The Sun.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1883.

Amusements To-day.

Bijou Opera House—Heart and Hand.
Bowery Theatre—Monte Cristo.
Bunnell's Museum—Broadway and 5th st.
Continental Theatre—Fritz in Ireland.
Chickering Hall—Concert.
Daly's Theatre—She Would and She Would'n't.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Musketeers.
Globe Dime Museum—236 Bowery.
Grand Opera House—Forty-nine.
Haverly's Theatre—Her Atonement.
Indian Wigwam—Circus Matinee.
Madison Square Theatre—Young Mrs. Winthrop.
New York Museum—210 Bowery.
Pabst's Garden—The Black Venus.
San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.
Standard Theatre—Iolanthe.
Star Theatre—Lord Kanex.
Theatre Comique—McSorley's Inflation. Matinee.
The Casino—The Queen's Lace Handkerchief.
The Siege of Paris—55th st. and 5th av.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Variety. Matinee.
Union Square Theatre—A Parisian Romance.
Wallack's Theatre—The Silver King.
Windsor Theatre—My Partner.

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Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN, *usual to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.*

The State Trial at Dublin.

No trial in modern times has surpassed in interest the judicial inquiry now going on at Dublin into the circumstances attending the assassination of Mr. BURKE and Lord FREDERICK CAVENDISH in Phœnix Park.

JAMES CAREY, a Town Councillor, who was concerned in the conspiracy, has told the story of the crime.

A band of men who called themselves the Irish Invincibles, and who were under the direction and control of leaders in London, had determined "to remove all tyrants." The subordinate agents of this organization bound themselves to obedience by the most solemn oaths.

The original idea was "to remove" Mr. FORSTER, then Chief Secretary for Ireland, and Earl COWPER, the Lord Lieutenant. The plans to kill Mr. FORSTER were defeated repeatedly by occurrences which the plotters could not foresee. He left Ireland, and, under the orders of a mysterious commander known as Number One, the conspirators turned their attention to Mr. BURKE.

Seven men were engaged in the assassination. The summary of the evidence would indicate that Lord FREDERICK CAVENDISH was killed simply because he happened to be with Mr. BURKE at the time of the attack upon that gentleman.

The whole story presents a most striking and startling picture. There is something like it in WILLIAM BLACK's novel "Sunrise." Everybody said his account of the Nihilists was too improbable, but in the light of these disclosures at Dublin the criticism is unjust.

In this prosaic and enlightened nineteenth century tragedies are enacted as thrilling and terrible as any of the barbarous ages.

Some Recent Deaths.

There have lately died in this city or its neighborhood several men who were conspicuous for their wealth, their political activities, and their attachment to the religious denominations of which they were members.

Wall street was interested in their passing away, because they held large amounts of securities which their death might possibly throw on the market, and because of their prominence in the direction of great financial enterprises. Religious and charitable societies were anxious to see whether they were remembered in the wills of the millionaires, who had given them liberal benefactions in life. The churches to which they belonged were thronged when their funerals took place, and their pastors and other clergymen eulogized them as Christian exemplars, and in subsequent sermons have held them up to us as followers of the meek and lowly JESUS, whose lives presented models of a religious walk and conversation worthy of loving admiration.

Looking at the material side first, what is most striking is the enormous size of the fortunes of the present time. A quarter of a century ago a millionaire was exceedingly rare, and when men of reputed wealth came to die, and the sum of their possessions was made known, it was generally found that the value of their estates had been exaggerated. It was more prospective than real. The number of men in the whole country who could devise millions of actual property above all encumbrances did not number a score probably. Now a man leaves five millions, ten millions, fifteen millions, and more, in hard values, and no one is surprised. Instead of his possessions having been exaggerated, just as likely they have been underrated by the public, and even by his acquaintances, as was the case, we believe, with the estate of the late MOSES TAYLOR, who left much more than even his own family supposed he had.

There are now in New York many men who have far passed the million limit, some of them individuals of no public prominence, whose names would be unknown to nine readers out of ten. Twenty-five years ago such wealth would have made its possessor a marked man.

And nearly the whole of this wealth has been accumulated since the shot was fired on Fort Sumter. What were before held to be great fortunes now seem only a moderate competence, and families who have inherited them without increasing the capital and income, or among whom they have been distributed, must take a very modest place alongside of the luxurious extravagance of the recent wealth, unless they get some share of it by matrimonial alliances. It is the new wealth which is now making the chief display and distancing competition.

Next let us look at the spiritual and religious side of the subject. "Give all thou hast to the poor and follow me," said the CHRIST. And throughout His discourses the Galilean plainly and unmistakably treated wealth and the pursuit of wealth as the greatest of obstacles to the Christian life. He made no compromise with the rich. There was no qualification in His utterances on this subject. His test of the sincerity of their discipleship was their readiness to part with their possessions for the good of others. He almost barred heaven against them. Besides, the early Christians had all things in common; that is, they were Communists.

Moreover, is it possible even now for a man to get rich and be a consistent and downright Christian at the same time? The whole Christian theory is against the accumulation of individual wealth, and is opposed to the methods, ambitions, and material absorption necessary to the gathering and the keeping and the increase of a great fortune. It demands of men a spiritual enthusiasm and a tender regard for others which forbid and root out the desire for wealth or the quest for wealth. Its requirements are such that if a man fulfils them it is not possible for him to have a fortune left in his hands to transmit after his death.

This, at least, is the doctrine of the Gospels and of the Saviour. Possibly, however, we may be wrong in this opinion, for we observe that not one of the clergymen who eulogized the dead millionaires to whom we have referred made any such references to the teachings of CHRIST, and not one drew any such conclusions from them. Instead, they held up the lives of the dead rich men as conspicuously Christian lives. They honored them all the more because they had been materially successful. They praised the departed as Christian heroes.

"The young man saith unto Him, all these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? JESUS said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. Then said JESUS unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of GOD."

The Bradlaugh Incident.

Nothing could be better calculated to test the control which Mr. GLADSTONE is believed to exercise at this time over the Liberal party than the Affirmation bill extorted by the BRADLAUGH demonstration at the opening of Parliament, and now undergoing discussion in the House of Commons. Of the abstract justice of the measure no doubt would be entertained in this country, where the political rights of the citizen are in no wise affected by his opinions on religious questions, and it is hard for us to understand that a different view of the bill should be taken by a strong party in Parliament.

When we recall, however, the previous phases of the BRADLAUGH controversy, we see that the very step on which the Premier seems now determined has already exposed him to a serious rebuff. After some unlucky vacillation, which had the effect of emboldening the Opposition and shaking the discipline of the Government forces, Mr. GLADSTONE finally placed himself on the broad ground that the House of Commons, which had modified the rule touching the oath prescribed for members in the interest of non-conformists of every shade of opinion, of Catholics, and of Jews, could not consistently and equitably deny the right of constituencies to choose agnostics for their representatives in Parliament. But although the reasonableness of this proposition was upheld by the Prime Minister in a speech of great vigor and eloquence, and recognized by all who were sincere in their professions of Liberal principles, the substitution of affirmation for an oath in the case of avowed atheists was repudiated by a majority of the House, and the Cabinet was forced to accept a compromise which satisfied nobody, and merely postponed the difficulty to the present session. The adverse majority of course included, besides the regular Opposition, a large number of seceders from the Liberal ranks, mainly Catholics and non-conformists, who were unwilling to extend to agnostics the toleration which had been successfully demanded on their own behalf.

It was thus rendered clear that a considerable number of members, nominally Liberals, fail to grasp the fundamental principles of Liberalism, or are willing to violate them under the pressure of theological rancor or social prejudice. Equally plain was it that, so far as the treatment of Mr. BRADLAUGH was concerned, the supposed ascendancy of Mr. GLADSTONE in the Liberal party was a chimera. Such was the unavoidable deduction from the failure of the affirmation proposal in a previous session, and it remains to be seen whether the Premier has since gained sufficient strength to reverse the action of the House. If the success of the closure resolution last autumn can be taken as a criterion, we should feel inclined to say that any bill in which Mr. GLADSTONE is deeply interested could now command a majority of the House. We must remember that when the gag-law programme was first mooted, the Cabinet was so nearly beaten on the MARRIOTT amendment to the closure rule that it was deemed prudent to indefinitely postpone the whole subject of procedure reform. Nevertheless, when Parliament came together last autumn after the triumph of the British arms in Egypt, the Government experienced no difficulty in carrying through such rules of procedure as it desired. It may be that we shall see a fresh proof of the improved concord and discipline of the Liberal party in the disposition now made of the BRADLAUGH case, although the Conservatives are certain to oppose the affirmation by every parliamentary device and weapon which the new regulations have left in their power.

Literary Protectionists.

The names of OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, T. B. ALDRICH, and JOHN G. WHITTIER all appear on a memorial lately presented to Congress asking that the duty of 25 per cent. on the importation of printed books may not be reduced. As for Dr. HOLMES and Mr. ALDRICH, their signatures in favor of fostering industry through the means of a protective tariff in no way surprise us. But with Mr. WHITTIER the case is different. He is a Quaker. Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, one of the foremost advocates of free trade, is a Quaker. TOM PAINE, the apostle of the rights of man, was a free trader and a Quaker. Indeed, the principles of the Society of Friends on the whole tend toward free trade, and are opposed to such an interference with the rights of man as is embodied in the idea of a protective tariff, which imposes a penalty upon a man's buying what he wants outside of his own country. There is no declaration directly in favor of free trade in the admonitions which are read to Quakers assembled in yearly meeting; but still the general drift of their teachings is such that when a Quaker advocates protection we are induced to think that he has not accepted the spirit of his peculiar faith in its broadest sense. That is possibly the case with Mr. WHITTIER. Or perhaps each of these gentlemen may be a believer in free trade in the abstract, but in favor of a special duty on imported books. If that is so, or if they are all sound protectionists throughout, they have just as much right to petition Congress to foster by a protective tariff the industry with which they are identified, as the men engaged in the manufacture of iron goods, or those who make sugar, have to pray for legislation that will preserve them from foreign competition; and the petition of literary workers for a duty on books deserves the same consideration as the petition of an iron man who begs for the maintenance of a high duty on iron.

But, although these gentlemen regard encouragement to American writers as of greater importance than a reduction of our unnecessary revenue, there is nothing in their attitude as protectionists to prevent them from advocating a reduction of taxation through the repeal of the internal revenue laws. By doing what they can to bring about that reform, the literary workers can do a good turn to their fellow citizens by lightening our present load of outrageous and unnecessary taxes, without in any way conflicting with their own interests. The internal revenue taxes should be repealed.

The French Senate Wavering.

A comparison of the latest action taken by the majority of the French Senate with the peremptory attitude assumed at the beginning of last week will disclose signs of yielding to the demands of the Chamber of Deputies. The preponderance of votes cast by the conservative followers of M. WADDINGTON and M. SAY was so slight on Saturday that a change of opinion on the part of three Senators will suffice to overcome it. The cause of this irresolute temper in the upper House must undoubtedly be looked for in the indecision and timidity of President GRÉVY, for there is no reason to believe that public sentiment favors the sudden and irrational crusade against the ORLEANS princes.

To appreciate what the Senate did on Saturday we must call to mind what it had done a few days before. It had rejected by a majority of sixteen the BARBEY proposal—identical with the second clause of the FABRE bill adopted by the FALLIÈRES Ministry—giving the President discretionary power to expel members of former dynastic families from France. The scene then shifted to the Chamber of Deputies, which stultified itself by referring all the expulsion propositions to an intensely radical committee, whose advice it had no intention of accepting. This committee, as might have been anticipated, rejected the BARBEY proposal—apparently believing that the President could not be trusted to make use of proscriptive powers confided to his discretion—and reported to the House the FLOQUET bill, which is the harshest of all the measures suggested. The BARBEY project, however, being warmly supported by the Ministry, who would naturally be supposed to know something about M. GRÉVY's latest resolution, was accepted by a large majority, but not until the Chamber had taken precautions against renewed vacillation on the part of the President by adding to the discretionary provision a mandatory clause to the effect that all princes serving in the army should be at once placed upon half pay.

Loaded with this amendment, the BARBEY bill seemed likely to be rejected by the Senate much more decisively than when it was presented in its original form. As a matter of fact, however, although the proposed measure was denounced by M. WADDINGTON and M. SAY as dishonoring the republic by introducing the arbitrary processes of the empire, the majority against the bill dwindled from sixteen to five. This change of front on the part of several Republican Senators is due probably to a conviction that a moderate Cabinet, composed of such men as M. DE FREYCINET and M. SAY, would have no chance of controlling the present Chamber of Deputies, and that, inasmuch as President GRÉVY seems to shrink from a dissolution, some kind of an agreement between the two Houses is indispensable. It remains true, nevertheless, as was pointed out in the Senate on Saturday, that the pretended compromise offered by the BARBEY bill, as amended, really involves a complete surrender of the principles contended for by moderate Republicans in the upper House to the radical majority in the Chamber of Deputies.

The Best Sort of Protection.

The first step toward arresting the rapid destruction of our forests is to remove the duty on Canadian lumber.

The tariff on lumber is maintained solely in the local interests of Maine, Michigan, and other lumbering States. These interests are large in themselves, but they are insignificant in comparison with the larger interests that call for forest protection.

As Mr. S. S. COX said last week in the excellent speech which we print elsewhere, it is the old fable of the golden egg. The tariff on imported lumber is a standing premium for the wanton and hurried destruction of the forests of the United States.

By removing the duty we surrender about $1,000,000 annually in customs, but we shall gain what is of inestimable value.

Free trade in lumber is protection for our forests.

Bad Work On the Hartford Line.

An express train on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad killed three persons near Wallingford, Conn., early Sunday morning, who were attempting to cross the track in a sleigh.

According to a number of witnesses, the whistle of the engine was not sounded as the train approached the crossing.

On Saturday there was an accident of a different character on another part of the same line. A freight train from New Haven ran into another freight train at Mamaroneck. Eight or ten cars were thrown off the track, and traffic was blocked for some time, but fortunately nobody was injured.

The management, however, is entitled to no credit on this last account. A company which runs its freight trains recklessly cannot be trusted to run its passenger trains carefully; and when a question of negligence arises, as in the case of this accident at Wallingford, there is sure to be a presumption in the minds of people against a corporation which has manifested a lack of due care on other occasions, as, for example, in the collision of these freight trains.

From the time of the awful disaster at Norwalk, many years ago, up to a very recent date, all passenger trains in Connecticut were accustomed to come to a stop before crossing a drawbridge. We understand this requirement is no longer enforced, but some mechanical arrangement is relied upon to prevent trains from running into an open draw. In view of the occurrences last week, the public may well doubt the expediency of thus relaxing any precaution for the safety of travellers on this line.

It is more important to run trains without killing people than it is to save a little time or labor. This proposition is a truism, perhaps, but it is one which many railroad managers seem unable to appreciate.

The Association of American Economists was entertained, at its late session in Washington, with a letter from JOHN ROACH on the shipping question. What Subsidy ROACH has to do with economists is not clear. His appeals might better be made to an Association of American Spendthrifts.

The Chinese who honor this country with their presence, impress the ordinary observer by a certain grave and almost Quakerish inoffensiveness. Even their greatest dissipation, opium smoking, is introspective and subdued. Their appearance does not suggest athletic prowess or pugnacity. Their countrymen in the Flowery Empire, if we may believe the books of travel, "cannot conceive how any one should find delight in the exercise of wrestling, boxing, or fencing."

But now among the Chinese-Americans, under the influence of the surrounding hoodlums, the art of self-defence has made its appearance. At Philadelphia the other day Mr. LOO and Mr. HI fought eleven rounds, and exhibited truly Caucasian science and pluck. Mr. LOO, on his failure to come up to the scratch, tersely observed, "Me catchee plenty." The polysyllabic flux of Our Own EVARTS could not have done quicker justice to Mr. LOO's feelings or to Mr. HI's competency as a pugilist.

Boxing and sparring are arts cultivated at the present time with especial success by natives of Ireland, England, America, and New Zealand. But if the Chinamen should take it into their heads to desert the laundry and bend the whole powers of their subtle intellects to the practice of pugilistic science, the result may be that the present boxing stars may be forced out of their profession into other modes of earning a living, and HI SING FOOR become the great knocker out while Mr. SULLIVAN takes in washing.

Another Ministry turns up in France, with JULES FERRY at its head. This constant rotation in office gives a great number of public men the chance of being Cabinet officers; it also shows how little the stability and progress of the republic depend on any set of officeholders.

The Ajax defying the Guyandotte makes a pleasant picture to dwell upon, amid the general decay of the United States Navy. The monitor Ajax was anchored last week in the James River, near City Point. The new steamer Guyandotte of the Old Dominion line, heavily loaded, ran into the Ajax. The iron stem of the merchant vessel was indented and her iron-plated port bow somewhat damaged. Exactly how much the Ajax was injured does not yet appear; but it may be considered a victory for the navy that she was not sunk by the ramming.

It is pleasant to see such a large volume of money flowing from this city and from other cities to the sufferers by the floods in the West.

The unusual ceremonies which attended the funeral of the late CHARLES R. THORNE, Jr., were repeated on Sunday last in a cemetery near Chicago, over the body of JACK MCCONNICH, a well-known racing man and card player. Six of his friends carried the coffin to the grave, and then JERRY DUNN, the most notorious sporting man in Chicago, delivered this short speech:

"Friends, the presence of death, the solemnity of the grave, has ever been recognized, even among uncivilized people, by some rite or service, according to their custom. In this instance our departed friend expressly requested that no religious rites should be performed over his remains. As the new religion of reason and philosophy, in which he was a believer, has no prescribed rites, I may be brief and candid. We here place in the bosom of his great and mysterious mother the remains of a true child of nature, once our friend, a man of brilliant parts and nobility of character, notwithstanding his misdirection and waste of splendid talents. He laid aside as a worthless bauble the most beautiful of poets' dreams, the doctrine of immortality, because he would not have his sinking spirit buoyed up by fiction, for he believed in no life beyond the grave. As the perfume of a rose is wafted away on a passing zephyr, never more to unite with the decayed petals, so is the spirit or soul extinguished in the dead, and there lies all there is."

Whatever may be Mr. DUNN's other characteristics, or those of Mr. STUART ROBSON, who officiated at the funeral of CHARLES R. THORNE, Jr., plain speaking belongs to them both.

The Milwaukee firemen are said to have become splendidly expert, within a few weeks, in the use of life-saving ladders. Had they been as expert and as well equipped before the Newhall House fire, they might have rescued many lives. But this is the old story of shutting the door after the horse is stolen. Firemen in cities whose hotel burnings are yet to come should be the ones to profit most by the Newhall House disaster.

There are lightning trains on some railroads, Flying Dutchmen on others; and on the road from Chicago to Kansas City there is a cannon-ball train. The Pullman sleeper on this cannon-ball train, the other morning, took fire and burned up, with the property of the occupants, who fortunately escaped the same fate. One of the supposed advantages of sleeping cars is the presence and watchfulness of a man who looks after the safety and comfort of its occupants; but the watchfulness has become largely mythical.

It is not often that a Judge passes so many heavy sentences in one day as City Judge COWING passed yesterday. The sentences were delivered in an ascending scale, beginning with nine years and six months, and topping off with fifteen years and six months. It is, of course, a very serious and even terrible thing to take so large a part of a man's life away from him. Life within the walls of the State prison, particularly in view of recent developments, is often worse than death. The man who robbed Miss ISHERWOOD in the Fourth avenue tunnel was sentenced to State prison for twelve years and six months by the young Judge.

The performances in chess with which STEINITZ has been entertaining absorbed spectators in this city day after day equal almost any of the marvels that are recorded of this interesting game. To play against half a dozen good players at the same time blindfolded, pause for a little diversion with cards, resume chess, and then win, is a feat that astonishes equally by the skill and power of memory displayed.

STEINITZ is not so brilliant in his play as some of the champions who have figured in the chess arena, but he has reduced the game as nearly to a science as it can be done. His presence here has occasioned a decided revival in the interest felt in chess. If MASON were to return at this time from London for a triangular contest with MACKENZIE and the winner of the first prize at Vienna, he would find a warm greeting awaiting him.

Cork, London, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Munich, and Rome are among the cities which have national or international exhibitions now in course of preparation. But the tourist need not go to the Old World for such an entertainment. Venezuela will hold at Caracas next July an industrial exhibition to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the birth of BOLIVAR, and this occasion will be made specially interesting by the laying of the foundation of a statue of WASHINGTON.

The current craze for attaching iron balconies and ladders to city buildings, regardless of whether they ornament plain structures or disfigure beautiful ones, is prompted by a commendable spirit, and it is pleasant to read that the architects are studying the means to make them as ornamental as they are meant to be useful. Something more than this should be considered, however. Many of those that are constructed along a perpendicular row of windows are, when fires break out, as likely as not to be in the direct path of the flames. Windows draw flames outward, and are not merely chance outlets for them. External fire escapes should always be placed between windows, and should reach across two lines of these embrasures.

Raum and the Whiskey Men.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Although the Whiskey Ring did not accomplish their object, they served Raum faithfully in his Illinois campaign for Senator. Raum possesses the virtue of not being ungrateful, even for good intentions. He shows this in the construction he has put on the law whereby the whiskey people virtually attain a forty days' extension on the tax falling due on whiskey on hand. What they could not obtain from Congress they have for a limited period procured through a construction of the law by Raum. No one dreamed such a thing was possible till he found the way in the doing of which he has demonstrated anew the truth of the saying that no law can ever be made that an expert lawyer could not drive a coach and six through.

Protection for the Indians.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Secretary Teller asks Congress to provide an officer to see to the payment of money to Indians under treaty stipulations. He says the Indians pay from five to fifty per cent. to outside parties for collecting money honestly due them. In five years $250,000 of their money has been expended in this way. The disbursement of the Indian fund should not cost over $5,000 a year. He also asks for $14,100 to compensate Red Cloud's band for the horses Gen. Crook took from them.

Star Route Rumors.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Rerdell's confession and the suicide of Mrs. Vaile, the wife of one of the defendants, from distress caused by her husband's situation, have given almost a tragic aspect to the Star route trial. Since Rerdell began his confession numerous reports of what will follow have been circulated. One report is that certain of the defendants have arranged with their bail preparatory to leaving the country. On the contrary, it is said that all the defendants will become witnesses when the side of the defence is heard.

THE END IN WASHINGTON.

The Mournful Exit of the Republicans—The Tariff Storm—The White House Again—Mr. Conkling on the Administration.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The demoralization of the Republicans in Congress developed so suddenly on the tariff question threatens to extend in other directions. Even the cohesive power of public plunder is liable to prove insufficient to keep them together, for since Saturday's proceedings threats are made against everything specially important to the leaders who have hitherto ruled the House. Page's River and Harbor bill has lost strength, and in regard to it there really seems to be a prospect that honesty and decency may yet win. "Smash it; smash everything!" is the comprehensive idea advanced by Western Republican Representatives. Could Chandler's old monitor and new cruiser jobs come before the House again, Robeson would see how sadly his power has waned.

It is noticeable that there is no such thing as an administration party. The Administration is powerful in nothing. No one thinks of invoking support in its name. No one ever asks what is the desire of the Administration. Nobody pretends to speak for it. It would be hard to find one who would become its spokesman concerning public affairs, or its defender at all. The Republicans in Congress, aside from appropriations, have no common object. What chiefly is to be said concerning the present Congress is the bad odor it is in with the people. This grows worse as its end approaches.

The game of deception by the Republicans in the House on the tariff question is about to be developed in the Senate. Republican Senators who have worked with apparent earnestness to complete the Senate Tariff bill are preparing to kill it. Here, as it has been in the House, this will be in fulfilment of the purpose in view by the Republicans from the beginning, to wit: to pass no bill, and declare the failure was owing to the Democrats.

John Sherman is leader in this. How to kill the bill which he has seemed to labor for is the question with him and a majority of the Republican Senators. They don't mean to allow the bill to go to the House. The game of sham they have been playing might end in reality.

The White House within the last few months has been overhauled and refurnished with unexampled elegance and thoroughness. And yet the usual appropriation for repairing the White House will be proposed. It is made with the regularity of the sessions, and the money is spent, but how, seems to be no one's business to inquire. It would seem that after being so recently thoroughly repaired and furnished no appropriation would be needed.

It is stated on the authority of Republican members of Congress from New York that Senator Conkling, when in Washington last, said that Arthur had utterly ruined his party, whereas had Garfield lived, badly as he began, the party would have been preserved and become united and strong as ever it had been. A similar opinion was expressed recently by a Republican United States Senator who was among Arthur's closest friends and warmest supporters when he came to Washington after Garfield's death.

GOV. BUTLER IN CONCORD PRISON.

Addressing the Convicts in the Chapel—Why he Removed Warden Earle.

BOSTON, Feb. 19.—Gov. Butler visited the State prison to-day, inspected it thoroughly, and addressed the 600 convicts in the chapel. He said: "Men, you are here because it has been ascertained by the only means of ascertaining facts yet made known to the ingenuity of man that you have broken the laws of the Commonwealth." After telling the convicts that the new Warden was a friend of twenty-five years' standing, and a just and humane man, the Governor said:

"The rules that he will make will be for your comfort and convenience and orderly behavior and safe keeping. Beyond that he has no interest in you, except that which shall be for your good, and his orders [with an emphatic wave of his hand] must be obeyed. I have given him directions to allow you freely to write to me your complaints, because I hold that it was no part of your sentence that you should be confined to hard labor and not have the privilege of petitioning to the supreme executive authority when you think you are wronged. You need have no doubt on the subject, and none of you need write across the corner of the envelope my name to prevent the letters being opened. [Laughter and applause.] Now, I want to disabuse your mind of one thing. I do not want you to understand it to be a fact, so far as I am concerned, that I removed the late Warden on account of anything that he did to you, because I always hear both sides; and when the letters were written to me I took care not to hear your side until I got ready to hear his; but before I got ready to hear him he did those things, in disobedience to orders of mine, that caused me to remove him from office without knowing what your charges against him were. [Faint applause.] Of course it would not have been just to him for me not to have heard him, any more than it would have been just to you for me not to have heard you, and I acted from entirely other and different grounds, for which I am responsible to my conscience and to the people of the Commonwealth.

The deposed Warden Earle was not present, having retired to Worcester on Sunday. Meanwhile the Legislature has a sort of elephant on its hands in the shape of the prison investigation. It is seen that such an investigation will not only do just what it was intended it should not do—sustain the action of the Governor and Council—but will injure Mr. Earle. The committee begins to see now just what was pointed out in debate, that there are no charges to investigate, and that the opponents of the Governor and Council have walked right into a trap of their own setting. What they are most anxious for now is a chance to get out of it. They discussed the subject for three hours this forenoon, and could not decide which was preferable, to back out or go ahead. They have a week yet in which to decide.

Claims of a Pecuniary Character.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You ask why claims of a pecuniary character against the State cannot be adjudicated in the Supreme Court, instead of creating a special tribunal for the purpose. Undoubtedly the Legislature could provide by law for the adjudication of such claims by the Supreme Court; but the right to file a petition or other pleading asserting a claim must be given for the Supreme Court in all its judicial departments, or it must be confined to the Supreme Court held in the county of Albany. It would be very inconvenient for the Attorney-General to attend to such proceedings in different parts of the State, although the District Attorneys might be directed to look after them. Most of the proofs in support of such claims, or those in the defence, are to be looked for in the public offices in Albany, and there the court that is to exercise the jurisdiction ought to be held, both for the convenience of claimants and that of the State. But suppose the Legislature were to adopt your suggestion. The result would be that very nearly all of the cases would be tried by referees, and there would not be for a very long time that uniformity of decision which results from the action of a special tribunal, and there would not be anything like the same ability applied to the trials that would be applied to them by the members of a special tribunal. You ask why call such a tribunal a court if it is not a court, or why call the members of it Judges if they are not Judges. I did not write the letter which you printed on Monday with reference to any particular bill, but I wrote merely for the purpose of suggesting what seems to me a solid distinction in reference to the constitutional power of the Legislature; namely, that if they establish judicial tribunals with power both to render and execute judgments, they must make them local; but if they establish a special tribunal to adjudicate whether the State is indebted on contracts of any kind to individuals without the power to issue executions, they may create such a jurisdiction for the whole State and place the tribunal anywhere. I am not satisfied that I was wrong, although I shall be disposed to yield the point if I can see a stronger answer than that which arises out of the implication on which I rely. I think, too, that it could be shown that such a tribunal would save money to the State, as it certainly would save a loss of interest to claimants. I suppose it to be a universal experience that a Government which has, and is known to have, a clumsy, dilatory, and troublesome mode of adjusting and paying what it owes to individuals, has in the long run to make its contracts with individuals at greater cost than a private person would have to pay who settled promptly and paid punctually. But this is a matter in which I have no special concern one way or the other. G. T. C.

It seems to us that under proper regulations as to the procedure some one or more of the numerous courts which already exist in this State should be authorized to hear and determine the claims of which our correspondent speaks, without creating a new tribunal for the purpose.

An Incomplete Enumeration.

From an Interview with Mrs. Langtry in the Cincinnati Enquirer.

"What are your special pets?"

"I like best dogs and horses. I have a lovely collie, a parrot, and an excessively ugly but fashionable German dog, with very short legs and long body. Miss Langtry, my sister-in-law, has adopted the most extraordinary pet, a little alligator, which she got in New Orleans. It had become very tame, and loved to bask on her lap in the sun. On our journey up from the Gulf he diverted us immensely. Every time the conductor came through the car some one would give the alligator the hint, and he would open his jaws and snap at him in a way quite horrible."

Charges Against the Signal Service.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Gen. Hazen, the Chief Signal Officer, wrote to the Secretary of War on the 16th inst. that he had asked for an investigation of the charges against the Signal Service Bureau and its officers by a Senate committee, because he was anxious that Congress, which had before it legislation affecting the bureau, should examine the charges. He renewed his request. Secretary Lincoln, in his reply, disapproves the application, but says that unless Gen. Hazen asks for a court of inquiry to examine the charges he will request the President to appoint such a court.

SAVE THE FORESTS.

Congressman S. S. Cox's Speech for Free Lumber.

From the Congressional Record.

Mr. COX of New York—I think the committee has not as yet been fully advised as to the vast importance of our forests. Notwithstanding the comprehensive statement of my distinguished friend from Indiana (Mr. Holman), much may be said of the necessity of forest protection in the better sense of the word.

We have some millions of hands engaged directly or indirectly in making lumber. The annual product of the raw material, as I get it from Prof. Sargent's able article in the *North American Review* for October, 1882, reaches $450,000,000. That has been our product or result of this industry. But after all, as this Professor says in this article, the main object of the protection of our forestry is that the forests have much to do with the flow of our rivers, with the modification of the temperature of our country. It has very much to do with the great distress that is now upon our people in the terrible freshets that have devastated in the last few days the Ohio Valley from Pittsburgh to Shawneetown. Unwisely, we have permitted a vast and wanton destruction to take place. If we are not heedful and precautious we will be prematurely old and worn; we shall be in the condition of Oriental countries, which are almost totally denuded of their forests, and are consequently parched, calcined desolation. These lands were once fragrant with the vine and fruitful with the olive. They are now barren and dreary by the fires and ruin of forests, by the capital error which was committed in the rearward of their history. And, sir, because men have imprudently cut down the forests, which destroyed the ornamentation as well as the fruitfulness of those lands, they are the abodes of owls and jackals, and the very soil has had the degradation which has fallen upon the population.

The main point, therefore, in my opinion, with reference to the pending schedule is that the material from these forests should be placed upon the free list. Why? Because we may save our own forests by the importation of cheap lumber—lumber from over our border. By a tariff we close our ports to competition; we hold out, as is proposed here, a large premium for their wanton and hurried destruction. It is the old fable of the golden egg.

To be sure, west of Winnipeg to the Pacific we are exporting and furnishing timber for the British colonies. From Winnipeg east the timber we cut remains here; it does not go to Canada. There is no reason why there could not be perfect mutuality between the two countries. This would be beneficial to both. We can trade as well with the Dominion of Canada as New York can trade with Pennsylvania.

I speak, therefore, in the interest of Kansas as well as of New York when I say that timber is almost as indispensable as bread. It is used in everything that we have in life. Is it not intelligence? Our very paper is made from the wood pulp of New England. Is it not food? The very mills in which our grain is ground come from the great forests of the Northwest. Is it not shelter? Our houses everywhere—perhaps three-fourths of their entire cost is that of the lumber.

And when the gentleman from Kansas, as he has spoken here so well, speaks for timber to make the houses and fences for the farmers upon the great prairies, he speaks for light, food, shelter. The imperial city of New York, with her 1,200,000 population, which I represent in part, are living in houses. Their erection, their rent, their repairs, their rebuilding require vast quantities of lumber. You have no right against their will to make their houses dearer and their rents higher by these burdens on the materials of their repair and construction. We have a right in the interest of these consumers to demand of this Congress—nay, sir, on behalf of the fifty-odd million of men, women, and children who live in houses I demand the right, without hindrance of a paternal government, to buy their lumber where they can get it the cheapest and the best, and that, sir, without limit or stint from any quarter, however local or selfish.

An argumentation is made here for dear timber. It comes from Michigan; it comes from Maine; it comes from Wisconsin in part. The argument, therefore, is a local one. I do not complain of gentlemen giving voice to these old shrieks of locality. They are as old as human sin; they are as selfishness incarnate. We all have them. Perhaps I have one on behalf of the body of the people. On behalf of the men, women, and children who live more or less surrounded by wood from their cradles to their coffins, I ask for free timber.

Notes Suggested by Mr. Giffen's Essay.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Jefferson, in his "Notes on Virginia," estimates the number of people in that State in the year 1781 at 567,614, and says its population doubles every 27½ years. This ratio of increase should give the number of people in Virginia in the year 1880 at 9,081,824. There is no way of proving the truth of his estimate, but it is true, all the same, no doubt, except that the other Southern States have received the increase.

Let us estimate for 1781 the number of all the people in the slave section at 1,500,000, which must be very nearly the true number. Now, double this number for every 27½ years, and we find the number for 1880 to be 24,000,000. We know by the census of 1880 that the South, or old slave section, will contain in 1880 24,000,000 people, or about that number.

In this way we see that Mr. Jefferson's ratio, doubling the population every 27½ years, is proved. The circumstances causing the migration of the inhabitants of old Virginia existed in all the old Southern States. Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, from the year 1781 to about 1835, lost many of their people by migration to the Northwestern or free States. In later years all the South helped to settle up California, a free State. Pennsylvania and New Jersey people, after 1781, migrated to the slave region in somewhat corresponding numbers to the exodus from the slave to the free States. From about 1835 the people of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois migrated in considerable numbers to Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas. It is probable that the changes from North to South and South to North since 1781 have been about equal.

The ratio of increase in the Northern States since 1790 has been higher than in the South. This is shown by comparing the census of the two sections in 1790 with the later census tables. In 1790 the two sections were about equal in number, the South being a little ahead. The ratio of increase in the North will give that section 41,000,000 in 1880. FRANKLIN.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.

Information for John McClave.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN there is a letter signed "John McClave," which is very laughable, and the heading of "Irish Flats" attached to it seems most appropriate.

London happens to be an old and somewhat historic city, and I should say your correspondent's knowledge of it is most limited, and that he is not particularly well read either is shown by his remarks about "giving her great streets names that do not express their character," as those he particularly names have been christened most appropriately. Centuries ago a stream meandered peacefully through the now busy thoroughfare of Holborn. It was called the Old Bourne, and I guess became transformed into its modern appellation by an over use of poor letter "H." The "High" portion of it was higher ground at one time, though the abolition of Holborn Hill by the splendid viaduct has placed it all on a level now. In the reign of the "Merry Monarch" the bloods of the day were fond of a game called pall mall, which was somewhat similar to croquet, a wooden ball being driven through an iron ring by a maul or mallet. The most noted ground for playing the game was at the west end of London, Pall Pall being its location, and although now principally occupied by lordly club houses, it still retains its old name. Regarding the pronunciation of the word, which Webster gives as pel-mel, I may state it is always pronounced as written, Pall Mall, in London, unless, perhaps, by some members of the crutch and toothpick brigade.

The Boulevards here seem to me most appropriately named, as they are grand thoroughfares near a grander river. STATIA.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.

The Assessment Commission.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A letter published in THE SUN to-day complains that the Assessment Commission is dilatory in its action. I am glad that this complaint has been made, as it gives an opportunity for a brief statement of facts. There is no case before the Commission which has been closed by counsel that has not been decided. The Eighth avenue paving case has been decided, although the last testimony was submitted only a few weeks ago. The testimony for the petitioner in the Eighth avenue grading and regulating case has not been finished, and that for the city has yet to be heard. In the St. Nicholas avenue case the evidence for the petitioner is