The Sun.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1882.

Amusements To-day.

Academy of Music—Alla.
Aleazar—Our Goldins.
Bijou Opera House—The Sorcerer.
Booth's Theatre—As You Like It.
Big Indian Wigwam—25th st. and Broadway.
Bunnell's Museum—Broadway, cor. 9th st.
Chickering Hall—Matinee-Concert.
Daly's Theatre—Our English Friend.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Forbidden Fruit.
Globe Museum—2d Bowery.
Grand Opera House—Marcita.
Haverly's Theatre—Sam'l of Posen.
Madison Square Theatre—Young Mrs. Winthrop.
New York Museum—218 Bowery.
Niblo's Garden—"19."
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Standard Theatre—Iolanthe.
Thalia Theatre—The Princess of Trebizond.
Theatre Comique—McSorley's Inflation. Matinee.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Variety. Matinee.
Union Square Theatre—The Ironmaster.
Wallack's Theatre—The Queen's Shilling.
Windsor Theatre—The Mighty Dollar.

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Remedies for Republican Discontent.

Doubtless more than two-thirds of the Republicans in the city are dissatisfied with the result of the primary elections on Tuesday for officers of their Assembly district associations and delegates to their Central Committee for the ensuing year. These officers and delegates control the party in the city. They constitute what is called the machine, and they run it to suit themselves. Under the existing order of things, less than a third of those who support the Republican ticket in the city can vote at the primaries, and thus exert any power in the organization of the party, or in its operations, or in the nomination of candidates for public office. None but members of the Assembly district associations can vote at the primaries, and no Republican can be admitted to these associations until he has signed a pledge that he will support the regularly nominated candidates of the party, and will not vote for an independent candidate, and will not belong to any other political association.

After the applicant for membership has signed this pledge, he cannot be admitted to the district association till he has been proposed and endorsed by some of the machine managers, and can then get votes enough to carry him through. Of course, a great body of Republicans will not submit to this routine, and therefore they cannot bear a share in the management of the party in the city. But they are not without remedies. They can break up the present machine organization; or they can turn their backs upon it and join the Independents. But whatsoever they do, one thing above all they should not omit, and that is to enroll themselves in the Grand Army of Readers of THE SUN, which Shines for All.

The March of Reform.

Both Houses of Congress are running a race for civil service reform, under the sharp stimulant of the recent elections. The old stagers who have profited most by patronage, and who are chiefly responsible for its abuses, shout loudest for a change in their own methods. With pockets full of plunder, they cry out "Stop thief," hoping to escape detection and punishment.

JOHN SHERMAN, who rewarded with offices the perjurers, the forgers, the thieves, the conspirators, and the scoundrels generally who aided him in stealing for the contemptible HAYES the Presidency in 1876, is professedly very much exercised on this subject. Being no longer in power, he would be quite willing to put a curb on his successor. Yet he was among the first, after reaching Washington, to rush to the White House to ask a Judgeship for his chief henchman in Ohio, after having officially, as Secretary of the Treasury, impeached the integrity of the President, when the latter was Collector of this port.

Mr. HOAR, who used the Custom House of Boston as a political machine to serve his personal interests, and who quarrelled with the President for not reappointing his Collector to continue that work, manufactures amendments by the yard for reform.

Mr. ALLISON, who for the last eighteen years in Congress has been a conspicuous beneficiary of the spoils system, and a defender of its worst practices, is troubled in spirit about the existing evils.

Mr. HALE, who defended HUBBELL's extortions at the last session, and who has crowded his partisans into office in Maine and at Washington, now masquerades as a model reformer.

Gen. HAWLEY is so anxious to exhibit his sudden conversion to reform that he has brought in a bill to save his Republican friends from the harsh grasp of any future HUBBELL.

DON CAMERON has not yet made his profession of faith, but he is known to be on the anxious bench, preparing to become one of the new elect.

In the House there is a perfect rush of this class of reformers, all seeking to advertise their wares and to inform the public that they have removed from the old stand. Mr. KASSON, the most expert acrobat in that body, has labored hard to keep in front of the scramble for precedence, supposing that position would be equal to a certificate of sincerity.

But the virtuous KASSON has been pressed by a host of ready-made reformers, every one of them with a panacea for all the diseases of the body politic. In the mass of bills to cure the admitted evils, one feature predominates throughout, which is curious enough considering that one of the great complaints is the huge standing army of officeholders. These reformers all want more Commissions established and more offices created. Where existing officers are attached to the Commissions, it is proposed to give them additional pay for that service, to be taken out of the time for which they are already paid!

If the President is in earnest to carry out the declarations of his message, there is nothing easier and simpler than to issue a peremptory order to that effect, and make the Cabinet directly responsible for its execution. But he must have more influence with his Administration than he had five months ago. "In July last," he says, "I authorized a public announcement that employees of the Government should regard themselves at liberty to exercise their pleasure in making or refusing to make political contributions." Yet it is notorious that the severest pressure was put on these employees after that time by JAY HUBBELL, and that MAHONE dismissed from office every Virginian, black and white, who declined or even hesitated to submit to his blackmail. The heads of departments obeyed his orders like body servants.

The demands of HUBBELL were not confined, by any means, to officeholders at home. Every Minister and every Consul and every Secretary of Legation was assessed like a tide waiter, and the levies went out through the Department of State to the remotest parts of the world.

Legislation may be needed to prescribe penalties, but the effective remedy will be found in an Executive with courage enough to enforce a reform which the President already has abundant power to carry out.

Custom House Clerks Asking for More Pay.

We have seldom seen anything more ill-timed and preposterous than the demand embodied in the report of the majority of the Commission appointed by Secretary FOLGER to investigate the New York customs service. It is only a few weeks since the taxpayers evinced, in the most distinct and peremptory way, their determination to cut down the Federal expenditures, and there is also a strong movement in favor of so modifying the tariff as to give Custom House employees considerably less to do. Yet this is the time selected by the majority of the Commission, including two members of the customs service and a sympathizing agent of the Treasury Department, to call for an increase not only in the number of employees, but in the salaries payable from the public purse.

Before examining this cool proposition in detail it will be well for our people to recall what it already costs them to collect the customs revenue derived from the port of New York. During the last fiscal year the receipts from the New York Custom House were in round numbers $152,773,000. In the process of transferring this sum from the importers who paid it to the Federal Treasury there was a leakage of $2,417,000, accounted for by alleged necessary expenses. This huge sum lost in the course of transmission, is out of all proportion to the cost of collecting customs revenue in other countries. We refer not merely to Great Britain, where, although the income accruing from this source is still large, it is gathered from a small list of articles, but to France and Germany, whose tariffs are no less comprehensive and intricate than our own, and therefore entail quite as much labor on the collectors. But it may be said that the purchasing power of money is greater in Europe than it is here. That stale objection was disposed of by the Consular reports on the cost of living in European countries forwarded to Mr. EVARTS during his occupancy of the State Department. Those reports did not persuade our people that the American workingman has no cause to complain of his employer, but they convinced us that, compared with his European *confrère*, the average American officeholder does less work for more pay.

These facts are well known to Secretary FOLGER, and we deem it probable that when he directed this Commission to report on the New York customs service, he desired to obtain such information and suggestions as would enable him to reduce the exorbitant cost of collecting the customs revenue. He will search in vain, however, for any assistance to that end in the report submitted by the majority of the Commission. Far from drawing the Secretary's attention to the employees who figure on the pay rolls, but who are notoriously incapable of rendering any kind of service, or to those bureaus in which two, and sometimes three, clerks are drawing salaries for sharing work which in a merchant's counting room would be performed by one man, this report mainly confines itself to urging the expansion of the force employed and a material augmentation of salaries in many instances.

It recommends, for example, that the salaries of Deputy Collectors in charge of divisions be raised from $3,000 to $4,000 per annum, notwithstanding the fact, cited by themselves, that the stipends of these functionaries were fixed at the present rate by the act of 1866, in which year gold was at a high premium as compared with greenbacks, and the cost of living was very much higher in this city than it is to-day. The majority of the Commission would likewise have the chief clerks of two divisions (the third and seventh) paid $3,000 a year instead of $2,500, the present salary. They would give the Auditor and Cashier $6,000 instead of $5,000, and the Superintendent of the Custom House $2,400 instead of $2,000. They also advise the appointment of an additional Deputy Collector, to receive $4,000, and two additional clerks in the liquidating department, where there are already twenty-six; and they propose to give twelve of these $2,200 each instead of $2,000.

So much for the edifying suggestions of the Commission in relation to the Collector's office. Passing to the Surveyor's department, they desire to substitute for two functionaries (viz., an Auditor at $5,000 and one Deputy Collector at $3,500) four officers, to wit, one Assistant Surveyor at $5,000, and three Deputy Surveyors, one at a salary of $3,000, and two at $2,500 each. In connection with these additions to the number of deputies, it is suggested that the Surveyor's office should go into the stable business, so that those four functionaries, appointed to do the work of two, may be furnished with a horse and wagon to preserve them from the dangers incident to overexertion. The majority of the Commission also advise the Secretary to add twenty to the number of inspectors, although there are already 314 on the pay roll, and although, as one of the Commission, Mr. E. O. GRAVES, has pointed out in a minority report, there are at least forty officers on the force who, from age and infirmity, are incapable of earning their salaries. Neither let it be supposed that these men have broken down in the exhausting duties incident to inspection. They were old and infirm when appointed, and have not the slightest claim to Government pay, except upon the theory that the New York Custom House is an asylum for worn-out politicians who could not earn their salt in any honest calling.

Without going further into particulars, we merely note that the majority of the Commission would raise the salary of the Appraiser from $4,000 to $8,000 per annum, and that of the so-called General Appraisers from $3,000 to $4,000. It is significant that an attempt should be made by the majority of the Commission to offset the contemplated increase of certain salaries by abolishing the entry clerks in the Naval Office, and thus removing a valuable check upon the Collector, and destroying one of the most important safeguards of the revenue. Even if this unwise proposal to save in the wrong place were adopted, the increase in the cost of collecting the customs revenue at this port which would result from the changes recommended by three members of the Commission would fall but a little short of $100,000. But this handsome addition to the amount disbursed in salaries does not satisfy the authors of the majority report. They opine that besides the appropriation for specific purposes a large lump sum should be placed at the disposal of the Custom House authorities to be expended at discretion.

We are glad to see that one member of this Commission, Mr. GRAVES, had the good sense to dissent from almost all the suggestions embodied in the majority report. He does not believe that the taxpayers ought to be made to pay any more for the collection of the customs revenue than they do now. But Mr. GRAVES does not go far enough. He must know that the people of this country are convinced that about one-half of the employees now drawing pay in the New York Custom House might be discharged without impairing the efficiency of the service. Nor can they see any reason why present salaries should much exceed those which were paid for similar work before the civil war. This is one of the trenchant reforms which taxpayers hope to see effected by the next Federal Administration. They feel tolerably sure that the report of a committee appointed to investigate the New York Custom House by a Democratic Secretary of the Treasury will prove of a different tenor from this, which urges Mr. FOLGER to surpass his predecessor in the wasting of the public money.

A Big Job Killed.

The October and November elections killed the eight-million Library job in the House of Representatives. The Ring, headed by ORDWAY, now Governor of Dakota, and CHAGIN, formerly Senator from New Hampshire, have worked hard for years to carry this scheme through. A fund was raised by assessment on the property holders of the proposed site, and all the familiar arts were set in motion to second the project. But, as Mr. HUMPHREY of Wisconsin, one of the champions of the bill, judiciously remarked, "owing to the condition of affairs in this country, the present is not perhaps the most auspicious time to ask for a large appropriation for the construction of this building."

The Ring had a clear working majority, with a good margin in reserve, for their job; but the more it was discussed the worse it became, even with several Democratic converts giving aid and comfort. When HOLMAN, BLOUNT, REAGAN, and a few others opened their batteries, showing that if a library must be built there were many public reservations suited to the object without buying a site at Ring figures, the managers took the tremors and were afraid to continue the fight.

If a new River and Harbor bill for eighteen millions were pressed on the House at this time, it would not create more consternation than did the exposure of this job when the millions involved in it were stated. There was no excitement on the subject and no angry debate. But the jobbers were absolutely scared, and glad of a chance to flee.

Mr. HASKELL of Kansas, one of the most efficient champions of BRADY's legislation in the last Congress, and who might be designated as the chief of the Star route staff, tried to rally the courage of the Library speculators. "There is no job in this," he said, "no Ring, no steal in it." Ordinarily, Mr. HASKELL would be good authority on such a matter, because he has a quick eye for jobs, Rings, and steals, and he knows what is going on. But even this emphatic declaration from so disinterested a person made no impression on the House. The bill was amended and recommitted, which is the parliamentary form of entombment.

This is a bad year for jobbery. ROBESON is sad. PAGE is indignant. KEIFER despairs. HASKELL mourns. HISCOCK is gloomy. And their followers who went to Washington last winter gay and festive, and planted the seeds for a great harvest at this session, wear long faces and have no better opinion of the public than Mr. VANDERBILT expressed in energetic English not long ago.

Not Fit for a Judge.

There is no probable truth in the rumor that Attorney-General BREWSTER will be appointed to the next vacancy in the Supreme Court. We can't see any reason that would induce a President to do it. Gen. GRANT appointed BRADLEY and STRONG to the Supreme Court for the purpose of reversing the legal tender decisions. He was supposed to have appointed Chief Justice WAITE because WAITE once tickled GRANT's fancy by a small after-dinner speech. The Fraudulent President appointed HARLAN a Supreme Court Justice to pay for HARLAN's services in carrying through the electoral fraud of 1876. GARFIELD appointed STANLEY MATTHEWS because he had bargained with JAY GOULD to do it. He would have preferred to repudiate the agreement, but the threat of exposure forced him to complete it.

But there is no probability that President ARTHUR is under any constraint through political compacts to appoint BREWSTER. Mr. BREWSTER has appeared as the champion both of the CAMERON faction in Pennsylvania and of the anti-CAMERON faction. He can represent neither. He is a friend of SIMON CAMERON, but nobody else in Pennsylvania cares much about him.

Besides, the appointments of Judge GRAY and Judge BLATCHFORD showed such an admirable perception on the part of the President of the kind of material that ought to compose the Supreme Court that it isn't likely he will follow them up by the selection of such a pompous and frothy officer as the Attorney-General. Mr. BREWSTER in his present post is sufficiently incompetent.

The Democratic tidal wave of 1882 refuses to find its level, but swashes around at every opportunity. Boston received a noteworthy splash on Tuesday.

The Brooklyn Aldermen whom Justice GILBERT sentenced to imprisonment for contempt of court, and who have fought to keep themselves out of jail as sturdily since the Court of Appeals refused to help them as before, can spend Christmas at home after all, the General Term of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn having reduced their term of imprisonment to five days. It is likely to be a long time before any of Brooklyn's City Fathers treat the Supreme Court with contempt again.

Alleged wives of W. G. RUSSELL, who is under arrest in Brooklyn on a charge of bigamy, are flocking in to make their complaints. Besides the two concerned in the original complaint, another professed yesterday to identify him as her recreant husband, and word was received that two more victims were on their way from Connecticut. RUSSELL, however, evidently is not the only man who is at present claimed by more than one wife, for two women went to the court room to see him, declaring that they were both looking for the same husband, and went away disappointed, the prisoner not being the man they sought.

Cases of this kind occur so frequently as to suggest that it may sometimes be partly, at least, a woman's own fault if she marries a bigamist. It generally turns out upon investigation that such marriages have been performed hastily, if not secretly and on short acquaintance, and that the later victims of the bigamist might, by the exercise of proper discretion, have discovered that he was already married, or at least that there was ground for suspicion against him.

Marriage is too serious a relation to be entered upon without deliberation, and without complete knowledge by each party of the history and social status of the other. The exercise of due precaution would prevent a great many cases of bigamy.

DE VOE and VENNOR have yet another rival in Policeman MULDOON, whose first published weather guess was given to the world yesterday morning. Mr. MULDOON prophesied cold weather after the heavy rain of Wednesday, and within six hours the prediction was verified moderately, and the indications are now that it is to be verified very thoroughly. If the policeman can keep up this sort of thing, he may become a very valuable member of society.

The great comet which astonished everybody by suddenly blazing out close beside the sun at broad noon in September, and which shone brilliantly in the early morning hours during October, has not yet disappeared. It may be seen any clear morning, soon after midnight, a little southeast of the constellation of Orion, and it is still so bright that many persons seeing it far south of the place it occupied two months ago think it must be a new comet.

It is not at all surprising, however, that the comet is yet visible. Some of the great comets of history remained visible for many months after their perihelion passage, and it is doubtful if any comet ever seen exceeded this one in brightness when near the perihelion point. The question whether the comet will return next year, or in a few years thereafter, and fall into the sun, is still being debated. The best observations of its orbit seem to indicate that it will not soon return, and no astronomer of reputation lends countenance to the notion that it threatens disaster to the earth.

Astronomers have to deal with a great many tough problems, but not any is tougher than that of determining the orbit of a new comet, and few comets have given more trouble in this respect than the one now visible. Calculations of its period have varied from a few months to 200 years, and some computations indicate that it may never return, but go wandering off through space, to fall, some hundreds or thousands of years hence, within the attraction of some other sun, when it may repeat its performance of last fall to the astonishment of the inhabitants of worlds belonging to another solar system.

ALEXANDER POPE must have had the KEELY motor stockholders in his mind's eye when he wrote:

> "Hope springs eternal in the human breast:
> Man never is, but always to be blest."

Those who cross the East River daily rejoice at the promised early opening of the great bridge, for the reason that they will be able to avoid danger by collisions of boats. It is a constant source of wonder to ferryboat passengers that collisions are not of daily and, at times, of hourly occurrence there. Sometimes the East River is so crowded with ferryboats, tugboats, Sound steamers, Harlem boats, lighters, sloops, schooners, ships, and other craft, moving in all directions, that the scene is suggestive of a Broadway jam, and one cannot but admire the skill of the pilots who safely thread their way through. The danger is increased by the fact that the East River—which is in fact no river at all, but an arm of the sea—contains many perplexing and treacherous currents, particularly near the wharf lines, which at times render its navigation very difficult. Constant watchfulness and the exercise of great skill doubtless prevent many accidents, but they cannot always be prevented, as was shown yesterday when the ferryboat Fulton was run into by a lighter, to the great fright of the passengers, though fortunately not to their injury.

There are boys in every college who seem to think that because they are college students they are considerably above the law, and not amenable to restrictions that apply to other boys. Possibly the young men of Yale who spent the other night in the New Haven lockup, and in the morning were arraigned in the Police Court and fined for their drunken disturbances, have changed their minds on this important subject.

COMING TO THEIR SENSES.

An Unexpected Event in Philadelphia.

From the Philadelphia Press, Dec. 13.

District-Attorney Graham, at the instance of the prosecutor, has entered a *nolle prosequi* in the case of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania against Charles A. Dana, in a famous action for criminal libel. Mr. Dana, as everybody knows, is the editor of THE SUN.

The indictment against him was presented nine years ago on the complaint of William M. Kemble, who was then in the full tide of prosperity as a financial magnate and political boss. It grew out of the publication in THE SUN of the famous "Addition, Division, and Silence" letter, and Mr. Dana's scathing comments thereon in his editorial columns day after day; and so far from causing a cessation of the annoyance to Mr. Kemble, the suit only served to make the fire from THE SUN's merciless batteries the hotter.

Now, after nine years, the *nolle prosequi* is entered, of Mr. Kemble's own motion, without any arrangement between prosecutor and defendant, and indeed without Mr. Dana's knowledge.

The Princess of Wales and the Cleveland Girl.

From the Chicago Tribune.

It is whispered in serene altitudes of the best society in London and it is muttered in the next stratum that—sin penetrates everywhere—at the thought—Miss Chamberlaine has been very nearly "cut" by the Princess of Wales. Her Royal Highness was very cordial the other day to every lady present, shaking hands with all of them, but merely returning Miss Chamberlaine a salute in the stiffest manner. The Princess is not only a pretty and good, but extremely sensible woman and knowing the Prince to be a confirmed male flirt, smiles gently at the liquidates to which he is addicted. When he constituted himself the cavalier first, of Mrs. Langtry and then of Mrs. Cornwallis West, his wife was extremely kind to those ladies, who knew perfectly well how to keep the Prince of Wales in his place, and thus maintain their own. As it was not at Hamburg when the Prince was there, I cannot repeat the untranslatably chaffed I heard about Miss Chamberlaine and the Prince. No actual impropriety is suggested, but it seems that they appeared together in public too often to please a censorious world, and behaved with a freedom pronounced quite unprecedented. The worst of all was the indiscretion of a certain illustrated newspaper, in which appeared a full-page woodcut of the Prince and Miss Chamberlaine looking at the fireworks at Hamburg. This work of art was, I hear, shown to the Princess, who is, as any other lady would be, annoyed that her husband's flirtations should be made public, and give the impression that she is a slighted wife. Any hope that Miss Chamberlaine's friends may have entertained of seeing her run as a fashionable beauty next season are now at an end, despite her "gypsy face and angel's hair."

Gambling at the Arkansas Hot Springs.

From the New York Observer.

The city is filled with gamblers, and cards seem to be the means of employing time even by those who do not belong to that distinguished body called blacklegs. In the opinion of one of the oldest inhabitants, with whom I conversed last night, a radical and progressive step toward public morality was made last year. "The Council made the gamblers remove their rooms from the first to the second floor." Yet the city has one peculiar feature which might well be emulated in other places. No hotel contains a bar, and your sleep is never disturbed or broken by the staggerings and shoutings that one has often to listen to in cities that claim a higher title to civilization than Hot Springs. Those who want to drink must go to a saloon, filled with every variety of wickedness that gambling develops. Professional etiquette does not compel the gambler to use any auxiliary aid. He hunts his own prey, and is always on the look out for it. I think the principal reason why so many patients who have come here for relief have become the victims of gamblers is that one has no way of amusing himself if he has no taste for reading, and if he has any desire for play it is the thing he will most likely fly to, and should he fly to it, he is as certain of being skinned as an eel in a kitchen.

A Monstrous Legal Doctrine.

From the Albany Times.

The monstrous doctrine of cumulative sentences held by Judge Noah Davis in the Tweed case has been reduced to an absurdity in the Vermont case reported in our telegraphic despatches yesterday from Rutland, where a poor woman charged with selling liquor without license has been convicted on several hundred complaints, and, by accumulating the terms of imprisonment under each complaint, has been sentenced by the Police Court to the House of Correction for fifty years! If the Appellate Court of Vermont ever has this case before it, we cannot doubt that it will decide as did our Court of Appeals. Such cumulative sentences are shocking to justice and repugnant to common sense.

Knowledge Sought For.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir.* In a conspicuous place on the editorial page of your distinguished and somewhat buncombe contemporary, the *New York Herald*, I find these words in italics:

"*This paper has the largest circulation in the United States.*"

Is this calculated to carry with it the inference that the *Herald* has a larger circulation in the United States" than elsewhere? or a circulation larger than THE SUN or any other newspaper printed in the United States?

Can you enlighten me? G. H. LOADWICK.
Dec. 13.

CHANDLER, ROBESON, AND ROACH.

The Old Firm Asking for Money to Build a New Navy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Chandler has given out a desperate shriek that, if we are not to have the new navy he is so ambitious to build, Congress had better provide for "closing out" the old one. How like is this threatening appeal to that of the Star routers when they threatened to stop the mails if millions for the Star service were not forthcoming!

Whenever the navy is mentioned, the mind at once goes back to Robeson's era, when not much less than one hundred millions of dollars were squandered and stolen. During that era William E. Chandler was Robeson's best man in the lobby, before committees, and wherever his services would be of use in tapping the Treasury. At the same time Chandler was John Roach's attorney and agent. As between Robeson, the Secretary, and at the same time the maker of contracts on the part of the Government, and Roach, the contractor, Chandler was the connecting link.

By a slight change only we have the past, when the millions were squandered, reproduced now in these three men. Chandler has taken Robeson's place as Secretary, and Robeson Chandler's place as connecting link.

It is impossible to find any guarantee of honesty or faithfulness under Chandler which did not exist under Robeson. The men are the same, the objects are identical, the only change is Chandler for Robeson at the head of the navy. That the former is abler than the latter few will deny. That the one is honester than the other there is no reason for supposing.

The facts are so nearly identical that there is no difficulty in finding the cause of the hesitation of Congress to vote Chandler his millions.

Apparently Congress must either forget or recklessly ignore experience in the recent past, or resolutely refuse the appropriations asked for by the Secretary of the Navy.

"Give me money, or your navy will perish," was Robeson's plea. The money was generously granted. The navy perished, nevertheless.

Mr. Chandler, with even greater energy, calls on Congress either to give him more millions or provide for the extinguishment of the navy. Roach is urgent. Robeson is urgent. And so are some others with equally patriotic motives.

The President, however, is not urgent. No wise man is urgent. The public sense is unconcerned. If concern is felt at all on the subject, it is lest Congress, yielding to the appeals of Chandler, Roach, and Robeson, repeat the experience of the past. The Senator or Representative who has a desire to stand well at home or before the country, will find the safe course in the direction opposite to that wherein Mr. Chandler leads. Recent experience should not so soon be forgotten.

The recent elections meant, if they meant anything, a call for economy in public expenditures. A disposition to respond to the signal can be manifested in no way so well as by letting the appropriation of last winter suffice Mr. Chandler for the present, and by letting the next Congress attend to his wants, and let Chandler, Roach, and Robeson wait. The navy is not tormented with anxieties on the subject of the millions. It is Chandler, Roach, and Robeson who are in distress. Congress is beginning to see it.

VANDERBILT, GOWEN, AND M'HENRY.

Additional Facts Showing how they Have Worked Together.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Some correspondence respecting the Vanderbilt-Gowen-McHenry alliance has been brought to my attention, and, as I happen to know the facts, I beg space to correct one or two errors into which Mr. Vanderbilt appears to have fallen, in his eagerness to disclaim the existence of any business understanding with Mr. James McHenry.

One of your contemporaries makes Mr. Vanderbilt say: "It is true he (McHenry) did help me in the C., C., C. and I. election, but he did it only as any stockholder would;" and another: "It is true that McHenry's votes were cast for me, but, if I remember right, I held proxies for about 90,000 votes." Now, Mr. McHenry is not a stockholder in the C., C., C. and I. Company. In August, 1879, he assigned his estate to trustees for the benefit of his creditors, to whom he owed upward of £1,000,000 sterling. Any shares which he may have held in the C., C., C. and I. were surrendered, or should have been surrendered to his creditors, when he sought refuge under the protective powers of the Bankruptcy act. He is still an undischarged debtor in bankruptcy, a condition which usually calls for the exercise of a little modesty, even if it be not possessed.

The capital stock of the C., C., C. and I. Company is 140,000 shares, of which about 50,000 are held in London under trust deeds. These shares convey the proxies to the Erie Company, and are so stamped. Since 1872 they have been voted upon in favor of that company, who have controlled the C., C., C. and I. up to the election of 1881. Then the trustees—nominees of McHenry—cast these votes, either in favor of Mr. Vanderbilt, or withheld them from the Erie. It is a matter of notoriety that the election was turned against Mr. Jewett by the action of McHenry.

The averments of Mr. Vanderbilt are singularly at variance with those embodied in a recently published circular of McHenry, dated Feb. 27, 1882, in which he says:

"I propose, as a whole, preserving the independence of the company's (Atlantic and Great Western) to secure a working alliance with the Erie, and effect the control of the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Railroad, strongly cemented in the trustees of reorganization, and, by a working alliance with the Erie, and secure an outlet to the seaboard, with access to Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore over the Reading and New York and New Jersey. These alliances, by now within our reach, further association with the Erie Company under its present management is a criminal risking of the property of the Atlantic and Great Western."

While Mr. Vanderbilt practically acknowledges his obligations to McHenry for aiding him to obtain control of the C., C., C. and I. road, McHenry himself publicly avows his determination to carry out the Erie alliance, thus giving that "alliance" with the Reading (by the Jersey Central and Pine Creek road) and New York Central "due consideration." A strange commentary on the vehement denials of Messrs. Vanderbilt and Gowen that no alliance or anything approaching it, is in existence. In case any doubt remained as to the existence of a reorganization for abandoning the control of the C., C., C. and I. lines to the Atlantic and Great Western Company and giving it to the Erie, the following circular, issued two months after the signing of Mr. Vanderbilt's letter, leaves no room to bring any one besides Vanderbilt, Messrs. Vanderbilt and Gowen have protested that they had no part in it.

To make confusion worse confounded, another young champion of McHenry, with more zeal than discretion, rushes to the front, and says that "Mr. McHenry said his entire interest in the defunct Pine Creek and Buffalo Railway some time ago to Messrs. Vanderbilt and Gowen, and does not now pretend to have any interest whatever in the road. This will be welcome news to the president's creditors, for, up to the present, I believe, the amount received from Messrs. Vanderbilt and Gowen has not been paid over to them." There is a particular omission, perhaps, when it is remembered that his subscription to Mr. Gowen's deferred bonds was $10,000, his subscription to the Reading, "nothing" and, while that of his attorney, Thomas F. Fox, for James McHenry, was $500,000 subscription, $100,000 allotted, and, according to his client, "nothing paid."

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. ANGLO-AMERICAN.

Her Reasons for Approving of Whistling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have noticed with some amusement the various articles published concerning women's whistling. Can it be possible that men do not know to what an extent it is practised not only among girls, but married ladies? I have myself been a confirmed whistler from my girlhood. The practice has afforded me no end of satisfaction, to say nothing of the many scrapes it has helped me out of. I hold that it is every woman's boundeden duty to learn the art. It is a sort of safety valve, by which she can give vent to any disturbing influence within her breast, such as indignation at her husband, who, being obliged to "see a man" at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, remains out until 1 o'clock in the morning. Now, if instead of scolding which is decidedly unladylike and wheezy, a few lively airs, what a soothing influence it would have upon her nerves, and how delightful to her husband!

Then, again, when baby sets up a roar, and will not let nurse pacify him, how easy to whistle him down, while his great round eyes survey your puckered mouth and distended cheeks! Then, you may not look pretty while you are at it, but for the moment look handsome when they whistle? My husband doesn't know, but I would a thousand times rather he should do it than feel, and we often whistle a duet together. Besides the mouth, when used for that purpose, assumes a cherry curve, the corners turn up instead of down, thus preserving one's face from those insidious wrinkles that a sad expression always implants there. Some one, we do not at this minute recall his name, speaks of "whistling for want of thought." Nonsense! I can whistle while I write this article. I can think faster and better while I execute a waltz or break down.

Whistling is a good thing for men and women. Of course in public it is out of place, but at home it may often be of great benefit. Do not check it. C. C.

Let the China Shops Take Notice.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why is the word *bisque* so universally and erroneously used for *biscuit* in describing a kind of unglazed porcelain?

This error seems especially popular in all china shops, yet *bisque* is not found in Worcester, and could hardly be applied to chinaware in either sense given it by Littre.

UNION CITY, Dec. 15. E. S. G.

A Democratic Caucus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—As the Republicans may urge the admission of Dakota as a State, a caucus of Democratic Senators was held this morning to discuss the matter. There was no dissent from the opinion expressed by several Senators that the policy of the party should be one of opposition to the admission at this time of any Territory as a State which would give the Republicans two additional votes in the Senate. Action upon this question was, however, left open for the present, subject to such contingencies as may arise. The subject of tariff and internal revenue reduction was mentioned, and the Chairman was directed to appoint a committee of five Senators to confer with a similar committee of Democratic Representatives in regard to the policy to be adopted by the party upon various questions.

Ohio Congressmen.

COLUMBUS, Dec. 14.—The State Board of Canvassers to-day closed their report on the vote for Congressmen, deciding the doubtful districts in favor of Murray in the Third, Morey in the Seventh, Warner in the Fifteenth, and McKinley in the Eighteenth, all Republicans. The Supreme Court, in the case of Campbell, Morey's opponent in the Seventh district, for an order to state a certificate to him, continued the case until January, after which the canvassers will end their report. In case a mandamus is allowed, Morey's certificate becomes a nullity.

Russia and the Vatican.

ROME, Dec. 14.—The clauses arranging a modus vivendi between Russia and the Vatican are very satisfactory to the latter.

SETTING MOLE TRAPS FOR WOOD-CHUCKS.

Secrets of the Star Route Trials—Small Fish Netted, and Big Ones Privileged—What the Dorsey Men Think About It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—THE SUN has very properly commended the message of President Arthur. Much of it deserved commendation from every one, but there is a portion of it which consists of "words, words, mere words," and that is when the President says, speaking of the Star route trials:

> If any guilty persons shall finally escape punishment for their offences, it will not be for lack of diligent and earnest efforts on the part of the prosecution.

The Star route scandal was fully exposed in May, 1881. Col. William A. Cook was employed as special attorney, with a number of experts more or less expert in all kinds of stealing, to assist him in arriving at the facts, in procuring evidence to render it impossible for "any guilty persons to finally escape." Later Col. George Bliss, Mr. Brewster, the present Attorney-General, and Mr. Ker of Philadelphia were retained as special prosecutors. All of these were in Government employ before the tragedy of July culminated in September. Mr. Brewster then became Attorney-General, and Mr. Richard T. Merrick took his place as a special prosecutor. It is said that Messrs. Bliss and Merrick each receive $100 per day, and Mr. Ker one-half that sum, for their services. This luminous array of talent, and the enormous expense incurred, should have insured that, in the language of Attorney-General Brewster, the prosecution would be vigorous and unrelenting, and that no guilty person would be allowed to finally escape.

But has it been so?

The whole theory of the Star route prosecution is that certain Star route contractors, having found in Second Assistant Postmaster-General Brady a corrupt official, conspired with him to rob the Government of large sums of money by unnecessarily expediting and increasing the routes held by these contractors.

The records of the Post Office Department have been at the command of the special prosecutors from the commencement. Besides these, they have had the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, made on March 20, 1880, known as Miscellaneous Document No. 31, Forty-sixth Congress, second session.

The records of the department show, after the expedition by Brady in 1879, upon which these charges are founded, that Monroe Saulsbury controlled Star routes on which the annual pay was $1,500,000; J. W. Parker & Co., $1,000,000; Elkins, Kerns & Roots, $600,000; J. L. Sanderson, $400,000; L. S. Price, $300,000; Chase Andrews and A. H. Brown, $300,000; Vaile and Miner, $260,000, and Bogler and Dorsey $125,000.

Here is a total of $4,500,000 paid to eight sets of contractors, and no "vigorous and relentless" prosecution has been commenced save against the two smaller sets, representing only 8½ per cent. of the amounts paid out. The seemingly most "vigorous and relentless" prosecution is against a man whose firm secured less than 3 per cent. of the amount, his interest being less than 1½ per cent.

Page 270 and following, of the document before spoken of, contain a list of all the Star routes which Brady had increased and expedited more than $5,000. This table, in a public document printed by order of Congress, verifies all I have said. On page 231 of the same there are twelve routes, belonging to Monroe Saulsbury, which were expedited and increased from $147,700 to $533,983, an increase of $406,283, or 210 per cent.

There does not seem to have been that "diligent and earnest effort" of which the President speaks in regard to these cases, or the "diligent and earnest effort" he contracted. The vision of the President, the Attorney-General, and the special prosecutors has been, in some mysterious way, diverted from the men who, if any are guilty, are certainly more guilty, in the proportion of ninety-two to eight, than those against whom the "vigorous and relentless" prosecution is being conducted.

It seems to be pertinent to inquire whether any one has stepped up to the Captain's office and settled to secure immunity. There are rumors abroad in Washington that three or four of these large contractors have paid heavily—the sum is even fixed at $200,000—for a guarantee of protection from the "diligent and earnest efforts" of a "vigorous and relentless prosecution." A strong color of truth is given to these rumors by the statement that Saulsbury and Parker, the two largest contractors, made arrangements last May, ratified by Attorney-General Brewster, to arbitrate by commission all charges against them, which is precisely what Dorsey asked when these charges were first made, and what Garfield agreed to but MacVeagh and James overruled. Since this agreement was made Messrs. Saulsbury and Parker have gone West, and are quietly attending to their contracts. No commission has been ordered to arbitrate in these cases, and none will be, as the whole thing was fixed up as a loophole through which these men could escape a "vigorous and relentless prosecution" and some officials might profit.

Tam-tams have been beaten and new-gags sounded by the special prosecutors, the Attorney-General, his predecessor, and the late Postmaster-General, but the people would like to see some results. The charges are that several million dollars have been stolen by a corrupt combination, and it has been asserted so often that the iteration has become stale that the proof was positive, yet no one has been convicted. The facts are that the principal criminals, if there are any criminals, have not only not been indicted, but that no efforts seem to have been made to indict them. Until this is done President Arthur should be careful in his statements, for it appears that some "guilty persons" will escape for the want of "diligent and earnest efforts on the part of the prosecution."

The people will agree with the President in saying that no guilty person should escape, but they want no distinction as to persons. Beating gongs, after the manner of an ancient Chinese army, will not convict any one, no matter with what "diligent and earnest effort" this species of warfare is kept up, and this is most especially true when it is shown that only a few of the guilty persons are attacked.

It is in order for the Attorney-General and the special prosecutors, and, if they fail to do so, for the President, whose honesty of purpose is plain, to order that a "vigorous and relentless prosec