The Sun.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 1883.

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending March* 10, 1883, *was:*

Sunday	154,545	Weekly	69,620
Monday	146,784	Thursday	145,089
Tuesday	146,964	Friday	146,795
Wednesday	146,065	Saturday	149,644

Total for the week.....1,099,076

The Rioting in Paris.

The Socialist outbreak which took place in Paris on Friday, was, happily for the prestige of the Government, quelled by the joint efforts of the police and the city militia, without the intervention of the regular army. Yet the demonstration was prolonged for many hours, and serious consequences seem to have been averted rather by a lack of decision on the part of the rioters than by the promptitude and vigor of the authorities. The danger is that, encouraged by this significant fact, the promoters of disorders may renew their attempt on a more extensive scale and in a more determined spirit.

This collision between a section of the Paris workingmen and the French Government recalls with ominous distinctness the first step in the downward course of the republic of 1848. In that year a series of ill-planned and abortive disturbances preceded the formidable uprising of the days of June, which with extreme difficulty was suppressed by the military skill and ruthless energy of Gen. CAVAIGNAC. It was a dear-bought victory for the Republican party, for while it irremediably alienated the Paris working people, it failed altogether to allay the distrust and apprehensions of the rural population. At the subsequent elections for the Legislative Assembly a large majority of reactionists was returned, although then, as now, the forces inimical to free institutions were divided among the partisans of three dynastic families. There is reason to fear that history may repeat itself at the present juncture. Should the Socialist demonstrations be repeated and acquire more redoubtable proportions before the next general election, it is not improbable that the bourgeois class and the small farmers, panic-stricken by the threatened invasion of the rights of property, will again give their votes to men representing the guarantees of social security which in the popular imagination are associated with a strong government.

It is now acknowledged by every close observer of the political situation in France that in the death of GAMBETTA the republican régime lost an immense reserved force, which in any supreme exigency could be relied upon to maintain its hold upon the confidence of the nation. His virtually single-handed triumph over all the agencies of reaction in the elections of 1877 supplied convincing proof that so long as its standard was uplifted by GAMBETTA, the republic could challenge fearlessly the flat of the people. But no other Republican leader has anything like the same grasp on the esteem and trust of the peasantry and the great middle class in the cities and towns; no other man in their hour of peril can throw over republican institutions the invulnerable ægis of his personal popularity. The present Ministry is perhaps the strongest that could have been selected in view of the actual composition of the Chamber of Deputies; but there is not a man in it strong enough to daunt the enemies of order, or bold enough to chastise a lawless demonstration with pitiless severity. The FERRY Cabinet is not fortified by the serene assurance that it has the country at its back, and we may not unreasonably anticipate that in the face of the outbreaks with which it may now have to deal, it will evince the same instability of purpose and fatal self-distrust which brought about the downfall of LOUIS PHILIPPE. And even should the present republic have the improbable good fortune to find a second CAVAIGNAC, his success, won at the cost of rupturing the Republican party, might ultimately inure to the profit of the reactionists.

Fire in Apartment Houses.

It is no wonder that the fire which so swiftly consumed the Cambridge flats and destroyed two lives has created alarm in New York. The vast majority of the people of this city live in apartment or tenement houses, and very few of those buildings are better able to resist fire than the one burned up the other day, or are provided with more efficient safety appliances in case a fire breaks out in them.

In the spring of 1880 New York contained 73,684 dwellings, each of which was occupied, on the average, by a little over sixteen persons. The proportion of dwellings to the whole population was much smaller here than in any other of the large cities of the Union, as the following table will show:

	Population.	*No. Dwellings.*	*Persons to a Dwelling.*
New York	1,206,299	73,684	16.37
Philadelphia	847,170	146,412	5.79
Brooklyn	566,993	62,233	9.11
Chicago	503,185	61,089	8.24
Boston	362,839	43,944	8.26
St. Louis	350,518	43,026	8.15
Baltimore	332,313	50,833	6.54
Cincinnati	255,139	28,017	9.11
San Francisco	233,959	34,110	6.86
New Orleans	216,090	36,347	5.95

The average number of persons to a dwelling, all the United States taken together, was 5.60.

It will be seen, therefore, that the average number in our dwellings is about three times the average for the whole Union. Philadelphia had only about two-thirds of the population of New York in 1880, and yet the City of Brotherly Love contained nearly twice as many dwellings. Even Brooklyn, with its vast area and a great expanse of flat territory to build upon which bears a general likeness to that covered by Philadelphia, put, on the average, over nine persons in a house, while the other city had less than six people to a dwelling. The population of Brooklyn occupied fewer dwellings proportionately than that of any of the other cities above named, except New York and Cincinnati; and Cincinnati had exactly the same number of persons to a house.

The disposition to live in tenement houses, or rather to build tenement houses for the accommodation of the great mass of the inhabitants, is marked throughout all the populous neighborhood of this city. In New York the proportion of dwellings is so small that the average number of persons to a dwelling is 16.37; in Brooklyn the average is 9.11; in Jersey City it is 8.59; in Hoboken, 11.50.

Since the spring of 1880, moreover, the population of New York and its vicinity has greatly increased, and in this city especially the gain has been remarkable, probably somewhere near twenty per cent. Though building has been active in the intervening years, the number of dwellings put up has not been great enough to prevent a further increase in the large average number of persons to a dwelling. The crowding process has gone on steadily, and of the new dwellings a great part have been tenement houses, distinctively so called, and apartment houses.

The very low rates at which insurance can be obtained on separate dwelling houses in New York throughout the upper portion of the city is the strongest practical proof that their liability to destruction by fire is small. They are not fireproof buildings, by any means, but it is a very uncommon thing for one of these residences to burn up. And if a fire occurs in one of them the height of the house is not so great as to prevent the firemen reaching its topmost stories with their ladders and with streams of water. The chances of putting out the fire are of the best, and there is very little risk of loss of life on account of the flames.

The liabilities to fire are of course multiplied in an apartment house occupied by many families instead of by one family only. And the occupants are in more personal danger when a fire occurs, because so many of them are crowded into a single structure. Land being so costly, the only way to make an apartment house profitable is to run it up toward the sky, so that its occupants shall live in layers, of which there may be six, seven, eight, and ten or more. The consequence is that the building gets so high that no ladders within the command of firemen will reach to the top of it. Neither can streams of water be sent to so great an elevation. The height also necessitates elevators, and most of these are so constructed that they aid the progress of the flames, which quickly run up the shaft in which the elevator is placed and through which it moves.

Unless a lofty apartment house provided with an elevator is really fireproof, and if the chance of the communication of fire from story to story through the elevator shaft is not obviated by a proper construction, the many inhabitants of the house are unquestionably in far more danger from fire than a family occupying a single dwelling. There is more risk of fire, and when it occurs their lives are in greater peril. Their opportunities for escape, especially if they are on the upper stories, are much less than those of a family living in one of our ordinary four-story private dwelling houses.

It is necessary, therefore, that the construction of all apartment or tenement houses which are not as fireproof as such buildings can be rendered should be absolutely forbidden. Their owners should be required to so build the elevators that fire shall not be communicated through their shafts, and approved safety escape appliances should be provided in sufficient quantity, and kept in proper order.

In spite of laws to secure the necessary ends, it is not probable, however, that we shall find the public thoroughly alive to the need of them and their proper enforcement until one of the elegant apartment houses which are so fast multiplying up town is burned up, along with a large number of its inhabitants. But the insurance people, we believe, are a little anxious about some of these showy structures, and lenders of money on mortgage are much more shy of them than they used to be. The theory of the lenders, however, is not so much that these great apartment houses are in danger from fire, as that their rapid multiplication is making it probable that they will be far less profitable in the future than they are now; that the rates of rent for their apartments must come down.

The higher the buildings and the more crowded the population of New York the greater is the necessity for the rigid enforcement of every rule of precaution against fire.

Spiritualism and Voudooism.

A divorce case which has lately been on trial in Cincinnati was very remarkable, because a great part of the testimony taken related to alleged spiritualistic performances. A large number of witnesses of good repute swore that they had actually seen the work done by the spirits; and, moreover, the mediums through whom the inhabitants of the shadowy world were supposed to send their communications and produce material results were not professional wonder workers in the spiritualistic way, but men and women of apparent respectability who do not seem to have turned their proficiency to gain. They were private individuals, who declared that they had discovered their peculiar powers accidentally. The performances were domestic, and not public, and the actors were amateurs, if we may so call them, who merely brought in the spirits for the surprise or delectation of their friends.

The divorce case was that of MRS. HELEN M. YOUNG against Gen. H. C. YOUNG, and the charge was adultery, which the defendant denied, at the same time alleging improper intimacy between his wife and a spiritualistic medium named FOSTER. This is not the medium of that name who was so long and widely known in New York as a professional character, and who, we believe, has now landed in an insane asylum, but Mr. FRANK T. FOSTER of Cincinnati, who is a man of affairs, being the superintendent of an oil manufactory in that city. It was in consequence of this counter charge that the testimony regarding spiritualistic manifestations and performances was introduced.

It seems that the half sister of Gen. YOUNG, MRS. MARIA LOUISA YOUNG, was known in the family as a writing medium; and at the YOUNG homestead spiritualistic meetings were held. In 1878 Mr. FOSTER, according to his testimony, attended one of these meetings, and that was the first he had to do with spiritualism; but once having got a taste of them, his appetite for the wonders steadily increased, and finally he became a medium himself, wholly without effort or inclination on his part. He wrote on a slate independently of his will, he testified, but his great feat was the making of spirit voices sound through a trumpet. MRS. MARIA LOUISA YOUNG, according to Mr. FOSTER, exerted a strange influence over him. "I never got into that condition except in the presence of MRS. MARIA LOUISA YOUNG," he testified. And when he was in what we believe is called the mediumistic state in the jargon of the Spiritualists, he said he was partly unconscious, and that he suffered great physical injury, because of the strain of the performances on him. "I think if I had kept it up six months longer it would have killed me," he said; and he further testified that he never in his life got any money for his spiritualistic feats.

MRS. MARIA LOUISA YOUNG, above referred to, testified that MRS. HELEN M. YOUNG, the plaintiff in the suit, was a "materializing medium." She would retire behind a screen and spirit forms would appear, the earthly company sitting in the form of a horseshoe. Mr. FOSTER, in order to make the trumpet speak, would sit at the opening of the horseshoe. Then, he having fallen into a semi-unconscious state, the trumpet would be raised without material aid, and the spirit voice would answer through it questions propounded. FOSTER said he knew he did not touch the trumpet, and that if he had done so other persons in the circle would have detected him. Neither did he himself hear the voices through the trumpet which the rest found so audible. When he recovered his normal condition, so exhausted and faint that sometimes he needed a glass of cold water to revive him, the company always told him that their questions had been answered through the instrument.

Just how the trumpet acted, the wife of the medium testified. "The trumpet would rise from the floor," MRS. FOSTER said, "and move about the room. At first it touched persons perhaps only feebly. After a while there were two or three songs through it, which eventually became plainly spoken words, and a few loud sounds," and when she was asked if she actually saw the trumpet's movement, she replied:

"On one occasion I saw it very distinctly. No person was touching it. The blinds of our room were old-fashioned, and could not be thoroughly closed. The walls of the room were quite white, and the moon was shining brightly. I could easily distinguish FOSTER seated in his chair, and objects about the room. The trumpet was raised from the floor and floated above the head of each person in the circle, inclined down, and then touched some one in the circle, to whom the communication was given. Every one in the room saw this distinctly. We frequently got messages through it, which we all heard. My husband was unconscious during the séance; he knew nothing at all of what was going on around him."

Such testimony regarding spiritualistic performances is not novel. Everybody has heard stories of the doings of mediums just as marvellous; but the peculiarity in this Cincinnati case is that, as we have said, the witnesses were sworn, and the medium was not a professional one working for money, as the other FOSTER did. But because the evidence was given under oath we are not bound to accept it as true. In fact, it is no more entitled to belief than the unsworn statements of the same sort, of which we have so many. Unquestionably thousands of people are convinced that they have heard spirit voices and seen spirit hands, and they would be ready to take their oath to it. But, after all, because people think they have seen a thing that is marvellous, that is no good reason for believing that it actually occurred. The imagination is a wonder worker whose limitations have never yet been discovered.

The testimony given at Cincinnati brought out what is really far more astonishing than the spiritualistic performances described, and that is that reputable women out there have dabbled in voudooism, a black art whose votaries, we supposed, were confined to the most ignorant negroes who had not yet come out of barbarism, though living in a civilized community. MRS. MARIA LOUISA YOUNG testified that she knew a little of voudooism, and that she had visited a druggist's with a MRS. GLENN, who was a voudoo medium, and bought incense and drugs, which MRS. GLENN was to use in voudoo arts for her benefit. She also swore that MRS. HELEN M. YOUNG, the plaintiff in the suit, had said that she would go to Louisiana if she had money enough, and buy a voudoo candle to burn for the death of a decrepit mare they had on the premises, and for the death of her husband.

After all, however, are not voudooism and spiritualism closely akin? They both pretend to effect material results by the aid of supernatural influences. They are both black arts. The colored people in Louisiana would doubtless be as ready to swear to the wonders done by the voudoo wizards as the Cincinnati Spiritualists were to the marvels worked by their mediums.

How the Maine People Get their Liquor.

A gentleman in New Jersey wrote to Gen. NEAL DOW and to Congressman DINGLEY not long ago, inquiring whether prohibition in Maine was a "dead failure." He had seen an assertion to that effect.

There was something very naïve in this proceeding on the part of the New Jersey gentleman. For accurate and impartial information he could not have gone to a worse quarter than to the venerable father of the prohibitory system. He might as well ask the inventor of a perpetual motion machine whether the machine was likely to work when finished. Gen. DOW's reply was brief, emphatic, and yet not wholly satisfactory. He assured the New Jersey gentleman that from the day in 1851 when the Maine law was enacted up to the present time it had been a "great success;" that the assertion to the contrary was "an old lie, invented by unscrupulous men in the liquor interest," and that the law had "reduced the liquor traffic to at least one-twentieth of its former volume, and saved annually to the State at least $12,000,000, which, without the law, would be spent in drink, and an indirect sum of equal amount at least."

Mr. NELSON DINGLEY, Jr., is a more valuable advocate of the prohibitory cause than Gen. DOW, because while equally sincere he is more judicial in temper, more reasonable in argument, and more cautious in statement. Yet his opinion, too, is that of a zealous advocate, and must be weighed as such. Mr. DINGLEY informs the New Jersey gentleman that although prohibition has not extinguished the secret liquor traffic, "any more than the laws prohibiting larceny have extinguished theft," it has well nigh driven the open grog shops from the State, and forced the traffic into "hidden dens." Mr. DINGLEY, moreover, estimates that the number of these secret places is "less than one-third the number, proportionately, of open grog shops on the average in the Union;" that arrests for drunkenness are far less than in any license State in the country, and that the people of Maine are "less given to drinking habits than any similar population in the country." We print Mr. DINGLEY's letter in full elsewhere, for its allegations are evidently well considered.

As a matter of fact, the "hidden dens" constitute only one of several channels through which people in Maine procure liquor in evasion of the law. Including the channels which Mr. DINGLEY ignores, the classification is something like this:

I. The "hidden dens," grog shops run with more or less secrecy to escape search and seizure by the State authorities. These dens are often, but not always, licensed by the United States to carry on the business.

II. Open saloons and hotel barrooms, where there is little or no attempt at concealment of the traffic. These are found in various cities and towns of the State. Their proprietors openly defy the law which Mr. DINGLEY's party fails to enforce where strict and continuous enforcement would be politically unprofitable. Establishments of this class invariably pay the special tax imposed by the United States Government on wholesale and retail dealers in spirituous and malt liquors. A few days ago we printed a transcript from the books of the Collector of Internal Revenue at Portland showing that the number of licenses granted to citizens of Maine during the present year is 1,162, and that they extend to 172 towns and cities of the State. In Portland alone there are 212. In Lewiston, where Congressman DINGLEY lives, a city of less than 20,000 inhabitants, there are 62 such licenses—about one grog shop for every sixty-five voters.

III. Grocers, who supply prohibited articles for the convenience of their regular customers. This branch of the business is probably confined, for the most part, to the malt liquors—bottled ale, porter, and lager beer.

IV. The druggists. It is notorious that an enormous retail traffic in spirituous liquors is carried on behind the prescription desks of the apothecary shops in Maine. This consists not only in the filling of small bottles and flasks, but also in the filling of the purchaser directly from the wine glass or tumbler. In theory, a Maine druggist sells liquor only upon a physician's prescription. In practice, hundreds of apothecaries keep open bar for the benefit of customers personally known to them as discreet and responsible individuals.

V. The railroad, steamboat, and express companies. Citizens of Maine wishing to replenish their cellars, or to obtain a stock of wines or other liquors for use in their own families, order directly from reputable dealers in Boston or New York, just as citizens of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey do. The dealers fill the orders, ship the cases or casks by the ordinary channels of the carrying industry, and in due time send in their bills. The traffic goes on without interruption, just as in other parts of the republic, but to the great discomfort of the more fanatical prohibitionists, who have failed up to the present time to discover the way to stop it.

VI. The liquor agencies authorized by the State law. We copy from the *Bath Independent* an entertaining account of one of these establishments, with a schedule of the prices charged.

It appears to be a colossal mistake to assume that all the traffic in liquor in Maine has been driven into obscure hiding places behind disreputable doors—into dens and shanties whose stock in trade, as Mr. DINGLEY says, "consists of a few concealed bottles or kegs." And yet the defenders of the prohibitory system almost invariably base their arguments and assertions upon that very assumption, reënforced by imperfect statistics and a painful inability or unwillingness to open their eyes to the true condition of things in their own State.

Why Shouldn't He Marry Her?

A young man in a Western city asks us this question:

"Should a young man marry a young woman who is studying medicine, and who will not consent to discard her profession after marriage?"

Why shouldn't he marry her? That is, if he wants her for a wife, and if she is satisfied to take him as her husband.

Because she has a profession out of which she intends to earn her living, it seems to us that she may be all the more desirable as a wife. A woman, scarcely less than a man, needs a definite employment; and a remunerative employment is far more conducive to happiness than one which yields no substantial results in the way of pay.

We infer that our correspondent is not a rich young fellow, who can afford to support his wife in ease and luxury. He would expect her to keep his house for him, to cook his meals, very likely, to mend his clothes and construct her own, and to make herself generally useful about the establishment while he was away at his trade or business earning the cash to support the household.

But she is fitting herself to earn money, and perhaps she will be able to make more as a doctor than he can at his avocation. If she is at all successful at her profession she can make the domestic establishment they two set up very comfortable, and they can hire some woman whose time is less valuable than hers to do the cooking, the mending, the sweeping, and the washing of dishes.

The years of application she has spent to train herself to be a physician will not be lost in that case, and she will have the proud satisfaction of knowing that she is a very practical helpmeet. If she is fond of medicine and fitted for its practice, the work of attending to her patients will not be drudgery. It will be full of interest for her, while, on the other hand, mere household drudgery would be likely to fret such a woman to so great a degree that her temper might become soured.

It is true, she would be far more independent as a successful practising physician than she would be if she had to rely on her husband for every cent she spent for their common good or for her individual wants. But so much the better. The wife is not the husband's slave, and her absolute pecuniary dependence on him is not essential to domestic happiness. It may rather mar the happiness of the household and break her own spirit.

Oh, no! Why not marry the doctor and pool your profits?

A Poor Place to Put Money.

The Produce Bank in this city must be a careless custodian of the money intrusted to it, if we may judge from the report published yesterday of the unguarded condition in which the banking house was found by the police on Friday evening.

It seems that between half past six and seven o'clock a patrolman discovered a window unfastened, and upon entering the bank found the safe doors open and several hundred dollars of money in sight. Mr. CHRISTOPHER C. BALDWIN, the President, was sent for, and stated to a *Times* reporter "that he found everything all right, and that there was only a small sum of money exposed." According to the same journal,

"Mr. BALDWIN said that he seldom came to the bank, and knew very little about it. The Vice-President, A. F. RICH, was in charge. He supposed that there was a watchman. He could not account for the window and the safe being left open. He believed most of the valuable property of the bank was kept in vaults down town."

The President of a bank who seldom visits it and knows very little about it is a man who ought to resign just about as speedily as he can procure pen, ink, and paper and write a resignation. The Vice-President in charge, under whose administration such carelessness occurs, is presumably responsible for it. He may offer an explanation which will satisfy the public that he is not personally in fault, but he will find it difficult, we think, to convince people that the Produce Bank is a safe place to put their money in as long as such occurrences are possible there.

If Mr. A. B. HEPBURN, Superintendent of the Banking Department, has time enough to spare from his duties as receiver of the Continental Life Insurance Company, he would do well to look into this matter.

Condemned Out of His Own Mouth.

We think the Assembly made a mistake in the contested election case of SPRAGUE against BLISS. Such consideration as we were able to give to the testimony led us to the conclusion that there was a preponderance of evidence in favor of the Republican contestant. Many Democrats in the Assembly were of the same opinion. A majority thought differently, however, and voted to keep the sitting member in his place.

That they erred in judgment and political sagacity we have not much doubt. That they acted dishonestly as a body we do not for a moment believe. And yet the latter impression is that which Mr. ROOSEVELT of this city seeks to fix in the minds of the people by a speech which a Republican newspaper declares "will make an excellent campaign document for the Republicans."

If the Republicans are prudent they will circulate none of this young man's speeches wherein he attacks the motives of others.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT has publicly confessed that he himself voted dishonestly—"otherwise than I thought I honestly ought to" were his very words—in this same Assembly where he now arraigns his fellow members for sustaining a minority report which he says was wrong, rather than a majority report which he says was right.

Whatever may be the merits of the controversy, there can be no certainty that his present opinion is any more honest than his former vote. He may rise to-morrow and "say with shame," as he said before, that he weakly yielded not merely to what was wrong, but to what he knew to be wrong.

As a critic of motives Mr. ROOSEVELT is disqualified.

The marriage of the Hon. WILLIAM SPRAGUE ought to add to his chances of being elected Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. A married man is better for Governor than a single man.

If WIGGINS had contented himself with predicting a storm of ordinary proportions he would not have come out so badly, for the March gales which prevailed in various parts of the country yesterday would have answered very well as a fulfilment of his prophecy. But he insisted that his storm would be no local disturbance, but a tremendous tempest sweeping across whole continents and oceans with unexampled fury. After to-day WIGGINS will quickly disappear from public view, but the extraordinary commotion he has caused and the surprising and ridiculous acts which he has led people to perform will not be without value to those who study human nature.

There was an extraordinary scene, according to the telegraphic despatches, at the Kentucky State College a day or two ago. A drunken student who had been recklessly flourishing a pistol was put in charge of four of his comrades while the police were called. But for some reason when the police came the four guardians, who, it seems, were armed with rifles, refused to surrender their charge. After some parley, however, they yielded. They were very properly suspended, and their drunken comrade was expelled from the college. College students sometimes make it uncomfortable enough for peaceable people with their cane rushes and hat fights, but when they begin to handle firearms the business becomes serious.

The extortionate character of the fees that Sheriff's deputies in this city attempt to squeeze out of property upon which they have laid hands is shown by a decision rendered yesterday by Justice LAWRENCE. Property seized under a writ of attachment was sold by auction for $7,115.04. Out of this amount the Sheriff's deputy demanded $1,081.95 and the auctioneer $1,026.80. These two gentlemen proposed to take nearly a third of the whole property for its mere seizure and sale. One item in the Sheriff's bill was $180 for keepers' fees. It was shown that the deputy had keepers in charge only five days, the property being stored after that in a warehouse. The warehouse keeper makes a heavy claim for the storage, but the Sheriff's deputy nevertheless charged for keepers' fees during the same time. Justice LAWRENCE cut this item down to $30. The claim for extra compensation was cut down from $500 to $100. Justice LAWRENCE intimates also that a large charge for cartage was excessive, but feels bound to allow it because the deputy swears that he actually paid the amount charged; but the Justice evidently looks at the item with suspicion. Altogether, the Sheriff's charge is reduced over $500. The auctioneer has failed to offer any argument in favor of his own charge, and the process of reduction in that bill is yet to come.

The excessive charges in this instance are only an illustration of the practice that is usual in all cases where the deputies see an opportunity of lining their pockets at the expense of litigants. First they squeeze all they can out of the hapless debtor, and then they try to keep as much of this as they can from the unlucky creditor. The bill that Justice LAWRENCE cut down yesterday is modest by comparison with some that have come before the courts. Charges made by Sheriff's deputies have been decided to be ten times as large as they legally ought to have been. Sheriff DAVIDSON has an opportunity to effect a good reform in this long standing abuse.

It is now said that the underground telegraphic system of Germany extends to over two hundred towns, and has been effected at a cost of nearly ten million dollars. When it is reflected that cities as far apart as Königsberg and Strasburg are connected in this way, it will be understood that the new system has cost a good deal in its first outlay. But so far as the practicability of subterranean telegraphing is concerned, this, of course, is settled. It may be admitted that military considerations have probably had much to do with the changes made in Germany and also in Russia, and that such considerations the companies in the United States are not bound to take into view. On the other hand, the greater protection afforded against injuries from storms is important to the corporations, while the need of relieving at least the streets of great cities, whatever may be done with the rural districts, is imperative on public grounds.

Will there Be an Extra Session of the Senate?

WASHINGTON, March 10.—It is understood that an effort is about to be made to have an extra session of the Senate called to consider the Mexican treaty.

It has been ascertained since the adjournment that the postponement of the treaty was for motives other than those which have been given to the public, and that peculiar reasons not relating to the treaty rendered an extra session undesirable to a majority of the Republican Senators.

The promoters of the treaty have hopes that the President, who is understood to sympathize with this view of the case, may nevertheless be persuaded to call the Senate together at an early day.

A Dish of Nudels.

At dinner in a hospitable New York home, in which nothing that is good in the cookery of any nation is rejected, a dish of "nudels," made, like macaroni, of a dough of wheat flour and water rolled out and cut in long, thin slices, was served in a very palatable German style. An experienced macaroni-eater who partook of them is unable to describe more closely than this the manner in which they were cooked, except to the negative extent of saying that they were not prepared with cheese, tomatoes, or cream. As they were set on the table the hostess said: "Nudels, you know, are usually made by the Germans in the house, and are made fresh every time they are wanted. But I buy these of a sturdy, brave-hearted German woman, who supplies other households in the same way. She makes the nudels with her own hands, and carries them around in a basket. When she began this work she had just been left a widow, with a family of small children on her hands and no means of support. Knowing of no other way to earn a living, and this simple thought of making nudels occurring to her, she set to work bravely at that.

"At first she found only two or three families to whom she could sell, but her nudels were so well made, and she was so cleanly and honest and earnest, that others were told about her, and were added to the number of her customers, until her sales were large enough to support her and her little ones. Upon this small business, conducted, as far as it went, well and faithfully, she raised her family, and now her children are old enough to contribute materially to the expenses of the household, and perhaps to support it alone.

"This little piece of homely history I have told you because I think it interesting in the picture it gives of a poor woman lifting herself by brave and honest labor to independence and self-support, and because it shows by what curious occupations some people earn a living in this great city."

Divorce.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Dr. DIX, in his lecture on divorce, while endeavoring to show the evils arising from regarding marriage as a civil contract, says it is "not only a sign of infidel society," but "also an upgrowth from the system known as Protestantism." Here is a distinct charge that Protestantism is responsible for the present divorce laws in the Eastern States. Why should he not go further and declare Protestantism also responsible for the present infidel society? Liberty was an impossibility without the printing press, and without liberty Protestantism would never have flourished. Therefore Dr. DIX should charge to the printing press the evils springing from divorce, Protestantism, liberty, and modern civilization, which liberty brought in its train. To be consistent, Dr. DIX should urge woman to petition the Legislature to enact a law for the suppression of the printing press, liberty, and Protestantism. GEORGE GORDAN.

NEW YORK, March 10.

The Effect of Club Life.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The growing popularity of the numerous clubs in St. Louis will be impaired by the announcement that a St. Louis wife has filed a cross bill in a divorce suit, in which she alleges as a reason for getting a divorce that her husband was in the habit of staying away from home until 1, 2, and even 3 o'clock in the morning.

Why Philadelphia is Sometimes Gloomy.

From Forney's Progress.

Occasionally THE SUN crowds out its column of "Sunbeams," and then when the exchange editors of certain Philadelphia afternoon papers arrive at their desks they are overcome with a sudden grief, and their gloom betrays itself in their columns of notes, personals, and news paragraphs of that day.

EXPLORING MOUNT CARMEL.

HAIFA, Palestine, Feb. 7.—It was my fate as a child to live in a country house in Scotland, of which one-half was some centuries old, with stone walls several feet thick, and circular stone steps leading up into a mysterious tower, which was supposed to be haunted, and in which it was rumored that a secret chamber existed, built into the wall, and I remember perfectly that certain places seemed to sound hollow to blows of a crowbar, which as I got older I used to apply to suspected localities. It is more years than I care to think of since those days, but I can trace a resemblance to that childish feeling in the sensations by which I am animated when I wander over the gloomiest recesses of Carmel alone in search of caverns.

It is called in some ancient Jewish record "the mountain of the thousand caves," and has been inhabited from time immemorial by hermits and religious devotees. Independently of the Biblical record, we have historical traces of its holy character. According to the most ancient Persian traditions, sacred fire burned at the extreme western point of Carmel. Suetonius speaks of the oracles of the god of Carmel, and Alexander the Great repeats the saying. The Syrian city, Ecbatana, alluded to by Pliny, was situated on this mountain. Pythagoras lived here in retreat for some time because it had a reputation for superior sanctity, but Strabo mentions the caves as being haunts of pirates. They were doubtless used as places of refuge for bad characters, as well as of seclusion for pious ones. Others were used for tombs, others for Crusaders' sentry boxes, and now they are the retreat of flocks and herds, and in some instances storehouses for grain.

Those, however, thus utilized are comparatively few in number; I believe many to be unknown even to the natives, while some are invested by them with a mysterious character, and their dimensions are probably exaggerated. I have received accounts of some, which I hope some day to visit, which are said to extend beyond any known exploration, of others which bear traces of carving and inscriptions, but nothing can be more uncertain or unsatisfactory than native accounts upon all matters where definite information is required. I have tried exploring with guides and exploring alone, and have been almost as successful one way as the other.

One of my first visits was to a ruin which I had observed crowning a summit of the range, but which was only visible from certain points, so shut in was it by the intervening mountain tops. I started on horseback, determined to find my way alone, and struck into a valley where the narrow path followed a ledge of limestone rock, often not more than two feet wide. I soon found myself diving into a sombre gorge, the precipitous sides of which rose abruptly from the bed of the winter torrent. As I proceeded it became more and more uncanny; the path was so narrow I could no longer venture to risk my horse's footing, as a slip would have involved a fall of at least two hundred feet. My ruin disappeared, and my gorge seemed to trend away from it, the sun sank behind the range, and the deep gloom of the solitary valley, hemmed in on all sides by terraces of limestone, with here and there a fissure indicating some cavernous recess, was becoming depressing.

I tried to turn, but the ledge was too narrow, so I was obliged to creep cautiously on in the wrong direction. I began now rather to fear lest I should meet some one, not merely because passing would have been impossible, but because the spot was eminently well calculated for an act of violence, and, while I always go about unarmed, I find that my neighbors seldom go out riding alone without carrying revolvers. The aspect of a wild-looking Arab, with a gun slung behind him, suddenly turning a corner and coming straight toward me, was, under these circumstances, not reassuring. Fortunately, at the moment I saw him I had reached a spot where a huge rock had been displaced, and had left a vacant space large enough to enable me to turn comfortably, and I retraced my steps, amply repaid for my failure in not reaching the ruin, by the solemn grandeur of the part of the mountain into which I had been penetrating, and finding my Arab, when he overtook me, to be a communicative and harmless individual, who was on his way home from a cave in which he stored his grain, and which he assured me I should have reached if I had continued a few hundred yards further. Beyond this, he said, the path led nowhere.

My next attempt was made with a friend who knew the way, and who led me along a corresponding ledge upon the opposite side of the valley, into a side gorge, which we followed past a wall of rock, in which were two or three small caverns, which I entered, the largest not more than twelve or fourteen feet square, and showing no signs of having been inhabited. A huge rock detached from the mountain side, and hollowed into a sort of gallery, is so celebrated among the natives that it has a name of its own. Just behind it we turned to scramble almost straight up the mountain side, covered with a scrub composed of the prickly Poterium, odoriferous thyme, sage, marjoram, and arbutus, and then found we were at the foot of seven clearly defined terraces, completely encircling the rounded hill, upon the top of which stood the crumbling walls of an old fort, and which formed portions of its defences. On one of these stood a shepherd's hut, and inside the enclosure made of bushes was the entrance to a cavern, about thirty yards long, four feet high, and twenty or thirty feet across. In it, when they were not out feeding, the shepherd kept his flock of long-eared goats.

Ascending to the ruin, I found it to consist of the remains of what had evidently been a fort, the walls of which, enclosing a space of about sixty yards long by forty broad, were standing to a height of eight or ten feet, and were composed of blocks of limestone. At one angle a portion of the fortress had at a later period been converted into a church, the apse, with its arches, being in a tolerable state of preservation. The name of this ruin is Rushmea, and according to the most reliable sources of information to which I have had access, it was used by Saladin to watch the progress of the siege of Acre when that place was held by the Crusaders. Prior to the Crusades and the formation of the order of the Carmelite monks, the mountain was inhabited by anchorites, some of whom claimed to have inherited the sacred character of Elijah and Elisha. For some time seven of them seem to have divided the claim between them, and one of them is reported to have lived in a cave at Rushmea, which is said to contain carving and inscriptions. It was for this cave I was especially in search; but though I have visited the locality three times in all, twice with guides, and have found some seven or eight caves, one of which had a carved limestone entrance, none of them seemed of sufficient importance to answer the traditional description. A magnificent view is obtained from the ruin over the Bay of Acre, with the town in the distance and the plain of Kishon beneath, and plainly visible the famous well for the possession of which Saladin and Richard Cœur de Lion fought. I have visited this celebrated source, with its massive masonry and crumbling cistern, in the centre of which there is now a flourishing fig tree. During the siege which Haifa then withstood, the town was completely destroyed, so that the Crusading army had to remain in tents, and here it was that the lion-hearted King caught that severe fever which gave rise to reports of his death, and which resulted in his remaining for four weeks at Haifa to recover his health. That plain is as unhealthy now as it was then, and the date groves, which are its most striking feature, must have existed then, for they are mentioned in the records of the year 1230, when King Amalrich II. died of overeating himself upon sea fish, for which the place is celebrated.

To return to Rushmea. The whole hilltop is covered with the traces of remains far anterior to the ruins of Crusading times. Everywhere we come upon the solid limestone foundations of what must have been large buildings; there are flights of steps hewn in the rock, large square cuttings from which blocks have been taken, places where circular holes have been drilled, grooves, niches, and excavations. On a plateau about a hundred yards to the west is a series of massive stone arches in a very fair state of preservation. I found the elevation of Rushmea, by my aneroid, to be as nearly as possible 600 feet above the sea. In a valley behind it, and a hundred feet below it, are a dozen olive trees of immense age, and near them a celebrated spring, called the Well of Elisha. It is not above twelve feet deep, and, on descending into it, I found that it was in fact not a spring, but a subterranean stream which enters a receptacle formed for it in the rock from a cave at the side, and from which it disappears again. Instead of returning from Rushmea by the way I had come, I pushed up to the head of the valley in which the spring is situated. On two of the hills which rise from it I found terraces and the foundations of stone edifices. Indeed, whenever one wanders in Carmel, one is apt to stumble upon these substantial records of its bygone history. As the mountain is about thirteen miles long and nine miles wide at its southeastern extremity, and as every valley and hillside and plateau has at one time or other been inhabited, and as many of these remain still to be explored for the first time, there is abundant field for investigation, and it is impossible to take a ride or a scramble in any direction without coming upon some object of interest. Nor is it possible to lose one's way when alone, except to a limited extent, for the nearest hilltop, if you can get to it, is sure to let you know where you are.

Thus leaving Rushmea without a guide, and soon without a path, I pushed through the scrub, now dismounting and driving my horse before me, now forcing him, much to his discomfort, through the prickly bushes. Even at this time of year the hills are bright with scarlet anemones, and the delicate pink or white cyclamen, and fragrant with aromatic odors as we crush through the shrubs. Suddenly I came upon the foundations of a wall, which I followed for about a hundred yards, and which was about four feet in thickness. Near it, half hidden by the bushes, was a circular block of limestone about five feet high and the same in diameter, in the centre of which had been drilled a hole. It looked like the section of some gigantic column such as we see in some of the temples of upper Egypt; but it stood alone, and I fail to imagine its design. Possibly it may have been used for sacrificial purposes, shortly after I found myself on a high, level plateau, where the soil was so excellent, and the rocks had so far disappeared, that it would do admirably for farming purposes. It seemed to extend over some thousands of acres. Formerly the whole of these fertile tracts of Carmel were covered with magnificent forests—even in the memory of man—but of late years the demand for charcoal has so much increased that the mountain has been almost completely denuded of trees, and although a strict order has been issued by the Government against the felling of timber, it still continues, and, thanks to the system of backsheesh, the export of charcoal from Haifa last year exceeded that of any previous year. Keeping westward by my compass I soon after struck a path, and finally dropped down upon the German colony near Haifa after a day's ramble through the most delightful scenery, every step of which was replete with historical association and antiquarian interest.

SUNBEAMS.

—A temperance sermon comes from a pawnbroker's shop in Pittsburgh. The pawnbroker has found that 99 per cent. of the money he lends is spent for strong drink.

—For a long time the First Baptist Church of San Francisco struggled under a $30,000 debt that has been cut down from time to time until now it is all paid and the property is free.

—It is a poor compliment to a preacher to tell him that his sermons are acceptable because they are so short. It is as much as to say that the more there is of them the worse they are.

—When Père Hyacinthe preached to an audience of 3,000 persons at Marseilles on a recent Sunday, a great upro