, and shall hold office for six years.

So much for the first section of the article he would add to the Constitution. Here is the second:

"The country shall be divided into postal districts, and Postmasters shall be elected by the people of the respective districts, subject to confirmation by the House of Electors or by the Postmaster-General. All other civil officers, as provided in article two, section two of the Constitution, except members of the Cabinet, ambassadors, other foreign Ministers, and United States Judges, shall be elected, examined, or confirmed by the House of Electors. The House of Electors shall make all rules governing its confirmations, elections, or examinations of civil officers."

Congress, under the powers conferred by the third section, is to determine what class of Postmasters shall be confirmed by the House of Electors and what class by the Postmaster-General. The term of all civil officers not appointed by the President is fixed by the fourth section at five years, and the President is authorized to remove any officer of the civil service "for any reason except political."

The mind that originated the idea of electing thirty-eight men—or women, for the language of this amendment would admit women to the House of Electors—to examine a poor Treasury clerk, must be phenomenal.

It might be thought that the entire proposition was too absurd to be seriously considered; but is anything too foolish for a Congress in which KEIFER is the Speaker, and whose members have just spent a day in trying to justify the passage of the River and Harbor bill?

Brewster Wants More Offices.

There is a demand for more offices and patronage in most of the reports from the departments, and upon the flimsiest of pretexts. The Attorney-General wants the act of 1856 revived, allowing United States Attorneys to appoint substitute attorneys in certain cases to attend to the duties of the office when they cannot attend to them themselves. This law was repealed because experience had shown it was exposed to abuse.

Mr. BREWSTER himself has encouraged this practice of employing substitutes while the Department of Justice is thronged with salaried officials enough for all the needs of the service. The Star route cases in Washington and in Philadelphia, and the election cases in South Carolina, burdened the Treasury with large extra charges for services that should have been performed by Mr. BREWSTER and his deputies.

Instead of setting an example of strict obedience to the law, he has openly and flagrantly violated statutes intended to protect the Treasury against fraud and peculation. Congress authorized the purchase of the Freedman's Bank building at the last session, for a round quarter of a million of dollars. It is occupied by the Department of Justice. Several houses of wood, and one residence of brick, all rented, were on the lot belonging to this property.

In one of his freaks, which have become often unpleasantly notorious, Mr. BREWSTER ordered all these houses to be removed. They were sold for a song, and without the shadow of authority. He treated this public property as his personal estate, and sacrificed the income from it like a reckless spendthrift. It is high time these vagaries were stopped, and that Congress should assert its proper power by exposure of practices in the Department of Justice which would discredit the lowest police court.

Is It So?

We have from a correspondent in Philadelphia the assertion that Gov. PATTISON has determined to appoint Mr. LEWIS C. CASSIDY Attorney-General of Pennsylvania.

We have heard a good deal of this subject, on both sides. Those who have foretold Mr. CASSIDY's appointment have been flatly contradicted by other prophets equally positive, who have declared that such an appointment would not be made.

No doubt Mr. CASSIDY is a clever criminal lawyer, but the difficulty with him is that he has been altogether too intimate with WILLIAM H. KEMBLE, the notorious practitioner of Addition, Division, and Silence.

Gov. PATTISON can undoubtedly commit with impunity a good many small mistakes; but can he afford to make such an appointment as this?

Our hopes of the tidal wave Governors are rather diminishing.

On Monday Mr. GEORGE E. SPENCER, the dodging Star route witness, told a reporter in Watertown that he had tried in vain to get Mr. BLISS to put him on the witness stand. On Tuesday, evidently fearing that he might be taken at his word, Mr. SPENCER and his carpetbag disappeared over the Canada line. Mr. BLISS denies SPENCER'S statement that he (SPENCER) got the Government's permission to quit Washington last spring, and promises to punish the fugitive for contempt of court when he can catch him. The inaction of the Government in this matter is little less disgraceful than SPENCER'S conduct. SPENCER could have been found at any time if an earnest search had been made for him. His sojourn for several days in Watertown was published all over the country, and he could have been arrested on a few hours' notice.

What does this mean? Mr. GEORGE FRISBIE HOAR has introduced resolutions in the Senate calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster-General for reports of the administration of the offices of Collector, Surveyor, and Postmaster of New York. Does Mr. HOAR suspect that the headsman is abroad? If so, he should warn WOOD PULP MILLER and wake up the ancient LATHAM. It cannot be possible he has forgotten that New York has a pair of able Senators.

The *National Republican* of Washington has made the startling discovery that Governor-elect PATTISON of Pennsylvania is a formidable candidate for President in 1884. As Mr. PATTISON will not be old enough to make him eligible to the office if elected, the *Republican* probably intends to amend the Constitution to meet his case.

Kings have their uses after all. At a fire in Madrid yesterday the ruler of Spain took a hand in subduing the flames. Perhaps he had been reading how the rulers of New York started in life as volunteer firemen, and was stirred to like deeds of valor. It is to be hoped that his Majesty did not find it necessary to smash his trumpet over a rival's head, and that he did not discover that the enemy had cut his hose on his first day out with the machine.

The band of Chippewa Indians now in Washington must have an exalted idea of the importance of the Secretary of the Interior. They travelled all the way from the northern part of Dakota to protest against the presence of white men on their reservation, but, when they arrived in Washington, the Secretary refused to see them because they had come without his permission. Their course now is, clearly, to return to Dakota and await the permission of Secretary TELLER to lay the matter before him. It may occur to these simple-minded children of nature, however, that an easy way out of the difficulty would be to kill all the white men on the reservation first, and confer with the Secretary of the Interior at their leisure.

In England a decision has just been rendered, by Mr. Justice MATTHEWS, that a husband is not responsible for the costs of an attorney employed by his wife when she sues for a divorce. This will be gratifying to the male defendants in divorce cases now before the courts in London. Had the decision been the other way, it would have been rough on the husband. He would lose, no matter how the suit went. If the divorce was granted, he would lose his wife; if denied, he would lose his money.

South Dakota, which wants to be erected into a State, cast 31,000 votes at the late election, or one-thirtieth of the vote of the State of New York. Yet South Dakota wants two United States Senators and a Representative in Congress. Go to.

The forgiving disposition of some women was wonderfully illustrated in the Court of General Sessions the other day. ALBERT ARTHUR was tried upon the charge of attempting to kill his young wife, NELLIE ARTHUR, a variety actress. The evidence was that he, prompted by jealousy, attacked her in a private box of the theatre in which she was employed, and stabbed her eleven times. She lay at the point of death for weeks, but when she quitted the hospital it was found that she had forgiven her cruel husband, and was unwilling to testify against him. During his trial, the evidence of other witnesses being sufficient, she went frequently to the prisoners' box, and sent him luncheon at recess. ARTHUR was convicted, however, and the probability is that he will spend some years in State prison.

The story of little ALICE CLANCY, who went begging for food for herself and her baby brother while her mother lay helplessly drunk in a tenement in Third street, appeals to the sympathies of all, and there is little danger that these children again will suffer from hunger. But the trouble is there are probably many similar cases of which the public and the charitable societies do not hear. Only now and then one is discovered, almost by accident. The picture which they give of the brutalizing power of rum is more telling than any temperance sermon ever delivered.

Facts About Keifer.

From the Cincinnati Commercial, a Leading Republican Journal.

He thrust Robeson the Robber into three committees relating to the navy, which had been made subservient to Robeson's jobbery during the time that he was Secretary. The facts in the case of Robeson in the navy are as indisputable as that Boss Tweed plundered the city of New York. We have not heard of more than one man able to deny this, and he was not Robeson, but an Ohio man.

$7,200,000.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will you inform me what amount the United States paid for Alaska? W. L.

BROOKLYN, *Dec. 10.*

REFORM THE PENSION LAWS.

A Fearful Burden on the Taxpayers—The Cowardly Sentiment of our Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The number in either House of Congress who do not feel that the frauds in the pension budget amount annually to many millions of dollars is very small. That the pension system is an organized swindle is the general conviction. That it has resulted from a cowardly truckling to clamor is a confessed fact. The increase annually by tens of millions of the amount required under the working of the law for alleged pensions is becoming startling.

Neither the Commissioner nor any one else pretends to dispute the existence of frauds amounting to many millions annually. The cowardly spirit whereby ill-digested pension laws have been recklessly spread on the statute book, as yet prevents the reform which hardly any one disputes is needed.

Happily the dose is likely to lead to its own cure. Its effects are already seen. It is inconceivable that it should be much longer endured, that Congress should continue to vote tens of millions year after year to be drawn from the public Treasury fraudulently.

The preparations for the new pension building, which is alleged to be as false in its plans, if not actually as fraudulent otherwise, as the pension system itself—a building nearly as large as the Treasury building—is a fearful reminder of what the future is going to be if something is not done at once for a reasonable and an honest system of pensions.

It is a present subject of concern in the minds of Representatives and Senators. At the same time there is a lamentable lack of the spirit if not the ability to act for the correction of the already immense and continually growing evil. It is a favorable sign, however, that concern is felt, that there is so much talk, and such a general disposition to admit the frauds and the necessity for reform. No disposition is felt to deny pensions to deserving persons. It is the admitted frauds and the too liberal extension of the list, whereby not only sheer dishonesty is perpetrated on an extensive scale, but millions are annually drawn from the Treasury for pensions not within the rule, and which the country should never be called on to pay.

The soldier realizes the true state of the case, the extent to which bogus claims are allowed, that frauds are committed in his name, and that it is liable to become discreditable, however worthy one may be, to apply for a pension.

The Representatives or Senator who hesitates to make a move or raise his voice in favor of reforming the stupendous evil, mistakes public opinion, especially among the soldiers who ought to have pensions.

The great body of the taxpayers are too intelligent, the real pension deservers are too reasonable to be feared by an occupant of a seat in Congress who will raise his voice for honesty and reform in the pension system.

No man or party should hesitate a moment for fear of the consequences to take a stand against the present fraudulent system and for reasonable and honest pensions. This soon will be the popular side, if it is not such already. The disposition in Congress to deal with the question in this light not only actually exists, but is a growing one. Let the ice once be broken and reform will become comparatively easy work. A fearless, able, and patriotic leader would not want for followers to-morrow.

ALL WANT TO BE SENATORS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Senator Ferry of Michigan has resumed his seat at Washington, fresh from the campaign for the succession to himself. He professes great confidence in being reelected, but it is easy to see in the midst of his assurances that below the surface there is much misgiving about the result. He accuses Jay Hubbell of having assailed his public and his private character in the most atrocious manner; and he openly vows vengeance against the great assessor.

The best opinion is that Michigan is weary of Ferry, and will not take Hubbell on any terms. So neither is likely to triumph over the other, and both will go into merited exile.

The war between Senator Hill and Secretary Teller of Colorado grows fiercer every day as the election of Senator for that State approaches. Their respective candidates have not changed position since the recent election, and, although the Republicans have a decided majority on joint ballot in the Legislature, the bitterness of the contest between the rival factions will either compel the choice of a new man or lead to a combination, the result of which cannot be predicted.

It is morally certain that Mr. Saunders cannot be returned from Nebraska, and his successor is equally uncertain. The Anti-Monopolists have the power to elect a Senator, and they may send one of Republican antecedents, but committed against enforcing the edicts.

Gen. Logan has put a padlock on his mouth in regard to the Senatorial election in Illinois. He has a clear preference, but is prudent enough to conceal it, looking forward as he does, to his own chances in 1885. All the candidates claim his good will, but he has not given it to any one of them over the other, and he means to remain uncommitted on the subject. In making a distinct issue with Gen. Grant on Fitz John Porter's case, Gen. Logan had something else in view besides the abstract merits of that controversy. His answer to Grant was a declaration of independence.

The elections in the foregoing States, with the votes of Van Wyck, Hill, and Mitchell, will determine the working majority in the Senate after the 4th of March. Although the Republicans have a seeming advantage, their control is by no means assured.

Poor Henry Hadn't Style Enough.

From the Cleveland Plaindealer

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—"Do you know why the President bounced Marshal Henry?" asked a well known public man last night at a gathering of politicians.

"Because he was in sympathy with the Star route people," said one.

"Because he was Garfield's friend," said another.

"Neither," said the first speaker. "Henry never had anything to do with the Star route men, nor they with him, and the story that he schemed to protect them is all moonshine. Henry hadn't will enough for such work. Nobody with half sense would accuse such a dull cod of stalking in with such sharpers as Brady and Dorsey."

"What was it then?"

"Well, Henry's style didn't suit the President and old Benny Brewster. We have an elegant administration now, you know, and old Brewster is a gilt-edged old swell. He and Arthur don't want anybody but tony people about them. The duty of the Marshal requires him to be much about the White House. He is a sort of a Major Domo or Grand Chamberlain in fact. Well, everybody knows what sort of a man Henry is. A good hearted, honest fellow, like enough, but only a plain country bumpkin. Garfield was a plain, countrified man himself, and surrounded himself with men of the same sort. A sort of rough, uncultivated, Sunday school sort of fellows, you know. He got Henry somewhere down in the woods on the Western Reserve, I believe. Henry tried to do the best he could, and no doubt discharged his duties very well, but it nearly broke old Brewster's heart to see him around. When Brewster came around with his ruffled shirt bosom and his elegant friends from Chestnut street, Philadelphia, and had to meet Henry with his uncouth country ways, it made him sick. He wanted a man that could put on some style, you know, and so did Arthur. So they trumped up their Star route charge against Henry, and he had to go. I hear he is going back to Ohio to start a stone quarry. Brewster had Clate McMichael appointed in his stead, because he is a society man of Philadelphia, and stands in with aristocracy."

"Then Henry had to go because he hadn't style enough to suit this administration?"

"Well, that's about the size of it."

Book Notes.

Messrs. Peterson & Brothers have republished Fayette Robinson's translation of George Sand's "Consuelo," a novel very popular thirty years ago, and by good right very popular still.

Clara Bell, who is known as a clever and audacious writer for the Western press, has translated a little Italian story called "A Whimsical Wooing," and a very readable story it is.

We give praise to Mrs. Anna C. Lowell's collection of poetry for children, published under the title of "Posies." The selections are excellent.

A very beautiful book is Mr. George E. Woodberry's "History of Wood Engraving" (Harpers). The history is learned and judicious, and the illustrations are of surpassing excellence.

One of the loveliest books of the year is Mr. Hamilton Gibson's "Highways and Byways," the letterpress being from the pen of this accomplished artist, and every illustration the work of his pencil. The charms and delights of rural New England were never more beautifully depicted by either implement, and we admire alike Mr. Gibson's ability to literature and to art.

"The Salmagundi Birthday Book," published by S. W. Green's Son, is one of the most attractive of its new numerous class. The selections are made with wit, the typography is fine, and the illustrations show some of the best work of some of the best American engravers.

Robert Grant's Wall street tragedy, "The Lambs," has been republished in Boston, with clever illustrations.

In an elephantine quarto of about 1,200 pages, William R. Balch has collected and condensed a great mass of information regarding "The Mines, Miners, and Mining Interests of the United States." The compiler's task has been intelligently and conscientiously done—the publishers, the Mining Industrial Publishing Bureau of Philadelphia, have handsomely printed the book, and the result is a valuable work of reference.

A beautiful little volume, bearing the quaint and not modern title of "A Paradise of Dainty Devices," is published by Charles Pratt & Co., oil manufacturers. It contains poems, ancient and modern, English, Irish, and American, selected with taste and printed in a fitting manner. It is an agreeable and curious product of the Christmas season.

PENNSYLVANIA POLITICS.

Gov. Pattison's Cabinet—Senator Wallace Likely to Antagonize his Administration.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—It may be set down as an absolute certainty that Governor-elect Pattison has determined to appoint the Hon. Lewis C. Cassidy Attorney-General of Pennsylvania, and the Hon. Wm. S. Stenger of Chambersburg, Secretary of the Commonwealth. A pretty close acquaintance with Mr. Pattison, almost from the day that he first entered Mr. Cassidy's office as a law student, warrants me in saying that when he once makes up his mind to do a thing, he does it just about as he concluded to do it, and the sooner the Democratic politicians of the State understand this the better it will be for all concerned.

There is one thing I mention, not heretofore made public, in connection with Gov. Pattison's Cabinet. When Mr. Malcom Hay of Pittsburgh came to Philadelphia to look after his appointment as Secretary of the Commonwealth, he informed Mr. Pattison that it would give him great pleasure to serve in the Cabinet with Mr. Cassidy, and it was not until forty-eight hours after Mr. Pattison told Hay that he had concluded to appoint Mr. Stenger Secretary of the Commonwealth that Malcom of the West determined not to serve with Mr. Cassidy.

It is surprising how many candidates there are for Attorney-General. Col. A. K. McClure, who never neglects an opportunity to serve those who have served him, is working hard to make Chas. R. Buckalew the Attorney-General. Wm. A. Wallace, who is laying pipe for a return to the United States Senate, is for R. Milton Speer, ex-Congressman from the Huntingdon district; Hopkins of Pittsburgh, Mr. Pattison's most formidable competitor for Governor, who also has an eye upon a Senatorial seat, favors the appointment of George A. Jenks of Jefferson county.

While Col. McClure is interested in his friend Buckalew's success, he is entirely satisfied with the selection of Mr. Cassidy, as he considers it an anti-Wallace appointment; and as Col. McClure has in the columns of his paper, the *Times*, designated Senator Wallace as the leader of the Grub Democracy, because of his efforts to break down Mr. Pattison, it is only reasonable to believe that McClure will support Gov. Pattison in his efforts to advance the interests of the Randall wing of the Democratic party of this State.

When in Congress Mr. Stenger was one of the most earnest supporters Speaker Randall had in the House, and Mr. Randall knew just what he was about when he secured the appointment of Mr. Stenger as Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Pattison, Cassidy, Stenger, and the Rev. Bro. Everitt, D. D., will make a formidable Cabinet. As a Pardon Board it will prove a terror to criminals.

Army and Navy Notes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The current number of *Blackwood* contains an article on Egypt, in which the writer claims for the Beaconsfield Ministry a large share of credit for the success of the campaign. The English used Cyprus as a depot, and a controlling interest in the Suez Canal enabled Sir Garnet to operate through that channel notwithstanding the protests of M. de Lesseps. Both of these advantages were, it is alleged, due to the diplomacy of Beaconsfield, and achieved in the face of a strong opposition by the present Ministry. The parting dose for the British commander by his corps of special correspondents is severely criticised, as well as the administration of his commissariat. The supply department of the Indian contingent was handled by military men while that of the home troops was in the hands of a corps of civilians. The result was that the troops from India were much better supplied and more comfortably cared for than were those fresh from England. During the early period of our civil war we had a similar experience with a supply corps largely officered by men from civil life, who were appointed at the instance of politicians. But our war continued long enough to make our organization a very efficient one, while that of the English army appears to have been a failure of sufficient magnitude to demand, what it is now undergoing, a complete overhauling. The charge brought by certain Continental newspapers that the English soldiery committed many atrocities in Egypt is denied, but in so mild a manner as to indicate that there must have been some cause for the imputation. English mobs rival, if they do not exceed, in brutality the acts of the communistic mobs of Paris; and, judging some what from reports, it is possible to believe the report that, while demoralized by their victories over a semi-barbarous people, the British troops committed atrocities more worthy of the Mamelukes of Soudan than the soldiers of one of the most civilized nations, and presided over by the most gracious and humane sovereign on earth.

The death of Admiral Wyman makes it necessary for the President to fill the vacancy caused thereby in the office of Chairman of the Lighthouse Board. This Board is composed of officers detailed for the duty from the army, the navy, and the coast survey, the office of Chairman being filled by an officer of either the army or navy. The place is a highly important and honorable one, and the selection from either arm of the service being discretionary with the Executive, it is likely that a good deal of influence will be brought to bear to replace the deceased naval officer by an officer from the army, in which case Gen. Wright, Chief of Engineers of the army, being already a member of the Board, will be ex officio Chairman thereof.

It is believed that after the appointments of Pope and Mackenzie to be Major-General and Brigadier-General respectively are confirmed, there will be a few important changes in the duties and boards of the Military Geographical Departments. The Department of the South, the headquarters of which is at Newport Barracks, Ky., is likely to be discontinued. It is now commanded by Gen. Hunt of the artillery by an assignment according to his brevet rank of Major-General. He was a distinguished officer during the civil war, being Chief of Artillery of the Army of the Potomac, and was prominently mentioned as a proper officer upon whom the recent promotion of Brigadier should have been conferred. However, the young man seem to be getting the best of the promotions in the army of late, the three junior Brigadiers, Crook, Miles, and Mackenzie, being quite young men, as are also Hazen and Rochester, the heads of the signal and pay corps respectively. The return of Schofield from Europe and the relief of Howard from West Point produced a sort of a bear movement in Generals, there being more thrown upon the market than Gen. Sherman says he knows what to do with. It will therefore be necessary to rearrange the departments and make other holes to put the pegs in, or some impulsive Congressman may ask what is wanted of so many pegs when there are no holes to be filled.

One of the principal causes for the recent stirring up of the navy in regard to promotion by selection, at least in the grades of Commodore and Admiral, is the fact that this is the way promotions to corresponding grades in the army are made. The younger naval officers see the young officers of the army taking these higher positions, while they are compelled to wait until death or sixty two removes the older officers from their paths to promotion. It is said that upon the side of conservatism and promotion by seniority may be found all the older officers of the navy, while there is an aggressive younger party who are advocating reform, and are led by an able head of one of the bureaus and a bright young Lieutenant, who has an accomplished and wealthy wife and strong personal and social backing.

The officers of the Signal Corps will make a determined effort during this session of Congress to have the corps reorganized and placed upon a more permanent basis than it has hitherto occupied. With the exception of the Chief Signal Officer and a few Second Lieutenants appointed from the ranks of the corps, the officers belong to other organizations in the army, and they are, so far as permanence is concerned, somewhat in the position of the clerks in the departments; they are liable to be relieved any day and ordered to join their commands. What they desire is that the organization shall be placed on the same footing as are the other staff corps and departments. Then the officers selected would vacate their regimental positions, which could then be filled by promotions, and officers of the corps would not be harassed by applications for them to join, nor by a feeling that while they are absent from their proper commands other officers are credited with performing their duties for them. The Signal Service has grown from a few flags and torches to an important meteorological and scientific bureau, its ramifications extending throughout the civilized world. It is a popular bureau, because it extends its benefits to the ranchmen of the plains, where the herders are warned of approaching storms in time to gather in their flocks, to the cotton and orange grower, who is advised of the approach of frost, and to commerce, which is indebted to it for tracing the course of extraordinary storms and cyclones. If next year it shall succeed in relieving the Greely Arctic expedition, it will have the credit of having, in connection with the station at Point Barrow, north Alaska, had two of the most useful Arctic expeditions of which we have any knowledge. They are organized upon a proper basis, and have in view practical objects, with a reasonable prospect of success.

Good Advice to a Candidate.

From the Cincinnati Commercial.

We have confidence in the integrity and ability of Mr. Carlisle of Kentucky. We believe there are no necessary concealments in his public career. He can win the highest honors of his State.

He is a strongly marked candidate for the Speakership of the next House. This is through force of his character and capacity.

Already, as we understand it, the Mississippi Improvement Ring have notified Mr. Carlisle's friends that he is impossible unless he pledges himself to fix the committees to suit them.

In our judgment there is no obscurity so degrading as official conspicuosity obtained by bargaining and corrupting.

So we say Mr. Carlisle can afford not to be Speaker. The Speakership obtained by intrigue is a burning disgrace. The man who sells himself for a high place is above all others an advertised shame.

CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING.

The Committee's Estimates Cut One-half by Frugal-minded Members.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—All the indications were that the House was going to consider legislation in which there was centred a good deal of private interest. The galleries were filled. Real estate speculators, owners of land east of the Capitol that has stagnated, if not depreciated in price, architects, and certain well-known lobbyists were on hand. It was the day set for considering the New Library bill. Ever since there has been talk about the necessity of building a new library there have been accusations of jobbery respecting the plans, and if the charge is not true, then appearances are deceitful. When the Senate was discussing a Library bill two years ago, the same crowd were seen with eager faces. When the subject came up in the House last spring the same outside interests made themselves manifest. Inside the Capitol two large efforts were made by interested parties to prevail upon Congress to vote six or eight millions toward purchasing a site and putting up a building. The present library rooms were made to look sadly confused, and Congressmen and visitors were obliged to stumble among great heaps of books that littered the floors. It was represented that at the rate of accumulation all would be chaos in the library before very long. No doubt additional accommodations were needed, but members who gave the matter any thought were satisfied that the extraordinary efforts that were being made to have Congress select some private property east of the Capitol for the site were not wholly born of public interest. The Government owns a great deal of available land. There is a broad stretch south of the avenue that reaches almost from the Capitol to the White House. There were Judiciary square and other squares. There was even a feasible plan of so enlarging the Capitol as to give all the book room needed for years. But the pressure was for the purchase of land that fronted the east park of the Capitol grounds. The first plan was to secure a bill appropriating a million to buy two squares, but last session's discussion showed that this could not be adopted. Then it was agreed in committee to buy one square for half a million. It was apparent that if one square was bought, sooner or later the other would have to be, and, besides, the erection of the library there would tend greatly to enhance the price of property in this moribund part of the city. When the bill was under discussion last summer its further consideration was postponed until to-day. Since then Judiciary square has been selected as the site of the new Pension buildings so that those members of the Library Committee who had favored Judiciary square were driven to accepting the private property site. The bill therefore came before the House to-day endorsed by all the committee. It provided for erecting a building in renaissance style, to cost not more than $3,500,000. It was thought that the bill would go through without much difficulty, but vigorous opposition was developed from the start. Blount of Georgia characterized the influences behind it by saying that every time anybody had any property to sell they came forward with the cry of urgent public necessity for the erection of this or that building. Judge Reagan, too, said that it was remarkable that the Government was forced to buy land for public purposes when it owned forty-seven per cent. of the land in the city. But an admission that was wrung from Geddes, that at least sixty thousand volumes would be kept in the Capitol even if the building was built, ruined the force of the argument for the purchase of the proposed site. For it was said if these volumes are to be kept in the Capitol for immediate reference there is no need that the new building should be so near the Capitol. The argument could not be answered. It paved the way for Holman's amendment providing that the building should not cost more than two millions, and also for Hammond's resolution recommitting the bill to the committee with instructions to report a bill that fixes a site upon Government land. This was carried by 110 to 96. Thus the social, private, and other influences that have created such a sentiment for the purchase of private land for the new library were defeated to-day, and it is to be feared that there will be less interest displayed in the matter of building at all than there has been.

Ex-Senator Spencer Goes to Canada.

SYRACUSE, Dec. 12.—Ex-Senator George E. Spencer of Alabama, who was yesterday reported as having gone out to the obscure village of Champion, Jefferson county, to visit relatives, appears to have taken alarm at the discovery of his whereabouts. There seems to be no doubt that the object of his visit to Jefferson county was to elude the officers of the Government, who, it has been declared, intended to arrest him in order to procure his attendance at the Star route trials. Instead of going to Champion, he took a train at Watertown, and is now in Canada. He told his relatives that he was going to see other members of the family, and would return in a few days. His efforts to mislead his own family are regarded as conclusive evidence that he was trying to keep away from the United States marshals, and that he is not, as he claimed to be, willing to be a witness in the Star route cases. His nephew Dr. James Spencer, who he accompanied to Canada, has just returned. He says he knows nothing of his uncle's whereabouts, or whether he will return to Watertown or not. It is ascertained that Spencer went to Cape Vincent and crossed over to Kingston. He quitted Kingston, and went East by train this afternoon.

Insulted in a One-horse Car.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On Saturday I stepped into a Twenty-third street car at Lexington avenue to ride to my home, near Seventh avenue. It was nearly 5 o'clock, and almost dark. The lamps at either end of the car had not been lighted, and there were only two passengers—a woman who sat close to the money box, and a man who lounged near the door. I put my fare in the box and sat down. A moment later I noticed that the man near the door was leering at me. I turned my face toward the window, but before we had gone twenty feet further he had moved along the seat to my side and leaned against me. I sprang to the other side of the car, but he followed, and I saw that he had been drinking heavily. He made further advances, and I tried to reach the bell strap, but he seized my arm. Then I screamed to the driver, but he couldn't hear me. I asked the woman by the box to ring the bell, but the ruffian by my side menaced her so that she hesitated. Then suddenly the car came to a halt as a stage swung around in front of it, and I shook off the drunkard's grip on my wrist and ran out of the car. The other woman followed. As she passed the man he grabbed at her and tore some of the fringe from her dolman. The car went rattling on, and we walked home.

Women have no protection whatever in these one-horse cars. Between the annoyance they suffer