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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1884.

Amusements To-Day.

Bijou Opera House—Aladdin. 8 P. M.
Comedy Theatre—An Absolute Fool. 2 and 8 P. M.
Casino—Pinafore Reflections. 8 P. M.
Daly's Theatre—Love in Counties. 2 and 8 P. M.
Eden Musee—Tableaux, Wax, &c. 11 A. M. to 11 P. M.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Mr. Ue & Co. at Mud Springs. 8.
Grand Opera House—Oliver Twist. 2 and 8 P. M.
Koster & Bial's—Vice Versa. 1:30 P. M.
Madison Square Theatre—Private Secretary. 8:30 P. M.
Metropolitan Opera House—Lucrezia. 8 P. M.
Mendelssohn Hall for Skating Rink—6th av. and 59th st.
Niblo's Garden—Pique. 8 P. M.
People's Theatre—Robin Hood; William Shakspeare. 2 & 8 P. M.
Star Theatre—Sally in Our Alley. 8 P. M.
Standard Theatre—A Night in Africa. 8 P. M.
Thalia Theatre—Wallenstein's Lagerleben. 2 and 8.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Variety. 8 P. M.
Union Square Theatre—Three Wives to One Husband. 8
Wallack's Theatre—Veteran Dead. 8 P. M.
3d Avenue Theatre—Married Girls. 2 and 8 P. M.
14th Street Theatre—The Hibernian. 8 P. M.

THE SUN has issued a neat Calendar for 1885. Copies may be obtained free at this office, or on application to the newsdealers.

Party Politics and Honesty.

Our valued contemporary, the *Herald*, thinks the great danger of the country is connected with our party politics. "Unless we can separate officeholding from party politics," says the *Herald*, "the corruptions in office that we now deplore, will reach such a degree as to make our boasted freedom practically of no value to the people."

But how is it certain that the separation of public offices from all relations to party politics will make their occupants any more honest and upright? Is there any more corruption in party politics than there is in commercial business? Cannot dishonesty be found in banks, railroads, and merchants' counting houses? Does not wickedness sometimes extend into philanthropic and religious institutions, and even into churches themselves?

Yet with all these things party politics and officeholding have naught to do. Their corruptions spring from vicious tendencies of human nature. They owe nothing of their venom to politics or to anything connected therewith.

The truth is that public honor and the interests that public offices are created to subserve, are infinitely safer in the guardianship of political parties and of the public press, and that the mischief of corruption and dishonesty therein are less noxious and less enduring under party criticism and antagonism, than are the same evils in other spheres of public activity that are entirely removed from party observation and correction.

There is a great deal of cant in this world, and the cant which is set up against politics and against parties is the most foolish and the most absurd of all.

Mr. Cleveland and the Civil Service.

Mr. CLEVELAND expresses his opinion very clearly respecting the civil service. As a literary composition his letter cannot be praised; but there is no doubt what he means.

He will respect and enforce the PENDLETON statute. This is his duty. It is a law, and his official oath binds him to enforce all laws.

As for offices which are not affected by the PENDLETON law, he will not remove any incumbent for party reasons alone, or for the sole purpose of putting a Democrat in his place. But he will remove those who have used their offices for party ends and have been offensive partisans and unscrupulous manipulators of local party management; meaning, we suppose, Republican party management. Efficiency, fitness, and devotion to duty are to be the sole condition of continuance in public place. "The quiet and unobtrusive exercise of individual political rights" is the utmost limit of party service which Mr. CLEVELAND intends to allow.

Yet the coming Administration is to be Democratic, and Democrats may expect all proper consideration in appointments to offices not embraced within the civil service rules. But sufficient inquiry will be made as to fitness "by those charged with that duty," and persistent importunity or self-solicited recommendations will not be regarded.

It is evidently an accidental omission, but it is none the less striking, that Mr. CLEVELAND makes no reference to the graver faults which are believed to affect so many of the present tenants of Federal offices. We mean the faults of dishonesty, of perversion of public power to ends of private gain, of corrupt uses of the public money and the public authority for individual enrichment. These are certainly much worse than the offensive partisanship and unscrupulous manipulation of political management of which he complains; and it would have been well if he had referred to this subject in emphatic and decisive terms. Here is the greatest need of reform; and, whatever may have to be done to honest and overenergetic Republican partisans, the rascals at least should be mercilessly turned out. There should be a clean sweep of them; and Mr. CLEVELAND should have said so.

It is curious, also, that the letter of the Civil Service League, to which Mr. CLEVELAND replies, dwells upon "the grave mischief and dangers arising from the general proscription which for half a century has followed a change of party control over the national Administration." Now, the fact is that for twenty-five years there has been no such change, since the same party has always remained in power; and for the twenty-five years before, with the brief interludes of TAYLOR'S and FILLMORE'S Administration from 1849 to 1853, and HARRISON'S and TYLER'S from 1841 to 1845, the Government was likewise continuously in the hands of one party. The present generation of citizens has, therefore, had no experience of this grave mischief, these dangers, and these abuses. For a quarter of a century there has not been a single instance of such general proscription. The danger and the evils, therefore, which the Civil Service League speaks of and Mr. CLEVELAND earnestly considers, are matters of theory and imagination, not of fact. Moreover, the most important effect of the PENDLETON statute which Mr. CLEVELAND very properly intends to observe, and of the non-partisan rules which he means to set up in regard to appointments that lie outside of that statute, will be to keep in place Republicans who have already had twenty-five years' tenancy, and who ought by this time to be prepared to resign and make way for a description of citizens who have been rigorously excluded from public employment.

Elevated Railroad Accidents.

The first heavy fog of the season resulted promptly in a number of collisions upon the elevated roads. Previous experience of fogs has fully taught the public, and, in an indifferent degree, the railroad management, to expect such accidents. That they should recur, as they did yesterday morning, as if they were the inevitable consequences of every thick fog, indicates clearly that the administration of the roads is defective. The conditions under which the accidents took place may be investigated just as energetically as may be expedient to divert public attention from the truth or to find one or two scapegoats, but the facts are beyond argument. There was a fog, as there had been fogs before; and as before, only less excusably, there were accidents. No adequate method of preventing them had been devised, and there is this morning, if there be a fog, the same danger of a catastrophe that there was last winter and in the winter that preceded it. That this should be the case is radically wrong.

It may be presumed that Col. HAIN is now satisfied that he cannot, with his present rules, devices, and precautions, run his trains upon short headway in a fog and avoid collisions. If he is not, the fearful disasters which were escaped by a hair's breadth yesterday should teach him the fact, or should have the opportunity to teach it to some one else. It cannot be done. There are not men enough in the short stop ways approaching stations to give warning to engineers; the regular road signals are defective, and there is no sufficient enforcement of the rule applying to the protection of the rear of a train which has stopped at a point other than its fixed stopping point. The nature of the track in many places does not admit of a brakeman being sent promptly back to flag a following train, and on the short headway in practice in the commission hours it is doubtful if with the system and discipline in force anything would come of it if it were practicable.

The same degree of care and precaution that is observed on surface roads does not obtain on the elevated roads in times of emergency. With all the experience that has been had we find them wholly unprepared to deal with a bad fog, a condition of things which in these days of railroad science is simply intolerable.

It is nonsensical to say that the remedy lies in investigating the engineers or discharging the brakemen. What is needed is a block system from station to station, making it prohibitory upon a train to leave a station until its predecessor has left the station ahead. Under the present circumstances trains should treat stations as if they were drawbridges, and they were complying with the law which enforces a full stop before entering a bridge.

A Venerable Claim.

The Senate, some days before the holiday adjournment, by unanimous consent took up and passed its bill "to provide for the ascertainment of claims of American citizens for spoliations committed by the French prior to the 31st day of July, 1801."

The legislation thus proposed is designed to repair, as far as possible, a remarkable piece of Government neglect and injustice. The title of the bill shows that the claims in question have subsisted more than eighty years, and it is threescore years since all the evidence sustaining them was laid before Congress. Had not the Government undertaken to collect them, they would doubtless have been paid by France more than half a century ago to the fathers and grandfathers of those to whom they have been bequeathed. Fully forty reports have been made upon them in Congress since the year 1820, and not one was ever adverse. The logic and eloquence of LIVINGSTON, WEBSTER, CLAY, CHOATE, TRUMAN SMITH, EVERETT, and SUMNER long ago told all that could be said in their behalf. In Congress after Congress, at one time the Senate and at another the House has passed the needed relief bill; but on the only two occasions when both branches concurred in passing it, the bill was vetoed.

Thus it turns out that the French spoliation claims have remained to this day a monumental example of the misfortune of the private citizen who has his individual demands upon a foreign country mixed up with the political obligations and demands of his Government, and sacrificed to them. It is well known that the claims in question are those of American shipowners and merchants, whose vessels and cargoes were wrongfully captured, detained, and in many instances confiscated during the closing years of the last century by French cruisers acting under the orders of the Directory. Redress was duly demanded, but the reply of France came in the shape of counter claims, arising out of the alleged violation by the United States of the treaties made by France with her about twenty years before. In these treaties of 1778, negotiated by FRANKLIN, the United States had agreed to aid French privateering, to guarantee to France her possessions in America, and to grant certain other privileges, "in case of a rupture between France and England." When this rupture came the stipulations were not kept, and, indeed, were considered on this side of the ocean not to be binding. Nevertheless France considered them to be binding, not only through the letter of the compact, but in common gratitude; in fact, so powerfully did she put the plea of treaty honor and international obligation that in 1801 a new convention was signed, by which each country released the other from the obligations asserted.

That is, France gave the United States a release from her counter claim based on the treaties of 1778, and in consideration thereof the United States relieved France from the pecuniary damages due to American citizens. Thus it is clear that our Government took for public use certain unsettled individual claims which it had undertaken to collect, and with them purchased its own release from an alleged national liability. At all events, it bought with them an amicable settlement with a people to whom it had been under great obligations, and who had felt aggrieved at what had seemed national ingratitude. Perhaps it was anger against this presumed breach of faith and forgetfulness of past obligations that had caused the spoliations.

Our Government, in short, being bound to turn over to the individual claimants the proceeds of the international suits it was conducting, chose instead to apply them to its own benefit. Justice demands that it should reimburse those whose valuable rights it then disposed of.

The French spoliation claims need not seem hopeless. Within the last two years the ARMSTRONG claim, which was almost as ancient, has been settled by an appropriation to the heirs of the original claimants. It should be observed, also, that the bill passed the other day by the Senate does not call for a dollar, or even in any way admit the validity of the spoliation claims. It merely authorizes the Court of Claims to examine them, and subjects the decisions of that court to the subsequent action of Congress. In a measure so cautiously drawn the House need not hesitate to concur.

Saturday and Sunday.

It seems that the attempt of Rabbi GOTTHEIL to introduce Sunday services in the Temple Emanuel has, for the present, at least, proved unsuccessful. His project was and still is to have public worship there on the first day as well as on the last day of the week, in order to accommodate members of the congregation who are anxious to say their prayers on Sunday.

At the last meeting of the congregation, however, the majority of those present voted against the proposition, and very decidedly, for the vote stood 23 to 35. The weather on the evening of the meeting having been bad, the number on hand was not large, and Rabbi GOTTHEIL, therefore, does not give up the hope of yet carrying through his project. "It is just as well," he says, philosophically, "that the congregation should become gradually used to the idea."

We are not at all surprised that he encounters great opposition to his proposed innovation among the more conservative Jews. They fear that the introduction of Sunday services will tend to break down the barriers which separate the synagogue from the Christian churches, and that ultimately its result will be to destroy the observance of Saturday as the Sabbath.

It is a concession to the growing spirit of liberality among a large part of the Jews which they would protest against. Yet Rabbi GOTTHEIL seems to us to be pursuing a wise course, under the circumstances, in advocating the innovation. If the Sunday worship is not provided, he probably thinks, an increasing number of Jews will give up their peculiar religious services altogether. "There is a class of people," as he says, "who cannot or will not attend divine worship on Saturdays, and who would be glad to come Sundays."

As it is, we are inclined to think that there is no other religious community here which is suffering more from modern tendencies toward unbelief than the Jewish. In the first place, our whole social and business arrangements take no account of their Sabbath. The day of rest is the first day of the week, while Saturday is one of great importance in all financial and commercial establishments. The Jews can only observe that day as a Sabbath by the sacrifice of their material interests or by dodging moral responsibility for breaking its sacredness, according to their religion, in ways which are morally injurious and really indefensible.

Again, a very large number of intelligent Jews make no pretence of believing in the efficacy of the rites and ceremonies of their faith. They look on them as superstitious, and violate the ancient regulations without a qualm of conscience. They are neither Jews nor Christians in faith, but are out-and-out materialists, pagans, with no religious predilections whatever. This is especially the case among young and well-to-do men of the race, who are no more likely to enter a synagogue than a church, and think no more of observing Saturday than of observing Sunday as a religious day.

Probably Rabbi GOTTHEIL hopes by opening the magnificent Temple Emanuel on Sunday to draw to that house of worship some of these careless or recreant Jews.

The Morals of a Long Island Village.

A very curious example of contemporary morals is afforded on Long Island, where of late years we have seen so many strange social manifestations.

The wife of a parson ran off with a married deacon of his church. It seems, according to her story, that the deacon promised to give her a comfortable home in the South. Instead of doing that, however, he soon returned to his own wife, and begged and obtained her forgiveness, probably on the ground that he had been a victim to the wiles of a wicked woman.

Thereupon the parson's wife also returned, and was apparently ready to be taken back by her husband; but, being of a less forgiving disposition, he talked rather of divorce, for which he had good grounds. Thus, while the guilty man escaped unpunished, and again enjoyed the blessings of his home, the guilty woman was left out in the cold.

It seems that another deacon of the church, a common friend of all the parties, was instrumental in bringing back the eloping deacon to the arms of his generous spouse. He also would have rendered a like service to the parson and his unfaithful wife, but the parson refused to listen to his appeals, and would not abandon his purpose to proceed with his divorce suit.

At this stage of affairs, while the returned deacon was basking in the sunshine of the family he had so lately deserted, the young men of the village appeared before his dwelling at night, and gave him a tin-pan concert. Some of them, we are told, carried guns, and, fearing bodily harm, the deacon escaped, and ran, no one knows where.

The case is further complicated by the conduct and declarations of the parson's wife. She seems to maintain a bold front, and is gaining the sympathy of the villagers by asserting that she was the guileless victim of the deacon's seductions. She describes him as a very bad man, who not only used all his arts during two years to get her to elope with him, but was also guilty of the basest ingratitude after they had run away. Instead of giving her the comfortable Southern home he had promised her, and which he had used as a bait to catch her, the wicked man listened to the remonstrances of the peacemaking deacon, and, abandoning her, went back to obtain the forgiveness of the wife he had insulted and forsaken.

And what is the sequel? The village opinion has turned in favor of the parson's wife, who has become quite a local heroine. Sympathy goes out to her rather than to the parson, to whom she played false, for she now charges him with not always behaving as a "Christian husband" should have done. As to the peacemaking deacon, he is looked on with general contempt, and is in such bad repute that he may be compelled to leave the place. Yet we doubt not that he was a well-meaning man; only he did not know enough to avoid interference with the matrimonial affairs of his neighbors.

Altogether it is a very extraordinary case; and the most extraordinary part of it is that the moral obliquity and mercenary motives of the woman who abandoned her husband and children to run off with another man, do not seem to engage the attention of the rural community—to say nothing of provoking its reprobation.

A Great Scandal Averted.

It is perfectly natural that Mr. GEORGE JONES, who collected $250,000 to form a fund for the benefit of Gen. GRANT, should regard the latter's present misfortunes with special feeling. He sympathizes with Gen. GRANT, not merely as with an intimate friend, but as with one to whom he has rendered extraordinary and material assistance. But that is no reason why Mr. JONES should single out Mr. FERDINAND G. WARD, formerly the active member of GRANT & WARD, as the original and only source of the calamities of that unfortunate firm. Mr. JONES is reported as saying on Sunday night:

"The ruin that that rascal WARD has brought upon the General's household and his relatives is simply awful. He deserves to be crucified for it."

Certainly WARD has shown himself one of the most audacious swindlers yet known. But the whole theory of his curious business was that it was a swindle. There could be no doubt about that. Everybody who went into it by lending GRANT & WARD a dollar, did so because they imagined that the firm was growing rich through contracts with the Federal Government, whose enormous profits afforded a manifest disproof of their honesty. All the participants in the temporary profits of GRANT & WARD thought they were getting the better of the Government, although, in fact, they were the miserable dupes of a most astounding scamp.

The career of GRANT & WARD has ended with some results that many men would have paid money out of their pockets to prevent. But it is much better that it should have thus ended than that all WARD'S professions about the nature of his business should have been true, and that the unhappy losers by his visionary schemes should actually and dishonestly have fattened off the Government.

However people may look upon the developments of GRANT & WARD'S affairs, there is cause for unquestionable rejoicing that the public scandal which was implied in that firm's representations to its customers never had any real existence.

The Latest Injunction Against the Aldermen.

We understand that the injunction against the Board of Aldermen granted yesterday by Judge MILES BEACH of the Court of Common Pleas is based upon the "act for the protection of taxpayers," passed in 1881, which provides that any taxpayer whose assessment amounts to $1,000 may maintain a suit against "all officers, agents, Commissioners, and other persons acting for and on behalf of any county, town, village, or municipal corporation in this State," to prevent any illegal official act on the part of such officers.

The illegal act which the plaintiffs seek to prevent in the present case is the confirmation of a person nominated to office by the Mayor, pursuant to an alleged agreement by the Mayor to vote in a certain way as Aqueduct Commissioner if two Aldermen could be induced to vote to confirm this particular nomination.

Whether the statute of 1881 was intended to apply to the Board of Aldermen of a city, and to such action as this on their part, is an open question, we believe, so far as the courts are concerned. It may plausibly be argued that the act in terms embraces such a case, whatever the Legislature which passed it may have had in view, and that this affords a basis in law for the injunction by Judge BEACH.

We shall be very glad, however, to find that the allegations of fact against Mayor EDSON, upon which the proceeding ultimately depends, have originated in some error and cannot be maintained.

The Assistant District Attorneys.

Mr. RANDOLPH B. MARTINE, whose political services to the County Democracy were rewarded at the recent election by making him District Attorney of this county, yesterday announced the following appointments in his office:

Assistant District Attorneys—Col. JOHN R. FELLOWS, ex-Judge GUSTAVE S. REDMOND, and DE LANCEY NICOLL.
Deputy Assistants—Mr. JAMES FITZGERALD and JEROME M. DAVIS.
Recognizance Clerk and Secretary—WILLIAM M. FEGAN.

Col. FELLOWS is an experienced prosecutor and popular political orator. He has a manly presence and a good voice, and plays a beautiful game of billiards. Mr. REDMOND has the advantage of the experience derived from one term of service on the bench of the Court of General Sessions, during which he acted more like a prosecutor than a Judge. Consequently there may be some reason for hoping that he will find his place in this new office; and he goes into it with our best wishes and all the compliments of the season. Mr. DE LANCEY NICOLL is a gentleman and a scholar, and if not yet versed in all the intricacies of the criminal law, he will doubtless soon become so. He understands Queens county politics very thoroughly.

So much for the Assistants. Of the Deputy Assistants we know only Senator FITZGERALD, who has held the same position under District Attorney OLNEY, and discharged his duties satisfactorily.

Mr. MARTINE might have done much worse.

Mr. TITUS SHEARD has emerged from the depths of Herkimer to assist the Hon. WOOD PULP MILLER in electing a Speaker of the Assembly and a Senator in Congress. It might be well for all the candidates for the Speakership to keep SHEARD in their minds as the exemplar of most of the qualities by which a Speaker can make himself unpopular. Whoever the successful candidate for Speaker may be, it is to be hoped that he will have the manners of a gentleman in his intercourse with the Assembly, and not the manners of TITUS SHEARD.

Mr. L. Z LEITER, the rich Chicago man who occupies Mr. BLAINE'S house in Washington, has been said to aspire to political as well as to social distinction, and some imaginative writers have even asserted that he is one of the several hundred thousand Americans who would take a place by request in Mr. CLEVELAND'S Cabinet. The important news is now published that Mr. LEITER did not, as has been charged, illuminate his house, or rather Mr. BLAINE'S house, on the evening of the Democratic celebration in Washington. Mr. LEITER is thus acquitted of bad taste, and the world can move on happily to the glad new year.

The Currency of the Future.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a former communication containing a proposition to organize an Issue Department in the Government Treasury, from which all notes permitted to circulate as currency should emanate, it was proposed to limit these issues to $750,000,000—$500,000,000 against mercantile bonds to be provided, and $250,000,000 against gold.

As America is a growing country, increasing from year to year in wealth and commerce, the volume of its currency would naturally increase also. If now the Government would give to every citizen the right to demand United States notes to the full amount or value of all the gold he might bring to the Treasury for that purpose, and gold to be held in the Treasury Issue Department for redemption purposes, and not permitted to leave it for any other purpose, the probabilities are that in a comparatively brief period our paper circulation would increase from $750,000,000 to $1,000,000,000, in which case there would be 50 per cent. in gold and 50 per cent. in bonds for every dollar of notes in circulation.

There would then be no other limit to the volume of paper than the volume of metallic currency that would naturally circulate in the country and that the convenience of the community would require.

If, in addition to what has already been said, it should be thought desirable or beneficial to increase the volume of fiduciary issues from time to time, it might be done.

M.

THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS.

Why None of Them Attains as Large a Circulation as The Sun.

ROME, Dec. 9.—The new year will see some new papers in Rome. One of them will be very large, and will have a noisy title, *Il Nabab*. It will be edited by Sig. Sommaruga, a man who has obtained a large fortune lately by printing volumes of an unscrupulous character. He is the editor who keeps in his pay Prof. Sbarbaro, the editor of the notorious *Fanfulla Cauduna*, which, by the way, grows more and more in importance on account of the continual seizure of its numbers by the police.

This new paper, *Il Nabab*, promises to be independent. But that is the old story of every paper that comes into journalistic life in Italy and, unhappily, it is always incorrect.

Papers here have not such a prospect of success as to make their political and financial independence possible. They can live only by the support of a party or by the scandals which they raise. Neither great talents nor great capital are ever invested in journalistic enterprises in Italy. Papers like the English or American newspapers are not possible in Italy. There are too many centres of intellectual and economical life in this country, Milan, Venice, Modena, Florence, Naples, Palermo, have their own ways of thinking and their own papers, and would never be satisfied with a paper printed in Rome.

Rome, with its 300,000 inhabitants, has about thirty daily papers and more than a hundred weekly papers. Considering how this population is split up politically, and what a variety of tastes exists among them, no success for an independent newspaper is *a priori* possible.

The greatest success is the penny paper called *Il Messaggero*, which prints about 30,000 copies a day. The largest part of it is a detailed description of daily events sensationally exaggerated, with murders, suicides, fights, and so on. It is the daily food of the coachmen and servant girls. The most important paper is the *Popolo Romano*, owned and edited by a self-made man, who, from the lowest ranks of the army, has raised himself to intimacy with Signor Depretis, whose confidant and friend he has become. He was also the confidant of Cardinal Antonelli. In the former days of the Italian rule in Rome he boldly attacked the Government. Having made much money, his paper now aims at respectability. The terrible Prof. Sbarbaro, however, calls the *Popolo Romano* the *Pasquale Raffaele*, meaning that it is always the middleman between the chatting Government official and the poor taxpayers. The *Popolo Romano* is, of course, not independent, but draws largely on public money. Hence the paper is well supplied with its own telegrams, and is *en rapport* with all official information coming from the foreign office of the Consulta Palace. With it belong to the Monarchical party *l'Opinione*, the *Fanfulla*, the *Diritto*, the *Liberta*, the *Stampa*, and the *Gazzetta d'Italia*. *L'Opinione* and the *Diritto* are the oldest, and came from Turin, where they were started early in the beginning of the Italian movement. The second one is the organ of Signor Mancini, and is published by the firm of Civelli, printers and paper makers, of Milan and Turin. The *Fanfulla* was born in Florence when that city became the capital of Italy. It is a stanch royalist and worships Queen Margaret more than the Madonna, and is losing its head over the red coats of the servants of King Humbert's house. The *Gazzetta d'Italia* is edited by the most talented man of Italian journalism, Advocate Pancrazi. He has raised all the young men who write for the press in Rome nowadays. Engaged in a deadly struggle with Minister Nicotera, its editor came out badly bruised, financially, and lost much of the importance which can be gained only by sufficient cooperation with the Government, liberally remunerated. The *Gazzetta d'Italia*, properly managed, would become again, as it was in former days, an independent paper and the best in Italy.

The opposition in Parliament has its organs, the *Tribuna*, the *Capitan Fracassa*, and the *Berzagliere*. These have small circulation, only the *Capitan Fracassa*, being cleverly edited, is rather funny, and sometimes a little obscene.

The Radicals have the *Capitale*, the *Fascio*, and the *Messagero Illustrato*. They do not shrink from daily attacking the Pope and the King. The *Capitale* has among its editors all the most noted adversaries of the Roman Church, and has a column wherein the so-called scandals of the Popes of yore and modern monks and nuns are daily retailed.

The Clerical press has in Rome the *Osservatore Romano*, the official organ, the *Journal de Rome*, the *Monitore de Roma*, semi-official, the gallant *Voce della Verita*, established by Father Curci, the most read and the most solid of all, and the penny newspaper called *Il Mattino*, which is a sort of *Messagero* baptized and in decent attire.

The last paper that has appeared is the organ of the young Catholics, led by Paolo Borghese and Marquis Terraiolo, and it will try to settle the Roman question. The new paper will be called *Pace* (peace). The authors are smart, but too easily intimidated, and have proved too ingenuous in their attempts at writing in the *Rassegna Italiana*.

This latter paper and the new *Pace* are the only ones that are not supported by Leo XIII. The others are obliged, more or less, to apply for help. The *Monitore* and the *Mattino*, though both inferior to the *Voce*, are entirely dependent upon the Vatican money.

A Republican's Opinion of Holman.

From the Brooklyn Times.

If the President-elect should select Holman of Indiana for his Secretary of the Interior he will make a ten strike, and Republicans as well as Democrats will be compelled to acknowledge it. There is not a man in the United States who can compare with Holman in qualifications for that position. There is not a man of affairs in the Government who, in the interest of economy, efficiency, and honesty could not be better spared from the public service than Judge Holman. This is strong language from a Republican, but it is no less true than strong. Firm and uncompromising as Judge Holman has always been in his Democratic opinions, he has yet compelled from friend and foe alike admiration for his vigilance, his integrity, and his devotion to the real interests of the people. He is better posted in public affairs particularly such as come under the jurisdiction of the Interior and Treasury Departments, than any man who has been in public life for forty years. He has never thought it beneath him to watch and stop the little leaks in the Treasury, no matter whether the small streams leading therefrom found their way to the mouths of friend or enemy.

The Rings would not favor Holman in any department. To many even of his own party any other man would be preferable. He is the Cerberus of the Treasury, and has saved the people hundreds of millions of dollars. If Cleveland is the stern and inflexible guardian of public trust, as many Democrats and Independents would have us believe before the election, then is Holman, of all others, his coadjutor, a fact of which the President-elect cannot long be kept in ignorance.

If Holman ever gets hold of the Interior Department, look out for squalls. The big sharks and small suckers will alike suffer. If there is any truth in the stories of gross mismanagement of the General Land Office and Pension Bureau, it is bound to see the light, and all good citizens will rejoice thereat.

Randall said ten years ago that the people could better afford to lose from their service any other man of any party than Holman. In this he is sustained by many public men who are capable of rising above personal preferences or prejudices. The amount of information as to small details in legislation which Holman has always at command is wonderful. This is due to his long service in Congress, his old-fashioned industry, and his phenomenal memory. He is an encyclopedia of political facts. It would be a glorious thing for the country if it had more such men in Congress, no matter of what party. Dakota has no voice in Federal affairs—not much in anything—but she, like all Territories having large bodies of public land, has a deep interest in the honesty, capacity, and efficiency of the Secretary of the Interior.

John P. St. John Defended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Please allow me, through your paper, to do what I have delayed doing, in hopes that other parties more vitally interested would save me the trouble. The statement was recently sent out from Washington that the Republican National Committee offered the Hon. John P. St John $15,000 if he would withdraw from the field during the recent Presidential campaign, and that the Democrats bid $50,000, and he accepted it and remained a candidate. Every member of the National Republican and National Democratic Committees knows the statement to be a lie without the shadow of a foundation.

The person who states that John P. St John received any money either directly or indirectly from the Republican or Democratic Committee, either ignorantly or wilfully lies, and I challenge any person to produce any proof to sustain the cowardly political slander. If money was paid by either Democratic or Republican Committees to any Prohibitionist for services rendered, it was paid to those who wrote letters to break down the St. John movement, not to those who were working to break down both the old parties, and I hope when politicians get through lying about the Prohibition party they will tell the truth about what they paid certain persons to do to induce Prohibitionists not to vote for St. John. All this talk about the Prohibition party being the ally of the Democratic or Republican party is nonsense, and persons who make such statements must produce their proof or stand branded as liars.

The Prohibition party is organized to destroy the liquor traffic. Its vote from 150,000 last year will, this year, double, and in 1886, it will reach 2,000,000. The Prohibition movement will not cease until the evil which brought it into existence, the liquor traffic, is destroyed.

JOHN P. FINNEY, Chairman National Committee.
LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 29.

The Praise of the Sun—How They Think It May be Gained.

From the New Haven Register.

If the President-elect will only ride to the Capitol on a horse, alight at the Capitol steps tie his quadruped to a plain Democratic stump of a tree, take his oath in a simple way, and then return to the White House to dine off a dish of corned beef and cabbage, we are convinced that the simplicity of the whole affair will capture the heart of the old man, and call forth his most vigorous support of the ex-sheriff of Erie county.

MR. O'REILLY'S HOLIDAY VISITOR.

The Visit to Front Street—A Business Man Astounded—Paying an Old Debt.

Mr. Charles O'Reilly, senior partner in the ancient firm of Miles O'Reilly's Son & Co., liquor dealers, sat in his arm chair, near a warm stove, in his office in Front street, on Monday afternoon. He wore a faded jumper, and he was sucking the stem of a briar wood pipe, black with age. There was a ruddy glow on his face and an inquiring light in his blue eyes when a stranger entered and inquired for his father.

Mr. O'Reilly took the pipe from his mouth in amazement. "Why, my good sir," he said, "my father's been dead for years. There's his picture there hanging up behind the stove."

"Well, I owe the firm a little money," the stranger said, "and I want to pay it. I wish you would look at the books and see how much it is." He gazed long and earnestly at the old man's photograph, and added: "Yes, that's him." Then, suddenly changing the subject, "I want to go to Brooklyn," he continued. "Is the Bridge Street Ferry running yet?"

Mr. O'Reilly still sat in his chair, pipe in hand, as though dazed. "Why, my good fellow," he drawled, "the Bridge Street Ferry stopped running twelve or fifteen years ago."

"Then I suppose I'll have to take the Fulton Ferry," the stranger remarked. "I owe Howe & Fuller, the Brooklyn brewers, a little bill, and I want to pay them. Look up my bill while I am gone, and I'll stop in on my way back and pay you."

He gave his name and departed. Mr. O'Reilly finished his pipe and began to overhaul his ledgers. He was an hour at the work. He found the name at last as far back as 1866. The man owed the firm $201.75.

At 2 o'clock the stranger reappeared, and drew a well-filled wallet from his breast pocket. "How much is it?" he asked.

Mr. O'Reilly told him, and he planked down the money. "But, my good fellow, don't you know the debt's outlawed three times over?" asked Mr. O'Reilly, as he returned thirty cents change.

"That makes no difference," the stranger replied; "I always strive to pay what I owe. I'm sorry I wasn't able to pay it before. It kept me awake nights."

"By golly, you are a gentleman!" Mr. O'Reilly exclaimed, heartily grasping his hand. "You'll take a drink with me?"

"I thank you, but I never drink," the stranger answered. He accepted a cigar, however, folded his receipt and disappeared.

GEORGIA'S MINERAL WEALTH.

Rich Gold Discoveries on Fort Mountain—Many Mines in Operation.

DALONEGA, Ga., Dec. 28.—The wonderful revelations of gold on Fort Mountain, if they should be corroborated, will attract attention toward the mines of Georgia, unequalled since 1849. The Columbia, the Ivy, the Fish Trap, the Garnet, and the Chestate mines are now in operation.

The story of gold mining in Georgia is one of peculiar interest. Gold was first discovered in Cherokee purchase, within three miles of Dahlonega, in 1829, by Benjamin Parks, who now lives in that neighborhood. This and other discoveries led to a rush of people to that place. After the territory was surveyed and drawn for by lottery and settled up by an intelligent population, it was discovered that other valuable metals and minerals extended over a large area from Alabama to North Carolina. It is a settled fact that gold, silver, copper, nickel, mica, corundum, marble, granite, soapstone, slate, manganese, and stone coal exist in large quantities. In many localities iron, coal, and marble are extensively mined. The granite and marble quarries are extensive. The copper and nickel belts extend from North Carolina to Alabama, and have been partially developed.

Gold veins and deposits have been found principally in the northeastern part of the State, and are worked extensively in the counties of Union, White, Lumpkin, Dawson, and Cherokee. Many hundreds of thousands of dollars are invested in mines and fixtures. Many of the mines are yielding a large profit on the capital invested. Within a radius of seven miles around Dahlonega there are now in running order twenty gold quartz crushing mills, with an aggregate number of 400 stamps, with capital invested in land, machinery, and apparatus of over $400,000. A movement is now on foot to secure the establishment of the United States Mint here.

AT LAW OVER THEIR CHILDREN.

The Quarrel that Separated Mr. Reynolds from his Wealthy Wife.

ELMIRA, Dec. 30.—The case of Mrs. S. T. Reynolds against her husband, which has excited much attention for months, was decided to-day by Surrogate Dexter. The action was for the custody of two children under 14 years of age, a third child, over 14, having chosen her mother as her guardian. S. T. Reynolds, the defendant, married Mrs. Stancliff, a very wealthy widow, over fifteen years ago. She was a daughter of Dr. Eldridge, a member of the old Fisk-Gould combination. After the marriage he became manager of the estate, and so continued till six months ago, when family trouble arose between them and a separation took place.

Immediately after the separation Reynolds went to Chicago, where he remained a short time. Upon returning to Elmira he was permitted by his wife to see his children only at specified hours at her mansion on Lake street, which cost, with its furnishings, $200,000. On one of these visits the father became greatly agitated while caressing his children, and spoke of taking them away. This prompted Mrs. Reynolds to apply to the court to be appointed guardian of the children.

The hearing has been carefully and patiently conducted. The decision appoints Mrs. Reynolds guardian of the estates of the children and inasmuch as the elder of the two children will in a few months arrive at the legal age for choosing a general guardian, the question of the guardianship of the children is for a time withheld.

The Lines Attributed to Dr. Darling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your recent notice of the death of Prof. William Darling it is stated that "while in London the professors of the Royal College found a roll of manuscript in the orbital cavity of a young woman's skull. They offered £50 reward for the name of the author of the poem it contained. He wrote it. Will not THE SUN republish it?"

The verses are very clever, but I had no idea the authorship could be ascribed to the enthusiastic old anatomist of the University Medical College.

DANSVILLE, N. Y., Dec. 29. MEDICUS.

LINES ON A SKELETON.

Behold this ruin! 'Twas a skull
Once of ethereal spirit full!
This narrow cell was life's retreat;
This space was thought's mysterious seat;
What beauteous pictures filled this spot—
What dreams of pleasure long forgot!
Nor love, nor joy, nor hope, nor fear,
Has left one trace of record here.

Beneath this mouldering canopy
Once shone the bright and busy eye;
But start not at the dismal void,
If social love that eye employed,
If with no lawless fire it gleamed,
But through the dew of kindness beamed,
That eye shall be forever bright
When stars and suns have lost their light.

Here, in this silent cavern, hung
The ready, swift, and tuneful tongue;
If falsehood's hollow it disdained,
And, where it could not praise, was chained,
If bold in virtue's cause it spoke,
Yet gentle concord never broke,
This tuneful tongue shall plead for thee
When death and time are eternity.

Say, did these fingers delve the mine,
Or with its envied rubies shine?
To hew the rock or wear the gem
Can nothing now avail to them;
But if the page of truth they sought,
Or comfort to the mourner brought,
These hands a richer meed shall claim
Than all that waits on wealth or fame.

Avails it whether bare or shod
These feet the path of duty trod?
If from the towers of joy they fled
To soothe affliction's humble bed,
If grandeur's guilty bribe they spurned,
And home to virtue's fair returned,
Those feet with angel's wings shall vie,
And tread the palace of the sky.

Olive Trees in the United States.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*