The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1883.

**Amusements To-day.**

Casino—Prince Methusalem. 8 P. M.
Daly's Theatre—Heart and Hand. 8 P. M.
Grand Opera House—Her Atonement. 2 and 8 P. M.
Madison Square Theatre—The Rajah. 8.30 P. M.
Niblo's Garden—Excelsior. 2 and 8 P. M.
People's Theatre—Lights o' London. 2 and 8 P. M.
San Francisco Minstrels—8 P. M.
Spencer's Palace Music Hall—Variety. 8 P. M.
Star Theatre—Francesca Da Rimini. 8 P. M.
Theatre Comique—Mulligan Guard Ball. 8 P. M.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Vim. 8 P. M.
Windsor Theatre—Nobody's Claim. 2 and 8 P. M.
24 Av. Theatre—Rip Van Winkle. 8 P. M.
34th St. Theatre—Profits of a Day. 2 and 8 P. M.
23d St. Theatre—A Friendly Tip. 8 P. M.

## Regulating Wages by Law.

Mr. W. G. MOODY appeared on Monday before the Washington statesmen who are now here engaged in inquiring into things in general. Mr. MOODY's idea is the regulation of labor by law. "I would fix a penalty," he said, "upon any corporation or persons who would try to make a man work longer than six hours. No one should have the right to labor longer than this time. The result would be greater comfort to the employee and to society generally, because it would afford a means of assuring employment to those unemployed. It would double the number of workers."

But if it doubled the number of workers, it would reduce their wages in proportion. The limitation of the time of labor to six hours a day, must necessarily produce a reduction of pay, so that the workman might find it difficult to live upon his earnings.

Besides, if the law is to come in and regulate these things as Mr. MOODY desires, it must also regulate the price of bread, meat, clothing, house rent, and every other article. This would interfere with Mr. MOODY very seriously, we fear. Now, when there is an abundance of flour and meat, he buys them cheap because the price is controlled by the extent of the supply; but under the system he proposes, nothing would be cheap and the price of everything would be fixed and unchangeable.

Those who suppose that legislators or rulers can be wiser than nature, or that individual men can manage the affairs of mankind better than they are managed under the laws of the Creator, are very much mistaken.

Liberty is the supreme divine principle. Let it have its perfect work!

## A Preposterous Project.

Most of the talk about establishing a Government telegraph has been so hasty and ill considered as to appear merely the result of irritation produced by the failure of the telegraphers' strike. Midsummer is a dull time for many of the newspapers, and they are glad to start some such project as this of the Government telegraph, without caring much whether the public takes the matter seriously or not.

It is rather strange, then, to find such a man as Senator EDMUNDS taking the matter very seriously, and proposing, if he is correctly reported, to bring it up in the next session of the Senate. Still, the Senate is a Republican body, and can perhaps find time to waste on an impracticable and unwise scheme. The House of Representatives will have much more serious business on its hands. Investigating, as it will have to do, some of the iniquities of the great army of Republican officeholders, it is not likely to have the inclination, even if it had the leisure, to listen patiently to a proposal to greatly increase the number of officeholders and to render it impossible to turn out the party in power.

But it may be well that a man of ability like Mr. EDMUNDS has decided to take the matter up. It is by no means so simple as some of our esteemed contemporaries suppose. The argument from analogy between Government control of the postal system and the proposed Government control of the telegraph system is rather childish. The authority of Congress over Post Offices and post roads is expressly granted. The consideration urged in behalf of Government control of the telegraph would have exactly as much force if urged in favor of the Government control of the railroad business or the express business. No doubt Mr. EDMUNDS will look into the constitutional question carefully.

When he has ascertained the right of the Government to go into the telegraph business he will then have to consider the question of expediency. This has not been done with any degree of exactness of figures or calmness of statement by the newspaper advocates of the project. Mr. EDMUNDS will have to make some estimate of the probable cost to the Government for plant and annual outlay. He must remember that the Government telegraph lines will have to run to many remote communities which the Western Union and other lines do not reach. As the profits of the Post Offices in cities and large towns have usually been swallowed by the expenditures required for carrying the mails great distances in the extreme West, so the profits of the Government telegraph offices in populous regions would be swallowed in the deficit produced by the necessity of maintaining long, unprofitable lines for the convenience of places having little telegraphic business.

The Government would, we suppose, have to buy the existing lines. These could not compete with the Government, and would have to sell or go under. The bitterest opponents of Mr. GOULD would hardly wish that all the other 2,599 stockholders of the Western Union should lose the value of their stock that he might be more effectually plundered. Mr. EDMUNDS will have to discuss that question.

The Western Union pays, we believe, something like $5,000,000 a year in salaries. The Government will have to employ more persons than that company employs, for it will have longer lines, and two or three Government employees are usually required to do what would be one man's work in any private service. Salaries will have to be very much higher than under the existing companies so as to prevent strikes. It will be interesting to see what Mr. EDMUNDS thinks the annual salary list would amount to. And unless the Government gives extraordinary salaries, how can it insure itself against a strike? Perhaps Mr. EDMUNDS knows, but our esteemed contemporaries who, like himself, are in favor of the proposal do not know.

Mr. EDMUNDS, as a Republican, cannot be expected to look with disfavor upon the great increase in the officeholding class which will be required by the establishment of a Government telegraph. That, however, is something for those who believe that there are too many officeholders already, to seriously consider.

Finally, Mr. EDMUNDS ought to tell the Senate candidly whether he thinks that messages would be inviolable during a heated political campaign if the party in power had a man in every telegraph office.

But whatever Mr. EDMUNDS may tell the Senate, it is well to remember that the scheme of a Government telegraph is a great centralizing scheme. It is strange that any Democrats should favor it. It is essentially Republican.

The powers of the Federal Government have been stretched far enough already, and too far. It is for those of us who are still faithful to the old and pure constitutional traditions to say, whenever it is proposed to give the Government powers not expressly granted or reasonably implied and absolutely necessary, Hands off!

## China and France.

According to the latest telegrams from Hong Kong, the treaty extorted by the French at Hué is regarded by the Pekin Government as an act of overt hostility, and 15,000 Chinese soldiers, detached from the army of observation which had been massed on the frontier, have entered Tonquin. If this report is trustworthy, the two countries, France and China, are actually at war, and in order to follow intelligently the progress of operations we may do well to recall the diplomatic controversy which has provoked an appeal to arms, and survey the military situation in the Red River region, which will henceforth be complicated by the introduction of a new and weighty factor.

Without dwelling on the historical foundation for the pretensions of the Middle Kingdom to suzerainty over Annam, we need only say that this claim of overlordship was never questioned by the chief parties in interest, the late TUDUC and the mandarins who controlled the civil and military administration of his kingdom. It was because the treaty wrung from the Annamese ruler in 1874 proved incompatible with his feudal duties to his suzerain that the conditions of that compact were unfulfilled. France made no effort to compel the execution of that treaty until within the present twelvemonth. When, at length, operations with that object were begun in the Song-kol delta, the French Foreign Office was notified that China would regard as null and void the convention entered into in 1874, so far as it purported to abjure her traditional authority in Annam and to establish a French protectorate. For a time, however, it seemed possible that a rupture of friendly relations might be averted, M. BOURÉE, the French Ambassador to Pekin, having with much difficulty obtained the assent of the Council of Mandarins to an agreement whereby France was to recognize the right of overlordship asserted by China, on condition that the maintenance of order in Tonquin and the opening of the Red River to navigation were to be intrusted to French and Chinese troops acting in concert. This agreement was repudiated by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. BOURÉE was recalled. The new French envoy, M. TRICOU, after trying in vain to browbeat the Chinese Government into acquiescence in the designs of France, left Pekin with the official assurance that any attempt to force upon the Annamese ruler compliance with those clauses of the treaty of 1874 which impugned the historical authority of China would be interpreted as a declaration of war.

The concessions which, after the capture of the harbor defences of Hué, were exacted the other day by the French Commissioner from one of the pretenders to the Annamese throne, are tantamount to a sweeping denial of China's claim to overlordship and to a defiance of the warnings addressed to the French Foreign Office by the Chinese ambassador. These concessions go far beyond those obtained in 1874, for not only are the French consular courts to have exclusive jurisdiction over all foreigners, including Chinese, but the French are to collect customs dues, to garrison forts, to control the native troops, and to dictate through a Resident the action of the sovereign; and this not only in the Tonquin delta, but throughout the Annamese territory. China, however, means to treat this new treaty as invalid for several reasons. In the first place, it was signed by that one of the two pretenders to the Annamese crown who, although designated by the will of the late ruler, had been discarded by the great majority of the civil and military officials, and who apparently was not the *de facto* King. It is said, indeed, that the rival claimant, accompanied by all the resident mandarins, abandoned Hué before the arrival of the French Commissioner. In the second place, the concessions, being made under duress, will be pronounced void. Again, neither the pretender who actually assented to this compact nor his competitor would be competent to exercise the treaty-making power until his right to rule had been sanctioned by his feudal superior. If, moreover, the objections just mentioned could be met, China would fall back on the principle that the feudal relation cannot be sundered by the mere act of the vassal and without the consent of the suzerain. China can be deprived of her rights over Annam in two ways only, by her own free will or by war. The diplomatic negotiations aiming at the pacific surrender of her claims have failed, and by the so-called treaty recently concluded at Hué the French have virtually served notice on the Pekin Government of their determination to gain their ends by force.

What, now, was the state of things in Tonquin when, as we learn from Hong Kong, 15,000 Chinese troops were ordered to cross the border and take part with the Black Flags and the anti-French party among the Annamese in resisting the invaders? A glance at a map of the country will show that while the French still held Haiduong and Nam-dinh, as well as the large seaport Haiphong and the capital city, Hanoi, yet their position was insecure and their grasp upon the Tonquin delta precarious, so long as the Black Flags retained Sontoi and Bacninh, which from a strategic point of view are places of cardinal importance. Even without the intervention of China, the French troops would probably have been unable without reënforcements to dislodge their enemies from the two strongholds mentioned. The disastrous failure of Gen. BOUET's movement against Sontoi should be conclusive on that head. It is true that as many of the native Annamese soldiers as see fit to consider themselves bound by the treaty extorted at Hué may coöperate with the French, but, if we may judge from the behavior of Gen. BOUET's native auxiliaries, their help would be of no value. The French commander at Hanoi, who seems to be now thoroughly alive to the difficulties of his situation, has called for an immediate reënforcement of 5,000 men. But where are these fresh troops to be obtained? The soldiers who have taken part in the capture of the forts before Hué will, for the most part, be required for garrison duty in that quarter. Saigon, the base of operations, has been depleted of nearly all the men that can be spared from the duty of protecting the French colony in Cochin China. It follows that reënforcements must be sent from France; but, pending their arrival, what is to become of the feeble French garrisons stationed at Nam-dinh and at the recently captured Haiduong? According to one report, the latter place, which is occupied by only two or three hundred Frenchmen, is the special aim of the Chinese army, which moved from the frontier toward Bac-ninh with the apparent intention of coöperating with the Black Flags who hold that place.

The first inquiry raised by the appearance of a regular Chinese army in Tonquin relates to the military efficiency of the force. Will these soldiers fight as well as their refugee compatriots who bear the name of the Black Flags? Events will speedily throw light on this decisive question, but we can already see that if it be answered in the affirmative the occupation of Tonquin will prove, notwithstanding the advantage gained at Hué, a long and costly operation.

## Tourgheneff.

IVAN TOURGHENEFF, whose death on Monday has been announced by cable, was a unique figure in the literary history of this century. He was an artist who seldom forgot to be a patriot—a fervent lover of his country, who knew how, without transgressing the laws of artistic composition, to make his works potent levers of revolution and reform. In the estimation of cultivated readers, not alone in Russia, but throughout Europe and America, he has reached a high, although scarcely the highest, plane of excellence among the modern masters of prose fiction; and, owing to the peculiar nature of the society he portrayed, every picture became a lesson, every story an appeal, with the result that he rendered services to his compatriots almost commensurate in breadth and lustre to the work which he was specially qualified by his genius to perform within the field of letters.

There had been Russian novelists before him, some of whom have been compared by their too complacent countrymen to WALTER SCOTT and DICKENS. Yet when TOURGHENEFF began to write, about forty years ago, it may be confidently affirmed that Russian literature was totally unknown to the great reading public of central and western Europe. Even the few transcripts of Russian life which were attempted by foreign hands had proved attractive in the inverse ratio of their fidelity, the outlandish and awkward look of Russian proper names, disagreeably elongated by the archaic custom of appending patronymic appellations ending in *vich* and *vna* being of itself sufficient to repel the ordinary reader by suggesting a far-off, antiquated, unintelligible, and uninteresting world. Nothing could more signally attest the power of TOURGHENEFF over the imagination and over the deeper springs of human emotion than his success in transcending the barriers of race, of language, of religion, and of manners, and in awakening all over Europe a keen, intelligent, and lasting interest in the character and situation, the thoughts and sentiments, the sufferings, struggles, and aspirations of the Russian people. Before TOURGHENEFF, our knowledge of Russian society was limited to the small landowning, bureaucratic, and military class, which spoke French or German; and even about this we knew only so much as was likely to be communicated through alien tongues. That we are now able to look more deeply into Russian life and character, to penetrate beneath the varnish of French manners and German culture, and to see the Russian as he is at home and in his daily life, is mainly due to TOURGHENEFF. The work which he thus performed was one of the greatest boons which it is given to a man of genius to confer upon his country. He rescued Russia from the moral isolation to which she was condemned by the indifference of the cultivated world. By captivating attention and firing curiosity he secured for his fatherland an intellectual and spiritual solidarity with Europe. He may be said to have unlocked for her the sympathies of mankind.

While it is as the revealer of Russia to Western nations that TOURGHENEFF preeminently deserves to be viewed as a social force—while this will constitute, perhaps, his most enduring title to grateful recognition—Russians have not by any means forgotten the important and perhaps decisive influence exercised by some of his earlier writings in promoting the emancipation of the serfs. It used to be averred in certain quarters that Mrs. STOWE's "Uncle Tom" had played a weighty part in furthering the extinction of slavery in the Southern States. But the accuracy of her picture was always violently contested by the slave owners, and it may be doubted whether she ever made a single convert among them, whereas the pathetic stories in which TOURGHENEFF disclosed the hardships and miseries of the Russian serfs went home to the hearts and consciences of their masters and made emancipation welcome to a majority of even the serf owners themselves. The truth and disinterestedness of his poignant narratives were the less open to question because, instead of making a fortune by depicting the sorrows of the serf, he exposed himself by his writings on this and many another social evil to the ire of Czar NICHOLAS, and was made to smart for his temerity by a prolonged banishment from his native land.

During the latter part of his life TOURGHENEFF was best known by his relation to the Russian revolutionary movement, or rather to the early intellectual and social phases of it witnessed during the decade between 1860 and 1870. TOURGHENEFF, indeed, invented the term *Nihilism*, which he applied, however, not to the aims and methods of the revolutionary Socialists of our day, but to the religious, social, and literary transformation which followed the complete conquest of the higher grades of Russian society by the materialistic philosophy. The Nihilist of TOURGHENEFF is not a revolutionist, though it may be said that, logically, he is bound to become one; for the present, he is content with abjuring not only the State religion, but all conventional formulas and usages which rest on nothing stronger than tradition, and fail to commend themselves to the individual reason. Being resolved, however, to emancipate men and women from every species of irrational restraint, it was inevitable that the original Nihilist should, in the end, carry his iconoclastic propensities into politics, and recoil in wrath and scorn from the most senseless and galling of all trammels, the gyves of a jealous, sleepless, and remorseless despotism. But although the revolutionary conspiracy of our day, which is trying to extort reforms by terrorism, may be considered an outgrowth of the dilettante Nihilism of twenty years ago, its sinister processes have never been countenanced by TOURGHENEFF. He never swerved, however, from the intensely liberal and progressive principles of his youth, and the ultimate object of the terrorists, viz., the metamorphosis of Russia into a self-governing country, was the hope which lay closest to his heart, the torch by which, from the outset to the end of his literary life, his most strenuous and fruitful toil was illumined and directed.

So far as his philosophical opinions may be deduced from his novels, TOURGHENEFF seems to have begun as a pupil of HEGEL and to have ended as a disciple of SCHOPENHAUER. The warm sympathies attested by his touching revelations of the miseries of the humble and the poor make him a zealous champion of all reforms that bear any promise of social amelioration. But his reason seems to suspect the futility of such efforts; he is haunted with forebodings that, in the struggle for existence, it is not the morally fittest who are most likely to survive; and the spiritual atmosphere of those books in which we are brought nearest to the sanctuary of the author's deepest feelings and beliefs is one of doubt and gloom. TOURGHENEFF, in fine, was a pessimist, but seldom has pessimism in philosophy been coupled with so much of winsome and invigorating work in art, and with such bright and substantial services to humanity.

## Four Selected Candidates.

Mr. WILLIAM M. EVARTS has been talking to a reporter in Minnesota about the Republican candidates for the Presidency.

"He predicts," says the published telegram, "that the four persons who will receive votes for President in the National Republican Convention are CHESTER A. ARTHUR, Senator GEORGE F. EDMUNDS, Gen. W. T. SHERMAN, and JAMES G. BLAINE. One of the four, Mr. EVARTS thinks, will be nominated, and he regards it as an encouraging sign that a man now prominent before the country will be named."

In the year 1876 the Republican National Convention named a man who had not been prominent before the country.

That man was RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, better known now as the Fraudulent President.

The Fraudulent President appointed Mr. WILLIAM M. EVARTS to be Secretary of State.

To some extent Mr. EVARTS is right. It is indeed an encouraging sign that the Republican party will not venture again to nominate so weak and insignificant a person as the man who put Mr. EVARTS at the head of his Cabinet.

Nor will the Republicans nominate any man who helped to engineer the great fraud of 1876 and partook of its fruits. Mr. EVARTS does well to omit his own name from his list of candidates.

## The State Campaign.

The political campaign in New York has begun. In the interior counties both parties are setting about the election of delegates to the State Conventions.

Democratic success this fall depends upon harmony in the ranks, the presentation of worthy candidates, and a full vote. In this way the Democrats will elect the State officers and a majority in each branch of the Legislature. The surest mode for drawing out a full vote is to nominate candidates who deserve to be elected.

The Republican leaders, especially those of the Half Breed class, have not abandoned all hope of obtaining a partial victory of some sort. They rely for success upon a quarrel at the Democratic State Convention, or controversies among Democrats in this city. We believe the Republicans will be disappointed. The indications are auspicious for reconciliation among the factions whose feuds have, on several occasions, let the State fall into the hands of their opponents.

New York may determine the result of the coming Presidential contest. The Democrats will not put to hazard the thirty-six electoral votes of the State by controversies among themselves in the year previous to the great national struggle. The surest way to win the victory is to act so as to deserve it.

The Atlantic cyclone of last week seems to have been as remarkable on account of the number of large vessels which were caught in its shifting winds as for its furious energy. Half a dozen steamships brought news of the storm on Saturday and Sunday, and yesterday two more steamships which had encountered the same hurricane arrived here. Many sailing vessels also were in the storm, and they generally suffered from it more than the heavy steamships. It is probable that the bark David, which was wrecked on Tuesday evening of last week, was a victim of this same cyclone, for the disaster occurred several hundred miles southwest of the region in which the steamships encountered the storm the next day, and the cyclone's line of motion was toward the northeast.

It was a fine notion to open the Boston Foreign Exhibition with speeches in French, German, Chinese, Japanese, and Panama Spanish. Most of the hearers could not understand them, but doubtless were not the less happy on that account, as the babel of tongues at once gave a foreign air to the show, and seemed to stamp it as genuine.

The announcement that Gen. CHARETTE has summoned a meeting of former Pontifical Zouaves, and has informed them that the Count of PARIS relies upon their support, will not strike terror to the heart of President GRÉVY. A royal pretender may covet an armed following of some sort, but so long as the Count of PARIS confines his military establishment to the ex-Pontifical Zouaves, the armies of the republic will not be annihilated.

One of the most famous of English hangmen has yielded up his breath to the great executioner. MARWOOD has died, however, in the wane of his reputation. He had lately been accused of tippling, then of professional carelessness, and finally his ill-omened visage was found in the gallery of the House of Commons, where he was complained of as an impudent intruder. In England the business of legal strangling is prosecuted more deftly in general than here, so that one botch on MARWOOD's part, which in America would have been considered a trifling percentage of errors, nearly ruined the reputation of a lifetime. MARWOOD and CALLRAFT, his predecessor, have acquired a celebrity greater than that of many statesmen, or philosophers, or poets.

The horrible propensity of parents crazed by religious frenzy to put their children to death as a sacrifice has again been illustrated by the Erie county farmer, SYLVESTER KNOTT, who almost succeeded in crucifying his son and burning his daughter alive. Just a month before a father and mother named HICKS, in Charleston, Ill., attempted to crucify one of their children on a cross which they had constructed for the purpose. A little before that a Pennsylvania woman held her child's hands on a hot stove, while she prayed, to burn the evil disposition out of them. The case of the FREEMANS and their offspring, murdered as a religious sacrifice, is fresh in remembrance. Why is it that when religious zeal becomes madness it so often expresses itself in efforts to burn, slash, and crucify children?

To-day Cincinnati opens her exposition, which will continue through the month. As this is an annual show, which has been given almost without a break in its regularity for ten or twelve years, its demands and processes have become familiar, and no doubt the opening will find it in complete order. It is held in permanent buildings, prepared for this purpose, and the enterprise is never a financial experiment, but is provided for beforehand by public subscription. Machinery, music, horticulture, and pork are expected to excel in their exhibits, under various attractive forms; while an effort to introduce a street carnival into the opening ceremonies may momentarily lend a fine Roman aspect to the Paris of America.

In the rivalry between El Paso and Portsmouth, Ohio, to be the site of the encounter between SLADE and MITCHELL, the Rio Grande town has an advantage in the facilities it furnishes for skipping from one side of the international boundary to the other on the approach of officers of the law. At present, however, SLADE's main anxiety seems to be to escape the Sheriff's clutches in Kansas and Missouri. There is a remarkable contrast between the conduct of the authorities of those States and that of the sheriffs and constables of Louisiana and Mississippi at the time of the battle between RYAN and SULLIVAN.

## JOHN ROACH A WITNESS.

**His Names the Conditions Under Which he Would Build All Government Ships.**

A small man, with a very ruddy complexion and a suit of olive clothes, appeared before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor yesterday. He held his hand to his ear to catch Senator Call's voice as he roared:

"Mr. John Roach, can you tell this committee what you deem of importance in regard to your own business?"

In the course of his answer Mr. Roach said: "I am not opposed to trade unions. I don't care how many trade unionists come into my shops. They'll get work. But while I allow my workmen to amuse themselves with their trade unions, just as with their religion or politics, I permit no combination of men to run my business. Any workman who is industrious can ultimately own his own home."

"I don't know," said Senator Blair, "what your ideas on free ships are. If you will state them, we'll be glad to hear you."

Mr. Roach waved his hand enthusiastically and said: "I'm going to put some of the facts of history on this subject in type during the next ten days."

"Suppose," said Senator Call, "the United States Government should say to you: 'We will give you any salary you name, if, with your superior ability and superior economy, you will take charge of our ship building at your yard,' would you do it?"

"I would, I would," responded the witness, "but I would want a law passed first that every Senator and every Congressman and every officer of the Government that interfered with me should be subject to a penalty for a penal offence for so doing." [General laughter.]

"Our merchant marine," continued Mr. Roach, "should be our militia of the sea. There is but one vessel in our whole navy with a speed of fourteen knots an hour. You might as well send a turtle to catch a reindeer as to send such a vessel after England's vessels. Twenty-five fast American cruisers, anchored in American waters, would be a menace to English commerce that England would fear."

At 4½ o'clock the committee shouted to Mr. Roach that adjournment hour had arrived. As he bundled up his papers he said that he would continue his story next week.

This morning Mr. Jay Gould will be a witness.

### The Postal Telegraph Job.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.—Mr. Jay Gould and his associates would be willing to sell the Western Union Telegraph property to the Government at about three times its actual cost. They claim that by a purchase, to be paid in 4 per cent. bonds, the Government would make a good bargain at this price, and be able at once to command an organized postal telegraph machinery.

This scheme has so much money in it, and will be backed by so many seductive influences, that it cannot fail to have a large support in Congress and outside of Congress among politicians, jobbers, speculators, and a powerful lobby.

But strong as this support is likely to be by enlisting the aid of great corporations, that always make common cause when their rival interests do not demand hostility, it may be doubted whether the project will be seriously entertained next session by the House of Representatives. The experiment may be tentatively made with a view of feeling the pulse of both parties. Even the friends of this scheme would hesitate, on the eve of a Presidential election, to force a vote. All they probably expect to do is to prepare the way by the introduction of bills, and possibly with the hope of a favorable report, which would stand good for the short closing session, when jobs have a better chance of success than at a long session.

The Postmaster-General is examining the general subject of postal telegraphy, and, like his immediate predecessors, he will doubtless favor it. Plausible arguments can be made for the scheme, and when power and patronage are to be greatly increased these arguments may be enforced with a full share of partisan zeal.

The country has seen and felt the effect of the office-holders on elections, especially in the last two Presidential campaigns. They form a standing army of one hundred and twenty-five thousand active, efficient, and generally unscrupulous politicians, who contribute money, votes, and services to the party which has held the Government continuously for twenty-two years.

If the postal telegraph should be adopted this army would be increased at least one-fifth of the aggregate force, and at an expense far exceeding that incurred by the Western Union Company. The Government pays, on an average, between twenty-five and fifty per cent. more for work, labor, and salaries than private persons do for corresponding service.

The people want no increase of patronage and no more centralization at Washington. They have suffered seriously from both these causes, while the working of our institutions has been changed for the worse by practices wholly unknown in administrations before the civil war. Retrench the expenditures, diminish the offices, and restrain the Executive within the strict limits of the Constitution, are the reforms now urgently needed. Overgrown power and arbitrary methods must be stopped in their arrogant career.

## Now and Then.

*From the Washington Sentinel.*

Gen. Arthur left Washington intending to be at Newport early in September. The Dispatch is supposed to be somewhere on the coast with the President's daughter, sister, and other relatives and their friends. She is to appear in New York harbor at the proper moment and take the President to Newport. Chandler, with the Tallapoosa, and French in a revenue cutter, besides the President and his social party, are expected to make it lively along the New England coast.

Mr. Arthur is the last of the Republican Presidents. His course presents a striking contrast to that of Mr. Buchanan, the last Democratic President. Miss Lane, Mr. Buchanan's niece, was the lady of the White House. The following letter addressed to her by President Buchanan explains itself:

I am sorry to find that your excursion to West Point on the Harriet Lane has been made the subject of newspaper criticism on yourself. The practice, however, of employing national vessels on pleasure excursions to gratify any class of people is a fair subject of public criticism. You know how much I condemned your former trip on the same vessel, and I did not expect you would fall into a second error. The thing, however, is past and gone, and let it pass. After a fair time shall have elapsed, it is my purpose to cause general orders to be issued by the Treasury and Naval Departments to stop the practice.

This letter marks where the country left off under Democratic rule. The executive head of the Government now wanders over the country and floats on the sea at public expense. Public business is virtually at a standstill, while officials of every grade take their vacation at full pay, and many of them at the cost of the Government besides.

### Judge Field's Programme.

*From the Utica Press.*

RICHMOND, Va., Sept. 2.—William L. Royall is in receipt of a letter from Judge Stephen J. Field of San Francisco, which was evidently written with a view to bring him prominently before people as a Presidential candidate, as the following extracts will show:

"You know that my candidacy in 1880 was not of my own seeking, but came about at the solicitation of those who thought I might do something to bring the two sections of the country—the North and the South—into better relations with each other. You know that I have long wished for a reorganization of the judicial system of the United States; that it should be so organized that the delays which now exist should be avoided; that a speedy as well as an impartial administration of justice should be obtained. Long delays are almost equivalent to absolute denial of justice. You know also that I have been for a long time an advocate of a proper system of levees along the Mississippi River, that great inland sea of the country. I would have a system of levees built in such a form that they would last for ages, protecting the country from overflows, and also preventing the changes now caused every year in the channel of the river.

"You know, also, that while favoring a careful revision of our tariff, I would not at once make such changes in it as would derange and disturb the business of the country; that while a tariff should have for its main purpose the raising of revenue, incidental protection may be given to our industries.

"You know also that above all things I would have such treatment shown to the Southern States by the general Government that the people of that section would feel that they are a part and parcel of the nation, and have as deep an interest in everything which concerns the whole country as those who live at the North. But to accomplish this they must be treated on terms of equality. Their representative men must be called, equally with those of the North, into the councils of the nation, and equally partake of its honors, emoluments, and trusts. It is not by talking of reconciliation, but by doing the things which indicate it, that actual reconciliation will be brought about. When such treatment is established, cordially and frankly, then, indeed, we shall be one people, all looking forward with equal interest to the prosperity of the future, and bearing with equal cheerfulness the burdens of the present.

"You know also that I have always thought that there should be a return to the South of the unjust cotton tax that was exacted from it. Many millions—nearly seventy, I believe—were taken from the people then without warrant of law, under the pressure arising from the irritation following the war. It would be but a just thing for the general Government to return to the South this tax. It is true that it would be difficult to reach the owners of the property upon which the tax had been levied, but it is not difficult to know how much was taken from each State. Let the amount thus exacted be given back to the States, to be used in such a manner as they may think best. Justice to our citizens requires its return. It would be some slight reparation for the burdens inflicted upon the South by the miserable and corrupt carpet-bag government."

Judge Field, it will be remembered, was a candidate for the Presidential nomination in the last campaign.

### Kindly Words from a Valued Contemporary.

*From the Brooklyn Eagle.*

Into the field occupied by these ancient worthies the newly born SUN bounded with a vigor that, after the lapse of half a century, continues to characterize it in all its departments. Its career is perhaps the most remarkable in the history of New York journalism, and stands related to the career of rival morning papers as that of the *Eagle* is related to the career of evening journals. We desire to congratulate our contemporary upon the public favor which has attended every step in its development. That favor is the best evidence of its desert. There is no such thing as success in journalism without corresponding merit. THE SUN is a great and prosperous paper because it has steadily employed the only means by which success and prosperity are attainable. It has won its place by brains, enterprise, and independence.

## WRECKED IN THE HURRICANE.

**Capt. Stromberg's Bark Lost After he and a Mate had Perished.**

The Swedish bark David, Capt. O. Stromberg, of Helsingberg, left Batavia on May 17 for New York with a cargo of coffee. She was consigned to Funch, Edye & Co. of this city. On Tuesday evening, Aug. 28, she was struck by a hurricane. She bore up well under it until between 4 o'clock and 5 o'clock the following morning, when the wind suddenly veered from southeast to northeast. It threw the vessel on her beam ends, and a huge wave swept over her. It carried away nearly everything above the decks, boats, bulwarks, hatches, and ladders, and left the vessel a complete wreck. Her spars were blown away by the wind at the same time. Capt. Stromberg was thrown against the bulwarks, his skull was crushed, and he was then washed overboard. The second mate, H. Larsen, broke his leg and went overboard. The first mate, N. O. Elgstrom, the carpenter, L. Jungren, and a sailor named Martin also went overboard. Elgstrom and Martin caught on to ropes and dragged themselves back on board. The other three were not seen again.

Of the seven of the crew who remained, three were so badly wounded as to be helpless. The Captain's wife and two children, his servant, and the mate's wife were also on board. The pumps were sounded, and four feet of water was found in the hold. Water was coming in rapidly through seams which had been laid open by the tearing away of the bulwarks. The tiller had been broken to pieces, the rudder was unmanageable, and the vessel rolled helplessly in the trough of the sea. The storm continued with unabated fury until Friday morning, when the foretopmast fell. The weather then moderated. The men were kept at the pumps night and day, but the water gained on them steadily, as the soaked cargo had swollen and opened cracks in the decks, through which the water entered the hold.

At 4½ o'clock on Friday afternoon the David was sighted by the steamship Macedonia, Capt. William Watson, from Gibraltar. They were then in latitude 37° 30', longitude 65°. The David had signals of distress flying, and Capt. Watson bore down on her. The crew signalled that they wished to abandon her, and the Macedonia sent out her lifeboat and took them all off in two trips. The next morning a crew of fourteen men was put on the David, and she was taken in tow by the Macedonia. Two hours later the line parted. The pumps of the David were found to be choked, there was seven feet of water in the hold, and, as the water was gaining, it was decided to abandon her. The crew was removed, and she was left rolling heavily in the sea. She belonged to Capt. Stromberg, who resided at Helsingberg. The Macedonia arrived in this city yesterday with the wrecked crew.

The bark Lady Dufferin of New Brunswick, Canada, encountered the tremendous hurricane of Aug. 29. The squalls and gusts came in quick succession, the sea was a mass of foam, and blew completely over the vessel. It was feared that everything would be carried away. As it was, the heavy seas that were shipped did much damage to the deck, boats, and house. The Lady Dufferin reached New York yesterday.

## TO BE FORMED BY OPERATORS.

**A Conference to Consider the Establishment of a New Telegraph Company.**

John Campbell, District Master Workman of the Brotherhood of Telegraphers, arrived here yesterday from Pittsburgh, for the purpose of joining in the conference of leading telegraph operators, in which the formation of the new telegraph company is to be settled. Eugene J. O'Connor of Boston was expected to arrive last night to represent the Boston capitalists, whose backing gives strength to the contemplated enterprise, and the conference will be held this morning.

John B. Taltavall, editor of the *Telegrapher's Advocate*, said yesterday: "From what we have learned from Mr. O'Connor, prominent and rich men in Boston are backing the enterprise warmly, and everything is thus far in very good shape. The formation of the company is a fact determined beyond all question. Both the public and the Telegraphers' Brotherhood will hold stock in it. It is especially desired by the financial men that the telegraph operators shall have a direct interest in it. In that way they will be enabled to secure the very best men. The capital of the new company, it is expected, will be $5,000,000. That is much more than will probably be required, for the cost of construction of telegraph lines is far less than it is generally supposed to be."

"How will the new company be able to compete with the Western Union without possession of the patent systems of rapid telegraphy owned by that corporation?"

"There are in this city known to me at least a dozen men who own quadruplex and duplex telegraphy patents, in every respect as perfect as those owned by the Western Union. The Postal Telegraph Company have just adopted a system as good as the Western Union Company owns, and which does not infringe upon theirs. There are others equally as good. Besides, the patents owned by the Western Union expire in three or four years—not more than four anyway, I think."

"Do you expect large subscriptions to the stock of the new company from New Yorkers?"

"Yes. We know that there will be large subscriptions here."

"From the members of the Produce Exchange who talked of getting up a new company?"

"Well, I hardly think that much may be expected from them for our enterprise, as there is a good probability of their going on and getting up their own company. Before six months there will be, I expect, two or three new companies. And there is room for a dozen."

### Sussex County, N. J., Trots Out a Thoroughbred Hamboletonian.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: The Hon. Lewis Cochran of Newton looms over all the proposed Democratic candidates for Governor in New Jersey. He was born at Newton, Feb. 8, 1843. He is a lawyer. He was admitted as an attorney at the November term, 1868, and as counsellor at the February term, 1872. He has been director of the Chosen Freeholders for several years. He was appointed Prosecutor by Gov. Parker on March 25, 1874, was reappointed by Gov. McClellan five years later, and has been prominent in the county for many years. By his unflinching fidelity to the trusts reposed in him he has won the respect of the whole community. His popularity is not confined to the county in which he resides. He is known throughout the State as a sound Jeffersonian Democrat. In Hudson, Essex, and south Jersey his name is a synonym for sound Democratic principles. As a debater he has few equals, and, probably, no superior in the present Senate of New Jersey. He has a magnetism about him that few can resist, and if he should get the nomination he would sweep the State by an immense majority.

NEWTON, N. J., Sept. 1. OLD SUSSEX.

### Doing His Duty.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 4.—The Court of Quarter Sessions here is unusually interesting at present. Sitting upon a jury within its chambers may be seen Citizen Samuel J. Randall, member of Congress. Citizen Randall is summoned, and the response is, Ready. While each moment is valuable in his contest for the Speakership, he halts to obey the summons of the people. His services are required in the jury box, and there, as elsewhere, when duty calls, Sam Randall will be found.

### The Hon. John S. Carlisle on the Speakership.

*From the Courier Journal.*

In conversation with the *Courier-Journal* correspondent, Mr. Carlisle said: "It requires ninety-nine to nominate, and I already have many more pledged votes than any other candidate, and nearly enough to secure the nomination. I think it very probable I will receive the honor of being the next Speaker."

### So It Is.

*From the Troy Telegram.*

THE NEW YORK SUN is fifty years old to-day. "Age does not wither, nor custom stale its infinite variety."

### Senator Ingalls on Christening.

*From the Miami Republican.*

One evening, as the story goes, Mr. Ingalls noticed that John M. Price's palatial residence in Atchison was illuminated from garret to cellar, presenting a brilliant appearance. The Senator stopped and asked what this unusual sight meant, and when he received the reply that John M. Price's new baby was being baptized, and that they were having a jolly christening, muttered to himself, "The devil you say. Why, if I were to have a display of that nature every time there was a baptism in my house, it would be economy for me to start a candle factory to supply my own demands."

### A Temperance View of The Sun.

*From the Good Templar.*

In compactness, force, and literary accuracy THE SUN is unsurpassed, if equalled, among American newspapers.

### Back Slapping Increasing in Boston.

*From the Boston Courier.*

Hand shaking is as widespread and popular as ever, and the still more vicious habit of slapping on the back is unmistakably on the increase.

### Confession of a Georgia Poet.

*From the North Star.*

A jug of whiskey, now and then, makes biggest fools of wisest men.

### Fighting Mahone.

NORFOLK, Sept. 4.—The regular Republicans of this vicinity, under the lead of the Hon. J. P. Dexter, decided last night to put up a candidate for the Legislature, and to fight Mahone's schemes to the end.

You cannot be sure that you will run the summer through free from all attacks of cramps, cholera morbus, diarrhœa, or dysentery, &c. Prudently provide yourself, therefore, with Dr. Jayne's Carminative Balsam, a perfectly safe medicine,