The Sun.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1884.

**Amusements To-day.**

American Institute—Roller Skating and Bicycle Rink.
Bijou Opera House—La Vie. 8 P. M.
Casino—The Merry War. 8 P. M.
Comedy Theatre—Peck's Bad Boy. 8 P. M.
Daly's Theatre—Red Letter Nights. 8:15 P. M.
Grand Opera House—Hearts of Oak. 8 P. M.
Hooley & Hall's Hall—Juggling, &c. 8 P. M.
Madison Square Garden—Circus. 2 and 8 P. M.
Madison Square Theatre—Alpine Roses. 8:30 P. M.
New Park Theatre—Lights o' London. 8 P. M.
Niblo's Garden—Storm Beaten. 8 P. M.
People's Theatre—Uncle Dan'l. 8 P. M.
Star Theatre—The Gladiator. 8 P. M.
Theatre Comique—Cordelia's Aspirations. 2 and 8 P. M.
Thalia Theatre—Loris. 8 P. M.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Variety. 2 and 8 P. M.
Union Square Theatre—Separation. 8 P. M.
Wallack's Theatre—Lady Clare. 8 P. M.
3d Av. Theatre—Ruach of Keys. 8 P. M.
5th Av. Theatre—Princess Ida. 8 P. M.
6th St. Theatre—Life in New York. 8 P. M.
34th St. Theatre—Confusion. 8 P. M.

**Advertising Rates.**

DAILY AND SUNDAY, 40 cents a line, ordinary advertising; large type, 80 cents; and preferred positions, 50 cents to $2.80, according to classification.

WEEKLY, 50 cents a line; no extra charge for large type. Preferred positions from 75 cents to $3.

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

## Our Best Citizens—Their Interest in Politics.

One of the gems of the report of the ROOSEVELT committee is the following sentence, corrupt English and all:

"And in this connection we would like to say that the manner in which the best citizens of both political parties hold themselves aloof from politics is deserving of the most unqualified censure."

Who are our "best citizens" in the estimation of this committee? What do Messrs. ROOSEVELT, ERWIN, O'NEIL, WELCH, and NELSON mean by such talk?

We have no better citizens than the honest men who do a hard day's work every day in the year and respect the rights of others while insisting on their own. In view of the fact that more than 160,000 votes were cast in this city at the last election, we find no evidence that any considerable proportion of these citizens hold themselves aloof from politics.

We suspect, however, that when Mr. THEODORE ROOSEVELT talks about our "best citizens" he means people who are wealthy or comparatively conspicuous in the world. The term is a misnomer, but his inaccuracy in the use of language is well known. A Harvard graduate, not four years out of college, who will write "in this connection" is incurable and hopeless.

But it is not true that citizens of the kind the committee thus mean, hold themselves aloof from politics at the present day. Is not BELMONT in Congress, and did not ASTOR try to get in? Is not JOHN JAY in office under the State Government? Has not EDWARD COOPER been Mayor of New York, and is not SETH LOW Mayor of Brooklyn? The fact is that the more intelligent, honest, and public-spirited rich men in the community have never had greater opportunities or enjoyed more influence in politics than now.

Some of them will do well to take notice, however, that even a rich young man in politics may lose his influence when he begins to act like a tyrant or talk like a fool.

## The Lumber on the Pacific Coast.

The fact that the representatives of California in Congress should have been able to enter a protest in the name of their constituents against the repeal of the duty upon lumber is a further indication of the ignorance which pervades the public mind in regard to the nature of the North American forests—ignorance which is all the more remarkable in view of the economic relation of these forests, direct and indirect, to the prosperity and growth of the nation.

There is a sentiment in California, which has been growing strong during the last two or three years, that the State should not make the mistake which has so often been made in older countries, of destroying the forests unnecessarily, or at least such portions of them as seem indispensable, owing to the peculiar topography of the Pacific coast region, to prevent floods and keep up a sufficient body of water in the rivers to meet all requirements for purposes of irrigation of a much larger population than yet occupies the California valleys.

This opinion has been generally and emphatically expressed by the press of the State, and it seems entirely within the bounds of probability that this protest against free lumber has been organized by the small group of rich and influential dealers in lumber, residing in San Francisco, who control the manufacture of lumber along the shores of Puget Sound and the Oregon coast. They are specially interested in securing the retention of this duty upon lumber, because it enables them to regulate both the production and the price of lumber of a certain class through an association of manufacturers sufficiently strong to stop production whenever it appears for their interest to do so. This little group of San Francisco dealers are interested in retaining this duty. No one else, however, living on the Pacific coast, and especially no one in California, wants it retained, for the reason that no other citizens of that community derive the slightest benefit from such a duty, which in that country needlessly increases to the consumer the cost of a certain kind of lumber largely used for various purposes.

The duty upon lumber, so far as the Pacific coast is concerned, affects only the yellow or red fir of British Columbia. The tree which produces this lumber is peculiar to the Pacific forests of North America. It forms great forests along the coast of British Columbia for a considerable distance north of the boundary of the United States; it is the most common and the most valuable timber tree of the region adjacent to Puget Sound and through the Oregon coast ranges. Yellow fir lumber can be manufactured as cheaply at Burrard's Inlet and other points north of the boundary as it can on Puget Sound or Coos Bay. This is the whole secret of the movement against free lumber on the Pacific coast.

The manufacturers of yellow fir wish to continue their great monopoly at the expense of the consumers and of the forests of the Northwest coast. The lumber industry of California is not affected by this duty one way or the other. The trees which supply California with the largest part of its lumber are nowhere found beyond the limits of the United States; while the yellow fir of British Columbia, although not at all rare in California, does not form there great continuous forests, and yields hardly an appreciable percentage of the lumber manufactured in that State. Apart from the yellow fir, the redwood of the California coast, the sugar pine of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the tide-land spruce, and the Point Oxford cedar of the Oregon coast are the timber trees of western North America. All of these trees, with the exception of the spruces, not yet in very general use, are confined to this region of the United States. These trees all produce clear, easily worked lumber, excellent for all general building purposes, and bearing very much the same relation to yellow fir as our Eastern white pine bears to the yellow pine of the Southern States. There is no competition between redwood and sugar pine, the really valuable lumber of California, and the yellow fir, and there cannot be, because they are used for entirely different purposes. The producers of California lumber need feel no anxiety, therefore, about the result which the removal of this duty will have upon their business; they will not find it less profitable to manufacture sugar pine and redwood without a protective duty, because, like the manufacturers of pine in the Southern States, they are not affected by this duty one way or the other. On the other hand, all consumers of coarse lumber in the Pacific States will be greatly benefited. The monopoly of the Puget Sound manufacturers will be broken, and the Oregon and California markets will get the advantage of British competition.

There are, moreover, other and more weighty reasons which make it desirable, so far as the forests of the Pacific coast are concerned, that lumber should be placed upon the free list. The regions about Puget Sound and the coast ranges of Washington Territory and Oregon are covered with the greatest body of timber known in the world. The amount of this timber is incredibly large, but it is not inexhaustible. No forest is inexhaustible with the present improved mechanical methods of lumbering, and the demands of modern civilization for lumber. These vast forests, therefore, will sooner or later disappear as sources of a great lumber supply, just as other great forests have disappeared. It is of the utmost importance, however, that the extinction of this lumber supply should be delayed as long as possible. These forests contain the great lumber reserve of the continent. This lumber is coarse as compared with either redwood or white pine, but it is of more general value for building than our Southern pines; and when the white pine and redwood are gone, it is the only lumber upon which the Pacific country can depend. The prairie States of the interior must also before many years rely largely, if not entirely, upon Puget Sound fir for building material. Chicago and all the Northwest markets, astounding as such a statement must appear to such persons as are unacquainted with the havoc now being committed in our Eastern forests, will have to draw their supply of lumber from the Pacific coast. The preservation of this lumber supply, therefore, is of the greatest importance to the future development of the country, especially of the central and northern regions, between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi. It should not be frittered away before it is really needed. These forests are, nevertheless, disappearing, like the forests all over the United States. The inroads which have been made upon them are not, perhaps, very serious yet, but the country cannot afford to waste unnecessarily any portion of these forests, however small. The duty upon lumber manufactured in British Columbia causes unnecessary and dangerous sacrifice of these forests and hastens their destruction. It should, therefore, in the interest of the whole country, be removed, that the destructive forces may be reduced as much as possible by free competition with the manufacturers of British Columbia.

There are two facts which should be borne constantly in mind: The only great body of building timber of general utility remaining in the world is found upon our northwest coast; and the condition of the other forests of North America is such that the whole country will be obliged in a few years to depend for its general supply of lumber upon those forests. Congress, therefore, should not make the mistake of hastening unnecessarily the destruction of this great timber reserve, as it has hastened and is still hastening the extermination of the white pine and spruce of the Eastern States.

## A Stroke of Luck for France.

For the last fifteen years the French have had but little cause to make thank offerings to fortune, yet it cannot be gainsaid that the strength of their present position in Farther India is in some measure due to circumstances over which the FERRY Cabinet has exercised no control. The fall of Sontay has been followed by the capture of Bacninh, and undoubtedly these keys of the Songkoi delta have been won by the courage and skill of the French soldier; but if this military success is to be followed by a diplomatic triumph, if China, after all her bluster, shall submit to the ascendancy of France in Tonquin, the marked change in the attitude of the Pekin Government will be due to the consciousness that it can no longer count on moral support from England. The almost inextricable difficulty in which the British Foreign Office has been involved by the rebellion in the Soudan, has stifled its desire to thwart the progress of French aggrandizement in Asia. If Lord GRANVILLE now consents to play the rôle of mediator, it will be with the full knowledge that the time has gone by for adjusting the respective claims of France and China upon any basis except that of conceding to the former power all the fertile lowlands lying between the forks of the Red River.

It would be disingenuous and futile to follow the Paris correspondent of the London *Times* in the attempt to belittle the importance of the operations by which Sontay and Bacninh have been acquired for France. There are but two routes whereby Chinese troops can enter Tonquin—the Red River and the road running parallel to the sea-coast—and both of these are commanded by the fortified towns just named. Moreover, these places lie in such a relation to the intricate system of water communication and irrigation resulting from the numerous forks of the Songkoi, which in this respect may be compared with the Ganges and the Nile, that their occupant is sure of mastery over the richest rice-bearing region that exists on the east coast of Asia.

The commercial, therefore, as well as the strategic value of Sontay and Bacninh is quite independent of the question whether the upper waters of the Red River can be thrown open to European trade and a new route to Yunnan be thus created. Not only the Middle Kingdom itself, but the Chinese outlaws known as the Black Flags, whose stronghold stands a little to the south of the Chinese frontier, would be able to limit the northward extension of river traffic. But in the Tonquin delta itself the French possess a granary not only inexhaustible, but which, by its superior proximity, must ultimately give them complete command of the rice markets of southern China.

The Chinese Ambassador to France and England, Marquis TSENG, has never sought to disguise the anxiety with which he has watched the movements directed against Sontay and Bacninh, but, on the contrary, has averred repeatedly that the occupation of those places by French troops would be viewed at Pekin as a declaration of war. He is well aware that in the hands of a European power that knew how to turn it to account, the Tonquin delta would prove the jewel of the East, and he has warned the British Foreign Office that the rice exporters of India and Burmah, and perhaps the opium exporters also, would have everything to fear from a French competitor established at their customer's very door. But, trammelled and bewildered as they are by the troubles in the Nile country, the GLADSTONE Ministry cannot pause to notice distant dangers, and China, whose firm tone was inspired by reliance on English sympathy, will now in all likelihood, after a show of negotiation, grant all that France really cares for, namely, the recognition of her *de facto* authority over the Tonquin rice fields.

## Another Reason Why.

In the last few months influential newspapers and public men in many States have given expression to the wish that Mr. TILDEN might again become the candidate of his party. It was no new opinion that if it were possible for the Democracy to be strengthened by the use for a second time of his name, no other name was to be thought of. But the events of the last three months have made the minds of thoughtful Democrats revert with a stronger interest to their most illustrious leader.

The fierce enthusiasm with which a part of the Democracy started out in untried paths has been sadly chilled by experience. It becomes evident that the old economic policy of the country, right or wrong, is too strong to go down in a day; and even Col. MORRISON has brought in a protectionist tariff bill that is likely to increase the revenue rather than reduce it! This shows a sad vacillation of purpose, with a more or less certain apprehension of fatal division. The result of passing over the issues upon which alone the party could act unitedly, have made and are making men long for a return to safe principles and a sure leader.

That they should look to Mr. TILDEN was natural, retired from public affairs as he is. The mention of his name under these circumstances is a proof of continuing public confidence and regard such as any man might be proud of, and it is much more than that. It shows that the party is sick of the uncertainties and cross purposes which have recently distracted it. It is a proof that Democrats now appreciate the necessity of entering upon reforms which are practicable.

It is a splendid though an insufficient recompense to Mr. TILDEN for past service that in times of doubt and danger the party instinctively turns to him. If the Democracy is to succeed in the contest that is now so near at hand, it will succeed because it again asserts the principles which he represented in 1876. Would that it were possible for them this year to receive the sanction and have the benefit of his name at the head of the Presidential ticket!

## A Man with a Future.

Three enthusiastic and more or less scholarly young Germans emigrated to this country about 1850, FRANZ SIGEL, CARL SCHURZ, and AUGUST SCHELPERT. Although up to the present time nothing has been known in regard to the third of this band, he was believed when they left Germany to be the peer of either SIGEL or SCHURZ, having graduated fifth in the class at the military school wherein Gen. SIGEL was the forty-seventh. Now we learn that SCHELPERT drifted to Madison, in the State of Georgia, and there became a barber, which he is yet; and he is also represented as a contented man. Although the outcome of his career is very different from that of his former friend, SCHURZ, in some respects it bears a close analogy to it.

Mr. SCHELPERT charges a regular price for his services. While Mr. SCHURZ has received a fixed compensation for speeches, Mr. SCHELPERT never varies in his prices for shaves. It is true there is an enormous divergence between the sums received by the two friends for their labors, Mr. SCHURZ's price for one speech being $200, and travelling expenses thrown in, while Mr. SCHELPERT probably never got more than fifteen cents for any one shave; but they both believe in the policy of a fixed rate, and neither one of them would ever work for less than the regular schedule. They are both men of solid business principles, and Mr. SCHELPERT no more allows his political prejudices to hamper his profession than does the Hon. CARL SCHURZ, perhaps less; and in this respect SCHELPERT has rather come out ahead.

Thus each has had his avocation. While Mr. SCHURZ devoted his leisure moments to the transitory enjoyment of playing the piano, the erudite barber has amused himself with collecting insects, and with such success that he has now an almost unrivalled collection placed in his modest shop, for which a pretty considerable sum of hard cash can always be obtained whenever its owner wishes to part with it.

The history of Mr. SCHELPERT is not unusual. There are numerous cases of men in simple occupations having risen to distinction through their labors, in various branches of scientific investigation and study; and who knows but that one of these days, after even the Electoral Fraud has been comparatively forgotten, the name of SCHELPERT may be as immortal as that of THOMAS EDWARD, the famous shoemaker of Banff?

The Republicans in several Congress districts of this State seem to be preparing the way for a contest at Chicago. Some districts which are made up of counties that have not been thrown together till now, fail to agree upon a basis of representation, and therefore may not send delegates to Chicago, or perchance may elect double delegations. If they fail to send delegates, then the difficulty might be adjusted at the State Convention. But the delegates sent to Utica from these quarrelling districts may prove to be as irreconcilable as those at home, and the result might still be double delegations from these districts to the National Convention.

The root of this controversy is the rivalry between ARTHUR and BLAINE. The old lines of division between the factions remain unchanged, save a little wavering in a few localities caused by Cornelliism, and a barely perceptible infusion of Edmundsism. As a rule, the Stalwarts are for ARTHUR, and the Half Breeds for BLAINE.

If the New York contest reaches Chicago, the dominant element in the Convention will dispose of it, very likely, in the interest of the man who has the most votes, whether it be ARTHUR or BLAINE or some new and stronger candidate for the nomination.

No doubt many people, both in Canada and Great Britain, drew a long breath of relief last night when they found that St. Patrick's Day was over, and they and their towns were still secure. Of late years the approach of this anniversary has been heralded by Fenian frights and dynamite dreads; but as a fact the day seems to be no more dangerous than any other.

If yesterday's testimony before the Senate committee does not cause a wild rush for oleomargarine, it will not be for want of enthusiasm in describing its ingredients. One witness thought cottonseed oil to be equal to olive oil in wholesomeness; a second declared diluted nitric acid to be a splendid tonic, and expressed readiness to drink it all his life; a third felt sure that the acid really used in oleomargarine was not nitric, but citric. Yet several dealers urged that they be allowed to call these delicious imitation butter. It would be unfair to these toothsome oleos and ines to describe them as butter, even with the word "mock" or "sham" to qualify it. A scientific compound of ox fat and acid certainly deserves a name wholly its own.

For the information of ambitious Republican patriots, particularly in this State, we present a choice list of five important offices now vacant and at the disposal of President ARTHUR:

Minister to Russia; vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. WILLIAM H. RUNY; salary, $17,500.

Circuit Judge of the United States Court, First Judicial Circuit; vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge LOWELL; salary, $6,000.

Circuit Judge of the United States Court, Eighth Judicial Circuit; vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. GEORGE W. MCCRARY; salary, $6,000.

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. JOHN C. NEW; salary, $4,500.

Solicitor of the Treasury; vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. KENNETH RAYNER; salary, $4,500.

It is not often that a conjunction of opportunities like this occurs within a few weeks of a National Convention of the party. Diplomacy, jurisprudence, high finance—here is an assortment that ought to please.

The quality of the writing in that now celebrated periodical, the *Kearts Magazine of Consular Literature*, does not seem to improve. The February number has just been issued by the State Department. Although a distinguished contributor, Consul BRET HARTE, furnishes an able, if not dramatic, narrative concerning the development of the Sugar Industry of Greenock, the greater part of the contents is much below par. No other magazine, and no self-respecting newspaper, would print such rubbish as this, for example, from Consul RYDER of Copenhagen:

"The course and extent of modern emigration, which may be said to have commenced its life about the year 1850, is dependent upon many factors, on the political as well as social conditions in the different States, namely, in the facilities or difficulties placed in the way of obtaining ownership of landed property, in the high or low rate of wages in the labor market, in the characteristics of the several nationalities in their love of freedom, &c."

"In briefly summing up the advantages or drawbacks as before mentioned, it may be said that the emigration question should not, therefore, be confined to the narrow-minded calculation of the advantage or disadvantage it brings to the emigrant, but must rather be viewed in the more enlightened and comprehensive scope of the considerable benefits it confers upon the human race at large."

It is for printing and disseminating this sort of stuff that Congress is asked to appropriate $40,000 at the present session. Better allow Consul HARTE to devote his genius exclusively to fiction, and then muzzle all the other Consuls and let the *Kearts Magazine* go to thunder!

A queer reminiscence was revived during the recent debate on the Post Office Appropriation bill by the citation of a part of the House discussion on the original act for testing the practicability of electro-magnetic telegraphs. Mr. CAVE JOHNSON at that time treated the subject humorously:

"He did not wish to see the science of mesmerism neglected and overlooked. He proposed that one-half of the appropriation be given to Mr. FISK, to enable him to carry on experiments, as well as Mr. MORSE.

"Mr. HOWARD thought that Millerism should also be included in the benefits of the appropriation."

After further joking, the proposed amendment was reduced to writing, and, in the following form, actually received 22 ayes:

"*Provided*, That one-half of the said sum shall be appropriated for trying mesmeric experiments, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury."

It ought to be added that when, a few years later, CAVE JOHNSON became Postmaster-General, he made some atonement for his derisive skepticism by confessing in an official report that the telegraph had proved itself to be "an agent vastly superior to any other ever devised by the genius of man for the diffusion of intelligence."

## LAND GRABBERS IN THE WEST.

### Millions of Acres Unlawfully Appropriated by Stock Raisers.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The Senate received to-day from Mr. Harrison, acting Commissioner of the Public Lands, a report on the unauthorized fencing of Government lands by stock growers. He says:

I am satisfied from the information received that the practice of illegally enclosing the public lands is extensive throughout the grazing regions, and that many millions of acres are thus enclosed and are now being so enclosed, to the exclusion of the stock of all others than the fence owners, and to the prevention of settlements and the obstruction of public travel.

Among the cases specially reported are these in Colorado: The Arkansas Valley Company, whose enclosures embrace upward of 1,000,000 acres; the Prairie Cattle Company (Scotch), upward of 1,000,000 acres; H. H. Metcalf, River Bend, 200,000 acres; John W. Prowers, 200,000 acres; McDaniel & Davis, 75,000 acres; Routtcher & Lamb, 40,000 acres; J. W. Frank, 40,000 acres; Garnett & Langford, 30,000 acres; E. C. Pane, 50,000 acres; Lewsey Bros., 150,000 acres; Vroeman & McFife, 50,000 acres; Beatty Bros., 40,000 acres; Chick, Brown & Co., 30,000 acres; Reynolds Cattle Company, 50,000 acres.

Other cases in Colorado embrace from 10,000 to 20,000 acres. The Brighton Ranch, Nebraska, has enclosed 125,000 acres. Cox & Carter, Nebraska, have fifty miles of fence; J. W. Wilson, Nebraska, forty miles; J. W. Bosler twenty miles; William Humphrey, Nevada, thirty miles; Nelson & Hill, Nevada, twenty-two miles; Kennebeck Ranch, Nebraska, 20,000 to 50,000 acres.

In Kansas entire counties are reported as fenced. In Wyoming 125 large cattle companies have fenced the public lands. Among the companies and persons reported as having immense areas enclosed are the Dubuque, Cimarron, and Kenello Cattle Companies of New Mexico; the Cattle Ranche Company (English) in Colorado, the Marquis de Morales in Dakota, the Wyoming Cattle Company (Scotch) in Wyoming, and the Rankin Live Stock Company in Nebraska.

## MR. BELMONT'S CANDIDATE.

### A Presidential Boom for Judge Ruger of the Court of Appeals.

*From the Philadelphia Press.*

NEW YORK, March 15.—At an informal dinner party at the house of August Belmont, a night or so ago, where four prominent and conservative Democrats of wealth were assembled, the conversation turned on the Presidential nomination. The host is a man of large means, great power, and at one time acted as Chairman of the Democratic State Committee. Though not actively in politics now, he keeps the run of events, and contributes liberally to the cause if the nominations please him.

The chances and possibilities of the various candidates were discussed at some length. All present agreed that Mr. Tilden could have the nomination by acclamation if he was in trim for the race. But his name being out of the question, according to his own words, other candidates were discussed. After various opinions had been expressed, Mr. Belmont said:

"It begins to look to me very much as if the next nominee would be a James K. Polk sort of man. I mean by that one not widely known or actively in political life. From the way the fight is shaping itself I believe that Mr. Flower will become more prominent than any one else as the New York and Eastern candidate, and that his great antagonist will be Payne of Ohio. Mr. Flower, as is well known, is a gentleman of large wealth himself, and could command almost any sum needed to make him a candidate. Opposed to him would be the Payne wealth and the immense resources of the Standard Oil Company.

"They will be pretty evenly matched. If this fight gets bitter and the race becomes neck and neck between these candidates on a platform of money you may expect the Convention to pitch them both overboard in disgust and take an entirely new man. Now I want to mention a Democrat whose nomination might be accomplished in case of a drawn battle between the leading favorites in the race. It is Judge Ruger of our New York Court of Appeals. Don't understand this to be a boom for the Judge. His name is only mentioned to meet a contingency. I have quietly spoken of this matter to a few of the longest headed Democrats of the State, and, without a single exception, they have thought favorably of the idea.

"His name and character would command the vote of this State beyond all doubt, for there could be nothing but perfect harmony under his leadership. If the pivotal State of New York, when his name is mentioned in Convention, go wild with enthusiasm and pledges of success, the infection would spread, and his nomination be quite as likely as was that of James K. Polk. Think it over at your leisure."

One of those present said to-night that the name of Ruger made an exceedingly favorable impression.

### The Lasker Resolution.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted to-day the resolution and report of the sub-committee on the Lasker resolution, and will submit them to the House to-morrow. The committee will also report to the House a resolution acknowledging expressions of kindly feeling on the part of the German Liberals, and providing that their action in acknowledgment of the Lasker resolution shall be made a matter of official record. There was considerable discussion in the committee as to the propriety of noticing the resolution of the Liberals. Mr. Eaton opposed any such allusion on the ground that it was impolitic to refer to the action of a faction. Mr. Phelps said the objection would have great force were the paper the committee was preparing intended to be sent to the German Government. The committee was reviewing, he said, all the papers connected with the Lasker resolution. Mr. Phelps was of the opinion that in the review the cordial action of the Liberal members of the German Parliament should be recognized.

### Prince Bismarck's Speech.

BERLIN, March 17.—The *North German Gazette* says that Prince Bismarck is receiving many telegrams expressing approval of his speech in regard to the Lasker incident. He is astonished at the rapidity with which messages of approval have reached him from America.

## THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

### Further Light on the Most Stupid Job Involved in the Project.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—A correspondent of THE SUN lately discussed the purchase of a site for a national library, as proposed by bill No. 1,159, lately passed by the Senate. The mere mention of the scheme enraged the Washington organ of the concerned lobby. In making his case your correspondent committed an error which acted like a charm in soothing the excited champion, and should be set aright.

The bill appropriates $550,000, not for the purchase of six squares of ground adjoining the Capitol grounds to the east, but for the purchase of either the three squares to the south of East Capitol street or else the opposite three squares north of East Capitol street. These three squares again, on closer inspection, simmer down to one square and two small triangles, such as are peculiar to the plan of this city. The three southern squares were assessed in 1878 at $310,210 altogether. The owners clamored and protested that this was far in excess of the actual values, so that the assessment was reduced to $197,546 for the ground and improvements. It is this property for the purchase of which the bill proposes to appropriate $550,000.

On Dec. 2, 1878, the Secretary of the Interior sent in answer to a resolution of the House a statement of the alleged excessive assessed values, and also of the prices which the owners were willing to accept. We select the square principally involved, No. 729, for a comparison of the assessed values with the prices asked for a number of the lots:

| *Owners.* | *Assessed Values.* | *Prices Asked.* |
|---|---|---|
| A. C. Washburne et al | $5,865 | $12,750 |
| Aaron A. Uragin et al | 52,026 | 91,000 |
| N. G. Ordway | 7,421 | 18,000 |
| Rosina Sargent | 9,298 | 25,000 |
| B. B. French | 11,873 | 60,000 |
| Helen M. Lincoln | 16,608 | 50,000 |
| Total for above owners | $102,089 | $257,750 |

This will suffice to show the character of the real estate job. As for the plans of the library, they stand condemned by the American Library Association, Justin Winsor, President, in three succeeding annual conventions, held in Washington, 1881; in Cincinnati, 1882, and in Buffalo, 1883, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the plans submitted to the association at the Washington meeting by Mr. J. L. Smithmeyer, and adopted by the joint committee of Congress, embody principles of construction which are now regarded as faulty by the whole library profession; and therefore, as members of the American Library Association, we protest against the erection of the building for the library of Congress upon those principles.

The construction and arrangement of public libraries is at present in a state of transition, which is far from assuming a final shape. It is anomalous that coming generations should be hemmed in by combinations which ignore even the progress of the last ten years. These forward steps were initiated at the International Congress of Librarians, held in London in October, 1877, at which Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Great Britain, and the United States were represented. J. W. Jones, the Librarian of the British Museum, in his inaugural address, greeted our countrymen to that Congress by saying: "The idea of holding a conference of librarians originated in America—in that country of energy and activity which has set the world so many good examples, and of which the present conference is not the least valuable."

It is known that in the present plans the American ideas of library arrangement are mercilessly snubbed, and the ideas are taken directly from Berlin, a city where the books are habitually committed to librarians who, for all practical purposes, consider them as private property. Under vexatious restrictions readers are admitted, as on sufferance, the books being looked on with a jealous eye, and the presence of readers considered as a mere incident, if not a positive nuisance.

There are no plans or estimates before the House, but the same are already in print in a foreign publication, viz., the *Bankunde des Architekten*, Berlin, 1884, as an illustration of the American idea, "adopted for the National Library, in Washington, the erection of which is being commenced." This is, indeed, a sharp game of humbug.

## SCANDALOUS DIVORCES.

### Delaware One of the Worst of All the States.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In an excellent article upon the subject of divorce, which appeared in your journal this morning, there appears the following sentence:

"In truth, the divorce laws of New York are exceptional in their stringency, those of Delaware, so far as we know, being the only ones which equal them in that respect."

THE SUN is usually exact in its statements, but in so far as it thus speaks of Delaware, it is sadly in error. There is perhaps no community in Christendom where there is more scandalous laxity in the law of divorces than in Delaware. I quote from page 474, Revised Code of Delaware.

SECTION 1. A divorce from the bonds of matrimony shall be decreed for adultery, desertion for three years, habitual drunkenness, impotency of either party at the time of the marriage, extreme cruelty, or conviction either in or out of this State after marriage of a crime by the laws of this State deemed felony, whether such crime shall be perpetrated before or after such marriage.

SEC. 2. A divorce from the bonds of matrimony, or from bed and board, at the discretion of the Court, shall be decreed for procurement of the marriage by fraud for want of age, the husband being under the age of 14 years or the wife being under the age of 16 years at the time of the marriage, and such marriage not being after those ages voluntarily ratified, or for wilful neglect on the part of the husband for three years to provide for his wife the necessaries of life suitable to her condition.

A subsequent section regulates the practice. It does not require the party litigant to be a citizen of Delaware nor even a resident for any time. The mere residence of the complainant in the State gives the court jurisdiction. I assure you the law is frequently abused. I know a case of a fashionable doctor of this city who obtained a divorce from his wife in Delaware when his only residence in that State was an occasional trip to Wilmington while his case was pending. If the divorce business was confined to the courts in Delaware it would be bad enough; but the legislative divorces of that State are frightfully scandalous. Some ten years ago an officer of the regular army obtained a divorce from his wife, who was a young and beautiful woman. With a certified copy of the bill he promptly left Dover, happy at being free to marry a third wife. When the divorcee, who was a resident of Philadelphia at the time, heard of it, she went to Dover, and by the statement of her case and the witchery of her smiles, she induced the Legislature to repeal the bill by which she was divorced and recreate the contract which had been rescinded but a few weeks before. When Gen. Sherman's attention was called to the case he ordered the officer back from Montana, where he was stationed, to Philadelphia. His wife had him arrested for desertion, and compelled him to support her. She subsequently obtained a divorce for desertion under the laws of Pennsylvania, and is now the wife of a broker in this city.

Fortunately, the Delaware Legislature only meets biennially, or there would be more divorces granted. In fact, the writer has often heard in Dover the standing joke as applied to the Legislature: "When will the divorce court adjourn?"

If it were interesting to your readers I could fill a column of your paper with cases similar to those I mention. ANTI-DIVORCE.

NEW YORK, March 12.

### No Divorce Law in South Carolina.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In an editorial article in THE SUN of March 12 you say that "public opinion throughout the Union, Delaware and New York excepted, favors free divorce."

Surely, you cannot be ignorant of the fact that South Carolina has no divorce law at all, and that divorces have never been permitted in this State, except for a short period between 1868 and 1876, when the State Government was in the hands of the carpet bagger, scalawag, and negro, during which time divorces were allowed for two reasons: 1, adultery; and, 2, desertion for two years. Such being the facts as to South Carolina, I do not see how you can exclude her from the exceptions when you assert that public opinion throughout the Union wants free divorce. If South Carolina errs at all in the matter of divorce it is in not permitting it in cases of adultery, for I agree with you that this is the only ground upon which divorce should be granted, and I think her laws should provide for this. However that may be, she cannot justly be classed among the States wanting "free divorce," while she allows no divorce at all. Very respectfully, A SOUTH CAROLINIAN.

NEWBERRY, S. C., March 14.

### Butterine Defended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I find in your issue of Feb. 27 an article, "Butter and Butterine," and extracts from J. Sampson's remarks at Mankato, Minn.

Now, as to butterine, the gentleman says that even experts cannot tell the difference, and that it almost requires a practical chemist to determine the difference between first-class butter and first class butterine, and that the latter is made of clean, wholesome matter, namely, butter and lard, and the only hard thing he can say against it is that the terrible hog is a great helper in its manufacture. But the main thing he seems to find fault with is that it is sold cheaper than butter, and parties making it are getting rich; and not only that, are suiting the consumer, and really giving the poor laborer and hard-working people a great blessing. I am not interested one cent in this matter, and only make these remarks from what I consider reason and common sense. I have been in the business of buying butter of dairymen in large quantities for the New York market in Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Broome, and Cortland counties, New York State, for over thirty years, and claim to know somewhat of the subject I am talking about; and I now say that if legislation is to be asked in regard to this matter, let it be in this way: A prize to the maker of the best article that is clean and made of wholesome material that will take the place of butter, to make it cheaper. The only people to find fault are the dairymen and creamery men, and they will all be in line before five years are around; and then the best wins, as it ought. Yours truly, E. P. VAN HOUSE.

RIVERSIDE, Gallatin county, Montana, March 8.

## TO REORGANIZE AUSTRIA.

### Prince Bismarck's Plan to Put New Life in the Old Empire of the Hapsburgs.

VIENNA, Feb. 16.—The double-headed empire of his Apostolic Majesty Francis Joseph I. is fast going to pieces. The Germans, the Hungarians, the Bohemians, the Poles, the Russians, the Servians, and the other Slavs composing the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, clearly see that they can no longer remain in political unison. But if Austro-Hungary is dissolved Austria will be resurrected, for such is the intent of the German political genius of our time—Prince Bismarck. It is affirmed here that the Hapsburgs' empire is about to be reorganized on a plan suggested, or rather dictated, by the German Chancellor. "Federalist centralization" is the new system on which Austria is to be reorganized and renovated.

According to the new plan, the Hapsburg empire is to be subdivided into five States, each enjoying a considerable autonomy at home, and each supporting the central Government. These five States are to be: Austria proper, embracing Lower and Upper Austria, Styria, Corinthia, Salsburg, Tyrol, and the coast districts, with Trieste; the kingdom of Bohemia, including Moravia, Silesia, and the adjoining districts of Hungary inhabited by Slovacs; the kingdom of Gallicia and Lodomiria, with the addition of the northern districts of Hungaria inhabited by Russians or Ruthenes; the kingdom of Harvatia, embracing Slavonia, the military frontiers and Dalmatia, Bostria, and Herzegovina; and lastly, Hungary, diminished by the districts taken for the other States. Austria proper is to be ruled directly by the Emperor, and the other four States by viceKings appointed by the Emperor.

The central or Imperial Government will have four Ministers—of War, of Foreign Affairs, of Finance, and of Industry.

Each State is to have three Ministers of its own, having charge of the Interior, of Justice and Religion, and of Public Instruction.

It is believed here that as soon as the projected system has been put in practice, the Danubian States will join the federal Austrian empire, each preserving its hereditary ruling house. These States are Roumania, Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro.

The resurrection of the Austrian empire is needed to strengthen the prestige of the Germans in Europe and to put an end to the Panslavist tendencies of Russia. The small Slavonian States, both those independent and those under the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, certainly would prefer to be under the sceptre of the federal Austrian Emperor than under that of the autocratic Czar. By restoring three autonomic Slav States, Bohemia, Galicia, and Horvatia, the Austrian Emperor fai s back on his German and Slavonian subjects instead of upon the Hungarians, who are disliked by both Germans and Slavs.

The Austrian Emperor, as the head of the federal empire, would have far more power than to-day. Under the present dualistic régime, Hungary claims to rule not only at home, but even in other provinces of the empire, while under the new plan she would have no special rights not belonging in the same measure to the other four federal States. In none of the projected federal States is population uniform. In Bohemia the Tzecks are quarrelling with the Germans; in Galicia the Poles and the Ruthenes are striving for leadership. Even in Austria proper, where the Germans constitute a majority, the voices of the Slavs and Italians cannot be ignored. By supporting this or that party in the federal States, the central Government could exercise a great influence over every one of them.

Aside from inspiring new life in the old Empire of the Hapsburgs, Prince Bismarck wants to see how his new plan of government, which aims at reconciling a full local autonomy with a strong central power, will work.

## INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS.

### What the City Government Wants the Extra $3,369,379 for.

In a report to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, Comptroller Grant gives the reasons for the $3,369,379 increase in the appropriations for the city Government for 1884 over the sum appropriated for 1883. He says that the city's quota of the State tax was increased $1,033,607, and that the appropriation for the redemption of the city debt was increased $166,994 on account of annual installments paid into the sinking fund to provide for the redemption of stocks and bonds at their maturity.

The necessity of supporting a greater number of inmates, in accordance with mandatory laws, caused an increase of $64,796 in the sums allowed to asylums, reformatories, and charitable institutions, and the increase in the Board of Education's appropriation was largely due to the necessity for additional school houses.

The increased appropriation of $222,166 for the Department of Public Works is to be used in completing Washington Market, renewing worn-out water pipes, adding street gas lamps, and extending the system of electric lighting, increasing vigilance in the detection and prevention of waste of water, in repairing and renewing pavements, repairing public buildings, and reconnecting water pipes with the Forty-second street reservoir.

The increase in the appropriation for the Department of Public Charities and Correction included $129,605 for the purchase of land on Ward's Island, $90,000 for an addition to the Tombs, $35,000 for repairing the east wing of the Ward's Island Asylum for the Insane