The Sun.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1884.

Amusements To-day.

Bijou Opera House—Fra Diavolo. 8 P. M.
Casino—The Little Duke. 8 P. M.
Eden Musee—Concert, &c. 11 A. M. to 11 P. M.
Madison Square Theatre—May Blossom. 1:30 P. M.
National Theatre—Richard III. 8 P. M.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Our Colored Friend. 8 P. M.

Subscription by Mail—Post Paid.

DAILY, Per Month	50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	1 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	7 00
WEEKLY, Per Year	1 00

THE SUN, New York City.

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WEEKLY, 50 cents a line; no extra charge for large type. Preferred positions from 75 cents to $2.

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending Aug. 9, 1884, was:*

Sunday	144,378	Thursday	121,575
Monday	122,888	Friday	121,588
Tuesday	121,061	Saturday	121,836
Wednesday	121,670	Weekly	66,680
Total for the week			942,573

The Situation.

This is the dull period of the Presidential canvass. The month of August is always slow in this year. Neither Mr. CLEVELAND nor Gen. BUTLER has yet furnished his letter of acceptance, expounding his views on the questions before the country; and the National Committees have hardly got their headquarters fitted up and their machinery in working order. It will not be until the first of September that the great contest will really get warmed up.

Meanwhile we commend to the public the impressive letter of our Washington correspondent reviewing the situation. It makes a poor showing for Mr. BLAINE and a better showing for Mr. CLEVELAND; while for Gen. BUTLER the prospect would appear to be much more encouraging than people have ever supposed.

The report that Mr. BLAINE is broken down in health and lives in a state of permanent discouragement will be examined with great interest by men of all parties. If it is true, it is very important; if it is not true, it will, of course, be authoritatively contradicted at once. But Mr. BLAINE, in his letter of acceptance, has very little of the appearance of a man who is discouraged.

In Case of an Election by the House of Representatives.

A vigorous canvass on the part of Gen. BUTLER may devolve the election of the next President upon the present House of Representatives. In that event the three candidates returned to the House would be BLAINE, CLEVELAND, and BUTLER. Some of the friends of Sr. JOHN have alleged that in this contingency he would be the third man rather than BUTLER. We think that they are mistaken.

What would be the result of an election by the House? Each State is entitled to one vote, and that vote would be cast for whomsoever of the three candidates a majority of the Representatives from the State might prefer. The whole number of States is thirty-eight, and the votes of a majority, which is twenty, would be required to elect the President. The Democrats have a nominal majority of the Representatives in twenty-two or twenty-three States, but it is asserted that they hold some of them in three or four States by ties that might be easily severed. The same may be the case in certain States where the Republicans have an apparent majority of the Representatives.

To get into the House Gen. BUTLER must receive electoral votes enough to enable him to hold the balance between Mr. CLEVELAND and Mr. BLAINE, and prevent the choice of either of them at the ballot boxes in November. The same popular impulse which carried BUTLER into the House might possibly give him the balance of power there. In that contingency, as neither CLEVELAND nor BLAINE could be chosen, unless they resorted to the utterly improbable course of forming a coalition and then drawing lots for the prize, the ultimate result of a long struggle might be that some of the Democratic States, or some of the Republican States, or a portion of each, would break the deadlock by electing BUTLER rather than to allow the Presidency to fall into the hands of a more objectionable antagonist.

The possibility of the election going to the House adds interest to a contest as peculiar as the famous run between JACKSON, ADAMS, CRAWFORD, and CLAY, sixty years ago.

Our Earthquake.

New York participated yesterday, with a very large area of the seaboard lying to the north and south, in a mild but fairly proportioned earthquake. There was no mistaking the nature of the phenomenon when it presented itself. Inexperienced as we happily are in such occurrences, there was that in the quick vibratory undulation of all material things, and in the singular and all-pervading murmur that accompanied it, to create at once, in a greater or less degree, that sense of instability which is the chief and most demoralizing characteristic of an earthquake.

The accounts which we publish show how widespread and deep was the alarm that it created, although, so far as could be ascertained, not a building out of the many that tempt earthquakes in New York was damaged in even the slightest degree. Our great apartment structures, running to fourteen or fifteen stories in height, are certainly ideal in their possibilities of disaster in the event of a serious earthquake. Although the vibration yesterday in the upper stories of these buildings was sufficient to inflict a very severe fright upon the inmates, not one of them, so far as could be learned, showed any signs of injury.

In countries like California a certain climatic familiarity with earthquake phenomena has made people morbidly nervous upon the subject, the effect of earthquakes in this respect being cumulative, and each succeeding experience involving a more poignant and painful apprehension. Such a shock as that of yesterday would have been regarded in San Francisco as a respectable average earthquake, and as bad as, if not perhaps a little more severe than, any that has been had there since May, 1868.

Seismography has not been practically indulged in by scientific people in this part of the world, owing to the scarcity of phenomena. We have, therefore, no PALMIERI, as Naples has, to give us exact data of the direction, duration, and character of the shock. Accounts in respect to these different features are conflicting, but there seems to be some reason for inclining to the belief that the movement was apparent for ten seconds, and that its direction was from northeast by east to southwest by west.

Such visitations leave some very curious and uncomfortable reflections behind them, and cause people to discuss the phenomena of volcanic energy and the thickness of the earth's crust with an interest that is nothing short of painful, and which is in no appreciable degree mitigated by the consolations of history or the material encouragements of geology. There is nothing, however, more complete or profound than the sense of security into which they shortly relapse, and which, in this part of the world, is fully justified by experience and by scientific teaching. There is no place upon the habitable globe that is more secure from serious volcanic disturbance than that which we inhabit; but now and then, in common with the rest of mankind, we have to accept an intimation from below of the fact that there is an inside to this world of ours, and that it is full of business.

Little Doubt of Maine.

The September election in Mr. BLAINE'S adopted State occurs in less than one month. The probabilities are that its result will have less significance than is usual in Presidential years as indicating the drift of political sentiment on the eve of the great contest.

It is greatly to Mr. BLAINE'S advantage that the question of adopting the prohibitory amendment to the State Constitution comes up this year, instead of next year or the year after.

The arrangement in Maine seems to be that Mr. BLAINE'S Republican friends who do not care very much about prohibition shall support the constitutional amendment, and that the friends of prohibition who do not care very much about BLAINE shall vote the straight Republican ticket.

Thus, by a curious concatenation of circumstances, the prospects of Gov. ST. JOHN, or SINJIN, are not particularly good in the oldest of all the prohibiting States.

Fo.

We have received from Mr. H. GAMBLE of Philadelphia a thrilling appeal to join him in the cult of Fo. The Fo introduced to our attention by Mr. GAMBLE has no connection with Fo, the Chinese Buddha, nor even with the misty personage FO-HI or FUH-HE, who, according to Chinese tradition, invented marriage and first taught the art of writing. GAMBLE'S Philadelphia Fo stands for Fonoscribing, that is to say, the practice of writing the English language phonetically instead of by the cast iron rules of orthography. Fonoscribing is foreshortened to Fo by getting nearly in front of the initial F, so that nothing but the second letter shows from behind it, and thus viewing the hideous word with a raking fore-and-aft glance. The same process, it will be observed, likewise reduces Fool, Folly, Foolishness, and Fool's errand all to Fo.

By means of Fo, the enthusiastic Mr. GAMBLE proposes to eliminate what he regards as the unnecessary vowels and consonants in written and printed English, thus saving time and space, and simplifying the process of elementary education. He solemnly asserts his belief that the orthography of the English language is so abominably and outrageously complicated that seven-eighths of the population never get far enough advanced in the spelling book to read easily. To use his own sinewy expression, "th facts of slenc, th laws of helth, th wizdm of th sages, th butifl thots of th grat mastrs in litratur r as seald to thm as if tha wr in anothr inguaj." The common spelling, he says, is the "silyst thng in histry. It is a lng wa round. It hids u bac. It rqirs mntl efrt & divrts ur enrjys frm empozishn."

The curious thing about GAMBLE'S missionary effort in behalf of Fo is that he discredits and denounces the endeavors of Mr. MELVIL DEWEY and other zealous members of the Spelling Reform Association. He fears that these reformers "r mor lrnd thn wiz." That is very possible; perhaps Mr. GAMBLE is right. He is certainly very much in earnest, and it seems that he has already made a distinguished convert in the person of the Hon. JOSEPH MEDILL of the *Chicago Tribune*. Mr. MEDILL writes to Mr. GAMBLE: "I cn se no gd rezn y empositrs ma nt lrn in a fu ours to st up th fo copy." It is certain that if this system is boldly adopted and consistently pursued by Mr. MEDILL he can get a good deal more reading matter, such as it is, into the *Chicago Tribune* than that newspaper now contains. Another eminent BLAINE editor, the Hon. ELLIS H. ROBERTS, of the *Utica Herald*, has for years shown orthographic tendencies in the direction of Fo. For their especial benefit we reproduce, in all the charming brevity of the Gamblelan system, an important document which both Mr. MEDILL and Mr. ROBERTS have thus far overlooked, perhaps because its butifl thots were buried in a great mass of superfluous vowels and consonants:

"OGESTA, Jun 29, 1869.

"MY DER MSTR FSHR: I thnk u fr th rtkl frm Mstr Luis. It is gud in itslf, & wl do gud. He rits lik a mn of lrj intijns & comprehn. Ur ofr to admt me to a prtepshn in th nu railrod nitprz is in evry repet as jurns as I cd xpct or desir. I thnk u very sncrly fr it, & in tha concesshn I wsh to mak a suistn of a smwht sifsh kraktr. U spok of Mstr KLEWL dsposing of a shar of his nitrst to me. If he rely dsirs to do so, I wsh he wd mak th prposshn dfnt, so tht I cd no jst wht to dpnd on. Prps if he wats til th ful dvlopmnt of th nitprz he mit gro richt to prt wth th shar; & I dut men by this my datrust of hm.

"I dnt fel tht I shl pruv a dbfd in th nitprz if I onc mbrk in it. I se varus chnis in wh I no I cn h usfl. Ur fresd, JAMS G. BLAN."

That is BLAINE reduced to Fo. Beyond this modest contribution to the cause and to the literature of the campaign we cannot promise Mr. GAMBLE of Philadelphia to introduce his system into the columns of THE SUN. In the present state of civilization we prefer the English language with some flesh on its bones.

An Honest Alderman.

On Tuesday of last week the Railroad Committee of the Board of Aldermen heard the application of the Broadway Surface Railroad for permission to lay its tracks down Broadway, and, in spite of the protests of those opposed to the railroad company, the committee summarily closed the hearing on that day. At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen on Wednesday the Railroad Committee, through its Chairman, Mr. MCLOUGHLIN, reported in favor of granting the franchise to the Broadway Surface Company, and this report was adopted by a vote of 21 yeas to 1 nay. Alderman GRANT, who voted in the negative, said that this was the most valuable franchise the city had had to dispose of in many years. A few years ago, he said, a syndicate of gentlemen had offered $1,000,000 for the franchise, and if it was worth that then it had not since depreciated. He was in favor of selling the franchise, if it were to be disposed of, by auction.

Now, this was the voice of an honest man, vigilant in behalf of the interests of the city and the taxpayers; but the protest was futile, for in the whole Board no one came to his aid. Two Aldermen whose votes have often been recorded in behalf of good government and against the betrayal of public trust, were conspicuous by their absence. We refer to CHARLES B. WAITE and JOHN C. O'CONNOR, Jr. These gentlemen should have been present to sustain Mr. GRANT, no matter how unavailing three votes against twenty-one might have been.

In explaining his vote President KIRK said that if the franchise were sold at auction the power of the Common Council would be interfered with in future matters of the same kind. What a reason to give for preventing a large payment into the city treasury! Could a stronger case be made out for taking all such power away from the Common Council than this when it is confessedly used to deprive the city of the money value of a franchise? To whom does President KIRK think the money derived should go?

Vice in London and New York.

Not long ago a legislative committee was investigating charges that our police took bribes for the protection of resorts of vice and immorality. It had been asserted by common rumor that Captains of precincts derived great revenues from that source, and the scandal was one of the chief reasons for the appointment of the committee of inquiry.

No evidence sufficient to sustain the charges was obtained, though the severest critics of the police and several professional guardians of the public morals gave their testimony at great length. The rumor was rather the result of an inference, of a suspicion, than a conclusion from any established facts. Whether it had any basis of truth or not, the investigation failed to inculpate the police.

Whatever may be the means by which the result is accomplished, it is a fact that New York is remarkably free from scandalous exhibitions of vice. The streets are generally orderly and decent at all hours of the day and night, and immorality is compelled to hide itself indoors to an extent which makes New York in that respect exceptional among great capitals. On the outside, at least, we are very decent, and the provocations to vice offered in the streets are far less here than in European cities.

In London, for instance, there are much frequented thoroughfares which at night always present the most disgraceful display of flaunting vice. The evil is so great and glaring that at last what is called a Central Vigilance Committee for the Repression of Immorality has been formed in that city, with the more especial purpose of getting rid of these nightly processions. A few weeks ago a meeting of this committee was held at Willis's Rooms, and many important persons took part in its proceedings.

"Nothing in any of the European cities," truly said the Chairman, "could approach the ghastly and disgraceful state of some parts of the metropolis." The streets are almost blocked with disreputable women, and the worst of it is that the tradesmen in the localities especially affected refuse to do anything for the suppression of the nuisance. It probably benefits business, and its immorality does not disturb them. The only thing the meeting could do was to pass resolutions directing the establishment of "local vigilance committees" to assist the authorities in dealing with the evil, and to take such independent action as they could to cleanse the streets from vicious displays. At present the law is ineffective, according to the speakers, and how under such circumstances the vigilance committees can accomplish their object without overriding the law as the San Francisco Vigilance Committee once did, we do not see.

Perhaps the best thing they can do is to send a deputation to New York to find out how we have got rid of the evil. Let them put themselves into communication with Capt. WILLIAMS, for instance.

Brother Blaine and the Soldiers.

At the meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic at Old Orchard Beach, last week, Mr. BLAINE made a speech to the veterans. It was full of the war spirit and the fervent patriotism which sent from Maine not less than 70,000 volunteers to serve in the Union army. We quote a glowing passage from Mr. BLAINE'S address to the soldiers:

"My mind is carried back to the winter of 1861—to the excitement, the elation, and at the same time the seriousness and the sadness of that ominous and critical era. I vividly remember every incident as we stood on the eve of the gigantic struggle when at last the war cloud burst, and President LINCOLN issued his proclamation for 75,000 men. Maine was asked for one regiment. Gov. WASHBURN immediately summoned an extra session of the Legislature. I had the honor at the time to be Speaker of the House of Representatives. Patriotism was fervid, confidence was strong, and we younger members of the Legislature—I was but 31 years old myself—determined to do something very bold, something that we ventured to hope would be rather appalling to the Confederate Government."

The boldness of the thing which young Mr. BLAINE did in the early fervor of his patriotism has given it a fixed place in history. He turned his attention to the paper bounty business, providing for towns which could not fill their quota. A little later he happened to be drafted himself. He promptly procured a substitute, being busy just then looking after the manufacture and sale of Spencer rifles to the Government. But bold as was Brother BLAINE'S deed, it could not have been very appalling to the Confederacy. Even the substitute did not go to the front. He was provided with a place in the Provost Marshal's office at Augusta, was soon caught stealing, and his martial visage was thereafter visible only through the iron bars of the county jail.

Strict regard for historical truth compels us to say that this was the fashion in which Brother BLAINE'S burning patriotism and military ardor swept him at the age of thirty-one into the vortex of the war.

It Shines for All, Indeed.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Hartford Daily Times*, evinced a most defective vision when it printed the following:

"THE SUN should shine for all, and not for BEN BUTLER alone."

THE SUN shines not for BEN BUTLER alone, but for all the world. Its rays reach in all directions, and strike upon all men with impartial force; and if BEN BUTLER seems for the moment more resplendent than some other mortals, why, we can't help it. He appears more conspicuous than his rivals, because he is bigger and stands out more boldly, and wears more brilliant armor. Compared to the dull and colorless candidate of the Democrats or to the Quixotic statesman at the head of the Republicans, BUTLER is a shining figure; and long may he wave!

An interesting feature of the excitement caused by the earthquake shock was the curious light which it threw on the tendency of men's minds to find a reason for an unexpected phenomenon close at home. There were almost as many different notions about the cause of the roar and shock as there are different occupations. For instance, the men at Police Headquarters, with an eye to business, thought burglars had blown open the safe in the Treasurer's office up stairs; employees in the newspaper offices thought the presses had suddenly been set going on a jump; in crowded tenement houses a cry of fire was raised; the occupants of the municipal building in Brooklyn, where a severe gas explosion had occurred, thought it was another explosion; residents in the neighborhood of big factories thought a boiler had burst; the Greenpoint police were sure that another oil tank had been blown up; the toll collector at the entrance to the big bridge supposed a car had run off the track in the depot over his head; workmen reconstructing a burned bridge in New Jersey thought the timbers were failing; the employees of the elevated railroads, being accustomed to the continuous shaking of those structures, thought nothing about it, and the Italian residents of the city, who have had much experience of earthquakes in their own country, obeyed an irresistible impulse to run into the centre of the streets and wait for the buildings to fall. They appear to have been the only people who with one accord immediately recognized the fact that it was an earthquake.

The seating of HAYES was not a fraud.—*Philadelphia Press.*

Do you honestly believe that the electoral vote of Louisiana did not belong to SAMUEL J. TILDEN in the year 1876?

If the electoral vote of Louisiana did belong to TILDEN, do you believe that he was fairly and justly deprived of it?

If the members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, who meet in Montreal two weeks from next Wednesday, will make an excursion to Cleveland, Ohio, they will find a new and fascinating subject for theory and practical experiment. COWLES'S physical characteristics are, perhaps, commonplace; but, viewed as the sole living example of hebetudinosity, he is one of the most interesting beings now on earth.

Swimming matches this year have attracted little attention on this side of the ocean, even if any of consequence have occurred. But in England the present week has been appointed for a very remarkable feat, it being nothing less than the attempt of Miss BECKWITH to repeat Capt. WEBB'S famous swim across the British Channel. The time selected is favorable as to tides and temperature, and the man who piloted WEBB will be in attendance; but the success of the ambitious exploit would be extraordinary even under the most propitious circumstances. What if the ancient poets had had the performance of a HERO instead of a LEANDER to sing in the swimming of the Hellespont?

Not only unsatisfactory candidates for President, but bad nominees for Assembly are in trouble in this year of bolting. The Chautauqua Republicans, who are the first in the field with candidates for the Assembly, have discovered the temper of the times to their sorrow. One of the nominees is strongly opposed by the leading newspapers of his district, and many Republican voters reject the other. This is a healthy sign. The last Assembly was filled with incompetent and corrupt men who brought scandal upon the State, and it is well that voters are showing the disposition to scrutinize critically the characters of the candidates who come before them. Better material is urgently needed at Albany.

Discredit has been cast, since the arrival of the Arctic relief vessels at this port, upon the thrilling description of the meeting between Lieut. GREELY and his wife at Portsmouth, in which the latter is said to have rushed into her husband's arms, crying, "ARTHUR, ARTHUR, home!" It appears that Commander SCHLEY took pains that nobody should be within sight or sound of the cabin in which GREELY was at the time of the meeting. Had the too imaginative reporter only taken pains to discover that in the name A. W. GREELY the A stands for ADOLPHUS instead of ARTHUR, his pathetic description might have passed into history.

The historic event which Stonington commemorates every year with patriotic pride and enthusiasm, and of which Saturday was the seventieth anniversary, may not rank among the Arbelas, the Waterloos, and the Gettysburgs of military annals, but it was a great day for the Connecticut town. It was well along in the afternoon of Aug. 9, 1814, that a British squadron, consisting of the Ramilies, the Pactolus, and the Dispatch, appeared in Stonington harbor, and notified the magistrates that they were to have just one hour "for the removal of unoffending inhabitants." With unexpected moderation, however, the British commander did not begin his bombardment until three hours later, and the fond traditions of the town record that, in spite of the consternation into which its population was naturally thrown, some hardy volunteers and militia resorted to the little local battery, and defiantly answered the British bombs with an occasional shot which fell short of the mark. The fire from the vessels continued until midnight; and it was renewed two or three days later, when, after firing all the morning, they hauled off without attempting a landing. All this may not be wonderful, but there is one peculiar feature about the battle of Stonington, namely, that all this tremendous cannonade did not kill a man, nor is it absolutely clear than anybody was hit, although it is rumored that one broadside destroyed a goose. This peculiarity, nevertheless, makes the annual celebration one of pure felicity, unmarred by the sorrow sometimes felt on such occasions for the fate of fallen heroes.

It must not be supposed that England's pressing military occupations in Egypt prevent her from giving attention to her Asiatic duties. About a month hence she will move two columns of troops under Gen. TANNER and Gen. KENNEDY into the Zhob valley to punish the Kakars. One column, starting from Quetta, will proceed through Kowar and over the Hurnai route to Thull; the other, starting from the Indus, will enter the valley by the Gomul pass. If it were not for her continual duties in disciplining somebody, in one quarter or another of the globe, Great Britain might never be able to keep her troops in trim and drilled in practical campaigning.

A Son of the Balmy Southland.

From a Speech in Congress by the Hon. Thomas P. Ochiltree, printed since the adjournment.

Sir, it has often been said that the soft skies of the sunny climes are not congenial to our race; that we make our best development amid hyperborean blasts which brace the energies and tingle the blood to action; but you will always notice, sir, that this criticism comes from the hyperboreans themselves, like the deprecation of physical beauty that comes from the hard-featured North. This deprecation is inspired by envy, and it is not true that energy and civilization belong to the wintry climes.

Sir, the clime that produces the female form divine in its most perfect loveliness cannot be uncongenial to man. History disproves this libel on the southlands. Look at the splendid ancient civilization of Mediterranean Europe, Mexico, and Central and South America. Where can you surpass the valor that spurned the Trojan plains or withstood the hosts at Thermopylæ, or that of the Incas in the passes of the Andes?

The culture, learning, and refinement of ancient Greece, the mother of republics, were only surpassed in the sunny climes of this continent. Did not Sparta and Carthage flourish in the sunny clime? And Rome—the once proud mistress of the world—did not Rome give civilization and letters to modern Europe through the passes of the Pyrenees? And did not Araby contribute also through the same passes? Is it not to Rome's Twelve Tables and the *jus civile* built upon them that we owe the maxims and principles of our laws? It was in the sunny clime that the codes of European jurisprudence first took root and flourished, until they grew into the great tree that cast its protecting branches all over our race—the same that shelter us to-day. The vulgar error that our common law was transplanted into British soil by barbaric invaders from the rude fastnesses of German forests is no longer entertained by intelligent writers. Mr. Speaker, it is in the sunny clime that man reaches his highest development. You may launch your Yukon explorations; Canada may force her way to the Pacific over eternal snows and frowning peaks; the great Northwest may send back its "booms" to us over alkaline plains, rude Montanas, and bleak Dakotas; but I, sir, a son of the balmy southland, look from the flowery prairies and luxuriant fields of Texas, my own progressive State, to see the star of empire take its course amid the brilliant constellations of the southern sphere.

Were These Great Men Also Guilty?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will you please inform some of your readers if there is or is not any basis for the imputations respecting Washington, Jefferson, and Hamilton contained in the article republished from the *Evening Post* in yesterday's SUN? M.

HAVANA, Aug. 8.

We do not know and cannot tell. We have never investigated that side of Washington's or Jefferson's history. As for Hamilton, we have read a pamphlet in which, to protect himself from the imputation of official dishonesty, he confessed himself guilty of sexual dishonesty.

The Lydian Monarch Sails from St. Johns.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Aug. 10.—The Lydian Monarch sailed for New York this morning. At present she lies near Cape Spear, heading north, and apparently broken down. A telegram from Heart's Content says that a fearful hurricane prevailed on Great Banks on Sunday, the 3d instant. Great disaster to the fishing fleet is apprehended.

VIEWS CONCERNING MR. GROVER CLEVELAND

Expressed by a Veteran Member of the Bar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Not favoring Mr. Cleveland's candidature at all, for I believe him to be incompetent for the place and in bad hands, still I regret that this matter about his relations to women has been started, because it seems to me a blow a little "below the belt," to use a sporting phrase. But it has been started, and now the tone of the papers supporting him, for example that of the *Boston Herald*, admitting the main facts to be true, and then saying that they are of no consequence, will do him very great harm, especially with the Irish, because chastity in women is peculiarly an Irish virtue. There are hardly any Irish divorces, and they emphasize that virtue by a comparison with English statesmen, where unlawful connection between the sexes is very largely a characteristic, and has been through English history, and a vice only checked by the strong domestic virtues of their Queen.

Beaconsfield's freedom from this vice was one of the causes of the almost unchanging affection of the Queen toward him.

The late Lord Chief Justice of England notoriously had illegitimate children in his own house, but he was never presented to her Majesty.

If I had been conducting a campaign against Cleveland I think I should have made more out of his being a hangman. Far be it from me to say that a man who is a hangman should not do his duty, or that it is any disgrace for him to do his duty as an executioner. Where I should have drawn the line is, What sort of a man is it that chooses to be a hangman? For a lawyer of a respectable law firm, doing a living business even, to desert that high and honorable profession for the purpose of being a public executioner, whatever the temptation of the emoluments of such office might be, is a wonder to me. To illustrate: It is a virtue when a man is a bootblack to have him black boots well. But when a member of the bar, of full age and strength, quits his profession to be a bootblack, there must be something wrong in his instincts or his capacity or reasoning.

We have gone pretty low down sometimes heretofore in selecting Presidents, in matter of statesmanship and proper preparation for that office, but I think we ought to stop somewhere, however difficult it may be to find a line. I am like the barber who, when called upon by the butcher to shave him, said, "Nay, we only shave gentlemen at this shop." "Ah!" said the butcher, "but the baker has just gone out of here after having been shaved." "True," said the barber, "but we have to draw the line somewhere, and we stop at bakers." So I stop at Hayes.

Much has been said in the independent papers, such as the *Springfield Republican*, the *Evening Post*, and some Democratic papers, in excuse for Mr. Cleveland, citing the conduct of Hamilton, and commending the bravery with which he met a like charge.

They mistake history. The charge against Hamilton was that one Barrymore, who was a Treasury official when he was Secretary, was kept in office by Hamilton as a reward for the favors of his wife. A mere charge against Hamilton that he had a mistress would never have been answered by him, because, after the manner of that day, he would have felt that it did not touch his honor; but the accusation that he used the public treasury to pay for his amours was one that he would not abide. Therefore he published that famous pamphlet, extracts from which will be found in Hildreth's History of the United States, in which, in short, he admitted that the husband was an officer under him, but declared that that was only because he was a good officer, and that his appointment had nothing to do with Hamilton's relations with his wife, for which, he asserted, he paid in good hard cash, and produced the original receipts of Mrs. Barrymore for those payments, so ill composed and badly spelled that they bore evidence of their genuineness on their face. All America commended the bravery of Hamilton's defence, as all England applauded the Prince of Wales when he testified as co-respondent in Lady Mordaunt's divorce case, that his relations with her were merely Platonic. But Mr. Cleveland has not made this brave defence, but perhaps he will in his letter of acceptance.

It is to be noted, however, that Mr. Hamilton never offered himself for the suffrages of the people after that defence.

Nor is Gen. Jackson's case a parallel; and I am ashamed of Democratic editors defaming Jackson in order to make a defence for Governor Cleveland.

Jackson's case, even according to the Federal papers of that day, wherein they called him a bigamist and adulterer, had no element of personal dishonor. The facts were these:

Captain and Mrs. Robords had quarrelled and separated, living in Kentucky. Robords went to Virginia, and through one of his relatives, who was a member of the Virginia Legislature, he got an act passed divorcing him from Mrs. Robords. After that divorce Gen. Jackson, not knowing that there was anything wrong about it, married Mrs. Robords, and she made him a good wife and a happy home. Afterward the Supreme Court of Virginia in another case decided that acts of divorce like Capt. Roborda's were void because, among other things, the party charged was not, and never had been, a citizen of Virginia, and Virginia could make no law affecting her. Therefore she was still Mr. Robords's wife in law. Jackson was exceedingly distressed at the condition of things, of which he himself and his wife were innocent victims. He then applied for her to the Kentucky Legislature, where the parties resided, for a divorce, which divorce was granted by the Legislature, which had jurisdiction. This would not have been done if the Legislature had believed Mrs. Robords guilty of any wrong with Gen. Jackson. Such conduct would have been a full answer to her application. A divorce being granted, Jackson remarried her, and was her loving and faithful husband until her death, which he mourned through the rest of his life.

What must be the stress of weather which will drive Democratic editors to revive this Federal slander against Jackson, without showing its utter groundlessness in fact!

If Mr. Cleveland follows the example of Hamilton and "tells the truth," instead of asking other people to tell it for him, the people may pardon him and condone the offence, but, I submit, not otherwise. Yours respectfully, A LAWYER.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.

The Custom of Cutting off Women's Noses in India.

From the Times of India, July 8.

The horrible crime of mutilating women by cutting off their noses is so common in Bombay as to call for the most stringent repression, and nothing, we imagine, will repress it but the free use of the lash. In the Sessions ending yesterday, Mr. Justice Scott had to hear three—we might say five—of these cases, one after the other. He postponed his sentences for a week, and we were in hopes that he would in each case order the criminals to be flogged within an age of their lives.

Eventually, however, he sentenced them severally to what he had ascertained to be the usual punishment, three years' rigorous imprisonment. We are inclined to regret that the learned Sessions Judge, new as he is to the country, did not throw precedent over altogether. Surely these are cases in which the lash would be at once the most fitting punishment and the best deterrent.

Estimated by the misery inflicted, even the most severe penalties would seem too trivial, and if the law does not permit of flogging in the cases of such cruel mutilation, the law should be altered. The miserable women who are mutilated in this way are, of course, rendered hideous ever afterward, and, because they are women, it is simply impossible to calculate the misery and degradation that they will experience during the rest of their lives. No amount of imprisonment will eradicate a crime that is still evidently a customary form of marital punishment among the lower classes. But a wholesome terror of the cat-o'-nine-tails is common to the degraded classes all the world over.

A Colored Deputy Sheriff in Trouble.

William M. Smith, a colored deputy Sheriff, was arraigned before Justice Power at Jefferson Market yesterday by a policeman of the Thirtieth street station, who said that he found Smith noisily drunk and brandishing a club at Eighth avenue and Twenty third street at 2 o'clock yesterday morning. Smith was fined $10, and his badge (No. 1,090) and his club were taken from him.

THE FORTUNES OF MAHONE.

His Waning Power Over the Readjuster Leaders—Riddleberger Frigid.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10.—Mahone is likely to come to grief like other political autocrats before him. He made large contracts with the Republican leaders, but he is powerless to fulfil them. When he entered the Chicago Convention as a delegate, Mahone assumed by that act to take command of the two factions of which his following was composed, and to dictate all the nominations in Virginia. He claimed that he was the sole dispenser of power and of patronage.

This assumption was unpleasant both to the Republicans and to the Readjusters, who were thus treated as mere voting cattle. To the former it was unpleasant because they outnumbered the latter at the polls three to one, and to the Readjusters it was unpleasant because the secondary chiefs proposed to divide the honors and the spoils without Mahone's interference.

Mahone's arrogance and extreme selfishness drove off some of the foremost Readjusters two years ago, and broke his sceptre in the Legislature. That experience did not mend his methods nor his manners. On the contrary, he became still more exacting and offensive until several of his prominent lieutenants revolted, and refused to submit to further insolence. Sims and others openly bolted in the Virginia delegation from Arthur, and thus made a breach which has widened every day since the Convention nominated Blaine.

The Legislature failed to provide for an additional elector, to which Virginia is entitled under the new apportionment. It requires two-thirds of the members to call an extra session with the consent of the Governor. The Democrats wanted the Legislature convened for the additional vote, believing they would carry the State. Mahone violently opposed this policy, and declared it should not prevail. But when the necessary number of signers had been obtained Gov. Cameron issued his proclamation calling the Legislature, and hence there is a feud between him and Mahone. This is by no means their first difference. Cameron comes of good stock, but got entangled in the Readjuster scrape, so that he lost position with his former friends. He is courageous, and Mahone knows better than to trifle with him personally.

There is no love between Mahone and Riddleberger. When the latter entered the Senate he found Mahone had grabbed all the patronage, and was sustained by the Administration to his own exclusion from any recognition. He accepted the situation without complaint, and waited for time to make things even.

PUTNAM'S ABLE FROG.

The Westchester and Orange County Batrachians Outdone in a Sister County.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read your Westchester county frog history, and was delighted to learn of the animal's ability to walk erect on his hind legs. I was still further gratified upon reading that the Orange county toad was able to walk on one leg.

A few weeks since I should have hesitated to believe in the veracity of these chronicles, notwithstanding their appearance in THE SUN, but my own experience prepares me to accept them at their face value.

Two weeks ago last Sunday, near my little place in Putnam county, I caught a water snake blind in one eye, which had partially swallowed a small frog. After killing the snake, I pulled the frog from its mouth, and made the discovery that it was still alive. The little creature manifested in the most unmistakable manner its thanks and gratitude. I carried it to the house, where it soon became apparent that its hind legs were paralyzed. For several days it dragged itself about by its fore legs, eating painfully of chopped liver, with an occasional house fly, and never failing, upon my appearance, to pull its body into erect form, and wink its recognition.

Soon the paralyzed legs shrivelled and became scarcely larger than a sparrow's claws. Interested in the little fellow, I induced my friend, Dr. Sharp, a skilful surgeon and thoroughly conversant with the frog anatomy from vivisection, to amputate the two dead limbs. This was successfully accomplished, and the stumps healed in a very brief time.

Prompted by the intelligence manifested by the little pet, I contrived two tiny crutches which I tied to its arms near the shoulder, and was agreeably pleased to see it almost immediately find their use, and to hop about on the crutches, grasping them with its hand-shaped fore feet, guiding itself at will, and catching flies ad libitum. The crutches were troublesome when it rested, standing out in odd directions, and being tied at the shoulders, rendered it difficult for the little creature to rise when it had once removed its claw-like hands from the staff. So after I had sufficiently entertained a couple of friends and myself with its accomplishment, I cut the threads which bound the tiny crutches to its arms. Again the same expression of thanks, the same intelligent wink of gratitude, and then—imagine our surprise to see it gather the crutches underneath its arms by itself, and skip away with renewed agility. We tested its skill several times by separating the two crutches—in one instance over ten feet. It would take one in its mouth and drag itself to the other—then away with glee.

Now, for four or five days it has had the run of the yard, under surveillance, treating itself to a swim in a near arm of the pond, but always scrupulously avoiding the scene of the water snake. This morning it lost one of its crutches while swimming, and directly found on the grass a dry forked twig, and came home in a series of triumphant skips.

Any person sufficiently curious to visit my little place may witness its skill. Or, I am thoroughly convinced that any careful person can develop the same degree of skill in a proper frog, if he will but take the trouble to proceed in this same manner. First, get a water snake with one eye.

There is a very fine grand ballet of polly-wogs in this neighborhood, which execute their *pas* on the points of their tails. ARMI FISH.

BREWSTER'S, Aug. 6.

A Voice from Utica.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Like most of my party, I have been silenced when reference has been made to the wickedness of its nominee for President, because no refutation of the accusation has been made, nor—though that might not be all which ought to be done in such a case—has he denied it.

In this State a candidate for reelection to the United States Senate became known to have committed a similar sin. It was not answered. He at once withdrew from the canvass. I have looked for like action by the party's candidate for President. He is silent. If he does not act, will the National Committee do its duty and withdraw him? Democrats feel that these charges are founded on truth—that the evidence of his guilt is overwhelming. No attempt has been made to rebut it. He does not deny it.

The duty of the committee is plain. If it does that duty it will preserve the integrity of the party. If not, individual Democrats will act. Their duty is equally plain. It is well stated by Attorney-General Dennis O'Brien: "The public interests demand men of settled associations, not of shifting and temporary expedients—men who will not hesitate to oppose their party where it is wrong, and who by advice and example will labor to elevate and purify public sentiment and political action." The people can be trusted. Manhood suffrage will prevent any machine coercing or cajoling the election of such a man. But it is better for the party, better for the fair fame of our country, that no such man be voted for. DEMOCRAT.

UTICA, Aug. 7.

In Doubt About Voting for Butler.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Two friends of mine and myself, who feel dissatisfied with the nomination of James G. Blaine, but yet who intend to vote for him in preference to voting for Grover Cleveland, on the good old principle "of two evils choose the least," have decided to vote for Benjamin Butler if we find that our votes might aid in his election. We desire to know, however, whether by voting for Benjamin Butler it might not result in throwing the election in the House of Representatives, and thus insure the election of Cleveland. As we do not intend nor desire to vote for or aid in the elevation of Cleveland to the Presidency, how can we cast our votes for Butler without practically giving them to Cleveland? By answering this in the columns of your paper you will greatly oblige AN ENROLLED REPUBLICAN.

Survivors of the Central America Wreck.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Are there still residing in or near New York city any of the survivors of the Central America (steamship) disaster of 1857? The Central America was wrecked about 200 miles off Cape Hatteras on Sept. 12, 1857, and many of her passengers were rescued through the assistance of the crew of the Norwegian bark Elieu. I was one of the bark's crew.