The Sun.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1886.

**Amusements To-day.**

Academy of Music—Concert. 8:15 P. M.
Bijou Opera House—Adonis. 8 P. M.
Casino—Amelia. 8 P. M.
Comedy Theatre—Kellar. 8 P. M.
Daly's Theatre—A Night Off. 8 P. M.
Grand Opera House—Pete McKadick. 8 P. M.
Harrigan's Park Theatre—The Grip. 8 P. M.
Keeler & Hart's—Another Nikado. 8 P. M.
Lyceum Theatre—One of Our Girls. 8 P. M.
Madison Square Garden—Japanese Village.
Madison Square Theatre—Saints and Sinners. 1:30 P. M.
Niblo's Garden—The Ritcatcher. 8 P. M.
People's Theatre—The Wages of Sin. 8 P. M.
Star Theatre—Mary Stuart. 8 P. M.
Standard Theatre—Christmas Pantomime. 8 P. M.
Thalia Theatre—Frau Directorin Strious. 8 P. M.
Tony Pastor's—Variety. 2 and 8 P. M.
Union Square Theatre—Less the Forsaken. 8 P. M.
Wallack's Theatre—Hoodman Blind. 8 P. M.
3d Avenue Theatre—Nobody's Claim. 8 P. M.
5th Avenue Theatre—Nikado. 8 P. M.
24th Street Theatre—Evangeline. 8 P. M.

**Advertising Rates.**

DAILY AND SUNDAY, 40 cents a line, ordinary advertising; large type, 80 cents; and preferred positions, 50 cents to $2.50, according to classification.

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

**Subscription by Mail—Post Paid.**

| | |
|---|---|
| DAILY, Per Month | $0 50 |
| DAILY, Per Year | 6 00 |
| SUNDAY, Per Year | 1 50 |
| DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year | 7 00 |
| WEEKLY, Per Year | 1 00 |

THE SUN, New York City.

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

## Prophetic Politics.

There is much harmless speculation among our esteemed contemporaries about President CLEVELAND'S wishes and prospects as to getting another term. Some are sure that he wants it, others equally sure that he does not want it, and still others inform him rather impertinently that, whether he wants it or not, it is not written in the book of fate that he can have it.

It is the way of Presidents, even before they are well settled in their seats, to ponder how they may climb up again, and there are always plenty of sincere friends and accommodating admirers ready to persuade them, if any persuasion they need, that their renomination is as easy as lying and as sure as death. Yet there have been Presidents who have not been renominated, and there will be more; and Mr. CLEVELAND is not easily persuaded. That he bothers his head much about the matter may well be doubted. He is too busy to have much time for useless speculation; and, besides, he has reason to be a fatalist in politics, and to believe that whatever more, if any more, is to come to him, will come without any trouble on his part beyond showing reasonable favor to his personal friends and reasonable disfavor to those who have opposed him.

As for the Democrats who thus early in his first term are giving themselves uneasiness about his second, it would be much more profitable for them to accommodate themselves to the solid and palpable fact that he is now President of the United States, and without proxies or assistants. He is boss of his Administration, and everything in his character and his antecedents indicates that he will keep on in his own way as long as it lasts. He may or may not want a second term, but he has got the first one, and he will use it industriously, conscientiously, stubbornly, not always wisely, not always as the Democracy would like, not always for the good of the Democracy, but always according to his own notions. These notions were perfectly well known when he was nominated and elected, and nobody has any right to complain of them now.

## Silver Miners and the Silver Standard.

The absurd pretence that the only persons who have any interest in the establishment of the silver standard or can derive any benefit from it are the owners of silver mines, is gravely put forward by the *New York Times* as an undisputed fact, and THE SUN, because of its advocacy of silver money, is charged by the *Times* with being "the organ of the silver mine owning interest."

This is quite of a piece with the other favorite fiction of the *Times* that THE SUN is controlled by JAY GOULD, and, like it, is utterly destitute of foundation. We know very well how difficult it is for the proprietor of the *Times* to comprehend that a newspaper should adopt a course solely because it is right, and not for personal advantage, but our readers will, we trust, believe us when we say that nobody connected with THE SUN has any share in the profits or the losses of silver mines, and that it is in no manner the organ of their owners.

Whatever we have said in behalf of silver money has been from honest conviction and directly against our own pecuniary interest. We know very well that the establishment of the silver standard, besides being unpopular with creditors and bondholders, will lead to higher prices for paper and other supplies, higher wages for our employees, and no larger returns from sales and subscriptions. But we also know that it is demanded by justice and good policy, and will in the end promote the prosperity of the country. We have therefore faithfully presented the arguments in its favor, and have defended it from unfounded censure. If the country shall ultimately decide against it, we shall cheerfully acquiesce in the decision and accept the resulting benefit to our cash account; but in the meanwhile we shall do our duty regardless of consequences.

As to the pretended influence of the silver mine owners in Congress and elsewhere, it is sufficient to say that the only large silver-producing States in the Union are Colorado and Nevada. The number of votes which these two States cast in the House of Representatives is just two, and no more, out of a total of 325. The latest canvass of the House shows that 195 members are in favor of silver money. Of these, besides the two from the silver-producing States, 193 come from Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and other States which produce no silver whatever. The assertion that these 193 members are governed in their voting by the silver mine owners, and that the people whom they represent are under a like influence, is too ridiculous to need refutation.

Besides this, the issue between silver and gold, as we have often said before, is one between debtors and creditors, and silver miners have comparatively a small stake in it. Their interest amounts only to the profit upon $40,000,000 of silver a year, whereas the debtors are contending for the right, which has been theirs by the law of the land for nearly a century, except during the brief interval from 1873 to 1878, of paying some $10,000,000,000 of debts in silver dollars. The creditors demand the abolition of this privilege and seek to compel the debtors to pay them in gold or its equivalent. The gold dollar, measured in the products of human industry, is worth one-quarter more than it was when the $10,000,000,000 of existing debts were contracted, and the struggle is therefore, on the one hand, to avoid giving the additional quarter, amounting to $2,500,000,000, and on the other to get it. Our sense of justice and our sympathies are with the debtors, and we shall continue to defend their cause until the contest is decided.

## The Radicals Gain Ground in France.

We have the Radical chief's word for it that M. CLEMENCEAU was invited to assist by his advice in framing the new French Cabinet, that two of its members, M. LOCKROY and M. GOBLET, owe their places to him, and that with respect to certain proposed appointments his veto was deferred to. M. CLEMENCEAU in return promises that the Government, for the first time since the founding of the third republic, shall have the support of the Extreme Left. The former Irreconcilables are at last, then, apparently propitiated, the non-compromisers have made terms, and M. BRISSON, finding himself forestalled in his intended rôle of mediator, is forced to smother for the moment his grudge against M. DE FREYCINET and to disavow any purpose of opposing the new Ministry.

From the moment that the distribution of forces in the newly chosen Chamber was known it became clear that an early gravitation of power from the moderate toward the radical section of the shrunk Republican majority could only be averted by a dissolution of Parliament and a fresh appeal to the people. The last-named alternative was one which no firm friend of free institutions could contemplate without misgiving, in view of the recent signs of a reaction toward some monarchical form of government. It was, therefore, indispensable, in a Chamber of some 560 seats, to conciliate the 100 members of the Extreme Left, who otherwise, by a transient coalition with the Conservatives, numbering more than 200, might any hour overthrow the Ministry for the time being. There was reason, indeed, to expect that even before the meeting of the new Chamber the BRISSON Cabinet would have been adjusted to the imperative claims of the Radicals, and this, no doubt, would have been done, had not M. CLEMENCEAU assumed a bearing so arrogant and dictatorial that the moderate leaders were disposed to exhaust every expedient before invoking his assistance.

But the logic of votes proved quite as imperious as the deportment of M. CLEMENCEAU, and after the division on the report of the Tonquin Commission every one recognized that no Ministry would have a chance of life unless it secured toleration from the Right or coöperation from the Extreme Left. So far as convictions are concerned, it was, no doubt, a toss up whether M. DE FREYCINET would look for countenance in one direction or in the other, for his whole career in office shows that he has yet to see the politician whom he cannot agree with. Beginning as a humble protégé of GAMBETTA, he managed, by a well-timed betrayal of his patron, to climb to the Premiership on the wreck of the *Grand Ministère*, then, during the long FERRY régime, drifted further and further toward conservative opinions until he was popularly classed with such men as LEON SAY and WADDINGTON, in the Left Centre, who, like JULES SIMON, in the Senate, are but one degree removed from the outspoken Orleanists. It was the influence of such men that M. DE FREYCINET was supposed to insure to the late Cabinet, while M. BRISSON imagined that he himself would be regarded by the Radicals as their most natural ally. What must now be the latter's stupefaction to see himself left out in the cold, and the very man whose conservatism was deemed an insuperable bar to concessions to the Radicals submitting with humility to the large exactions of CLEMENCEAU.

The Extreme Left will not be satisfied with dictating the appointment of two members of the Cabinet. Its leaders will violate their pledges to their constituents and lose their hold upon Paris, Marseilles, Lyons, and other great hives of the artisan population unless they force upon a Ministry for which they are partly responsible compliance with some important requisitions of their programme. M. CLEMENCEAU, for instance, is committed to the total evacuation of Annam, but the money saved to France by such a step he will be bound to advocate spending in another way. He has told the voters that it is the duty of the Government to find work for those citizens who are willing to labor, but during the late depression of industry have been unemployed. It is a significant innovation that the Radical M. LOCKROY, the son-in-law of VICTOR HUGO, is made Minister of Industry as well as Commerce. How much influence is imputed to CLEMENCEAU may also be inferred from the rumored intention of M. GREVY to pardon the imprisoned anarchists.

Of course the FREYCINET Cabinet will fail to satisfy the Jacobin and Socialistic voters who have returned the members of the Extreme Left. But M. CLEMENCEAU may be able to clear himself from blame by pointing out that he is not Premier, and that his friends are but a feeble minority of the present Ministry. He is likely to grow stronger rather than weaker by the measure of recognition bestowed on him, for the more progressive section of the old Republican Union will tend to fusion with his friends. The combination effected by M. DE FREYCINET is, therefore, only a stop-gap; it may postpone, but cannot avert, the day when M. GREVY must choose between assenting to the domination of the present Chamber of Deputies by radical ideas and resorting to the dangerous expedient of dissolving Parliament.

## Two Massachusetts Addresses.

We have before us two official addresses from Massachusetts, one delivered by Governor ROBINSON before the Legislature, and the other by Mayor PARSONS of Gloucester before the Common Council of that town. Mr. ROBINSON was graduated from Harvard and Mr. PARSONS from the great University of Hard Work. Mr. ROBINSON writes stupidly, and knows no better than to say "in this connection." Mr. PARSONS writes not like a scholar, but like a man. His words have the relentless vigor of a nor'easter. The advance of school learning has spoiled originality in Massachusetts for the most part, but it lingers still about Cape Cod and Cape Ann. In this Gloucester Mayor we feel the bluntness, the honesty, the strong will, and patient courage of the fishermen, whom long struggle with poverty and the perils of the sea and the neglect of the Government have made into a race of iron. In short, PARSONS is a character, ROBINSON a most respectable figurehead, as tame as the tutelar codfish of the State House.

Let us get through with the Governor as soon as possible. He is a genuine Republican, and of course the expenditures of the State are increasing under his administration. We should think they might under his method of doing business. He sold certain bonds of the New York and New England Railroad for $94,492.50 less than was offered for them. Our esteemed contemporary, the *Boston Post*, naturally thinks that this matter ought to be investigated. The appointment of a Commission to determine the boundary line between New Hampshire and Massachusetts has averted all danger of war between them. Civil service reform is liked by those who like it, and Governor ROBINSON now thinks it safe to like it himself. The State prison is full. The management of the State hospitals, almshouse, workhouse, and reform schools is highly satisfactory to the Governor. We hope so. Certainly the Massachusetts people ought to remember Tewksbury; but if Gen. BUTLER had never been elected Governor, Tewksbury would have been covered up. So the truth cannot be told about the State institutions until another man not afraid to find it is found in Massachusetts. But enough of Mr. ROBINSON. We leave Chicopee for Gloucester.

The great question in the municipal politics of Gloucester has been, Who shall be City Marshal? On this question Mr. PARSONS has displayed a really Jacksonian heat and tenacity. One night last year he descended upon the Gloucester dives and arrested a lot of people. Most of them were found guilty, and the Mayor proceeded to kick City Marshal TARR out of office, having previously given him what is commonly called "a good dressing down." The Board of Aldermen put TARR back. The Mayor let them understand that they had got to confirm his man or nobody. They stuck by TARR. The Mayor insisted that there was no City Marshal, and acted as City Marshal himself. "By thunder," he thundered at the Board, "I will see what law there is in Massachusetts."

In his inaugural address he talks to the new Board of Aldermen as frankly as he had talked to their predecessors. He was still full of fight on the City Marshal question:

"As you know, the office of City Marshal is vacant, and I have been acting City Marshal since Dec. 21. If you consider I am qualified, I am willing to continue through 1886. If you do not confirm my man I shall continue to be City Marshal, and am ready to fill both positions for 1886 for $800. A burned child dreads the fire, and I don't know as there ever was a burned child any more than I have been, and if I continue as Marshal you will find there will be fire enough kindled. I propose to stand here as firm as the rocks of Gibraltar. I will live away to you on any other question, but never will on the City Marshal."

He didn't give way, but the Aldermen did. They saw that the Mayor was bound to have his man made City Marshal or continue to be City Marshal himself. They confirmed his man, who is said to be a Prohibitionist. The ANDREW JACKSON of Gloucester had conquered. That town has a City Marshal who means business, as well as a Mayor who appears to add to exceedingly vigorous expression exceeding vigor in carrying his policy into effect. This is going to be a bad year for evil doers and refractory Aldermen in Gloucester.

Truly, the Gloucester ANDREW JACKSON is a much more interesting personage than the Sweet Singer of Chicopee.

## Mr. New is Heard From.

What is the matter with the Hon. JOHN C. NEW, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under a Republican Administration? His able newspaper, the *Indianapolis Journal*, cannot speak of Secretary WHITNEY without a clonic spasm:

"For political reasons alone, and to manufacture a little cheap glory for the new Administration and the contemptible little upstart at the head of the Navy Department, the good name and business reputation of an old and honorable firm were assailed, they were driven into bankruptcy, hundreds of men thrown out of work, and a deadly stab given a most important American industry. If there were real, substantial, hearty honesty in the country, and not a miserable, flabby, spineless cant and mock, there would be an expression of indignation from every quarter that would drive Secretary WHITNEY from the place he has degraded and debased."

A vast majority of Republicans and Democrats agree in believing that Mr. WHITNEY'S course toward Mr. ROACH has been businesslike, just, and considerate. The expression of indignation which Mr. NEW so earnestly invokes does not come from every quarter, but only from Indianapolis, Concord, New Hampshire, and possibly a few other points. Even Camden, New Jersey, is silent.

We are afraid there is no escaping the melancholy conclusion to which Mr. NEW is forced. Real, substantial, hearty honesty of the old Robbersonian brand is hard to find nowadays. The miserable, flabby, spineless cant and mock that insists on administering the Navy Department in the interests of the taxpayers and in treating Government contractors on business principles has already gained a strong hold upon the popular imagination.

It will be a long time before the Hon. JOHN C. NEW'S almost unaided blast acquires volume enough to drive Mr. WHITNEY out of the office which Mr. NEW'S and Mr. ROACH'S old friend, SECOR ROBESON, once elevated and ennobled.

## Another Critic of the Press.

President CLEVELAND'S recent letter to the proprietor of *Puck*, in which he denounced the press at large and without qualification, suggests the story of the English tourist who met a red-haired Frenchman as he left the Dover boat at Calais pier, and at once entered in his diary the words, "All Frenchmen have red hair!"

Wholesale condemnation is rarely just, and sometimes it is ridiculous.

Another critic of the press has just arisen in the person of Mr. ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD of this city.

The *Christian Hour*, which describes itself as the Presbyterian organ for Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Dakota, Kansas, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, and New Mexico, is a very sensible religious weekly newspaper, published at Omaha and Denver, and its New York editor is the Rev. Dr. JOHN HALL of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

In a recent number of this journal we find a letter from Mr. ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD, written from Italy. Mr. SHEPARD is a private person, and there is no occasion to comment upon any of his acts, except so far as they have a public aspect. In the communication to which we refer, however, he courts publicity. "I wish you would publish this letter," he says to the editors. He encloses $15 to renew his subscription for ten years, and he advises others to imitate his example:

"Thus you will show a ribald secular press how Christians appreciate a public enterprise which leads people to pass with Christ's *Christian Hour*."

This reminds us of the wit displayed by the same gentleman some years ago in his address on the Voice of America, at the Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, where he suggested that A. M., instead of standing for Master of Arts, should stand for "A Million" given to that institution by the man whose name it bears.

What an absurdity it is for a critic who finds amusement in a play upon the words CHRIST and Christian Hour to talk about the secular press or anybody else as being ribald!

WHARTON BARKER of Philadelphia has hit the nail on the head when he advocates a commercial union with Canada. All North America should be combined in one Zollverein, and the beautiful isles of the Antilles should belong to it also. This is a great idea of the future, and the sooner it is realized the better.

The civilized nations on the other side of the water—and so far we with them—have adopted gold as a unit of value, because experience has shown it to be the most stable and convenient of available substances for that purpose.—*World.*

Experience has shown nothing of the kind. The record of prices demonstrates that gold fluctuates in value precisely like every other commodity which is subjected to variations of supply and demand. Its use as money rests upon its compactness, its divisibility, and its indestructibility. Just now it has, in addition to these qualities, a steadily increasing purchasing power which makes it a favorite with creditors.

What has become of the scheme for one or two lines of cable railroad between Harlem and down town and three or four lines at different places between the North River and the East? We hope it will not be allowed to sleep, for there is need of added and improved facilities of transit in this town. Really cheap cabs seem to be a practical impossibility here in New York, and a lot of cable roads—faster and more comfortable than horse railroads—would form a most important addition to our means of life and comfort.

Horses as a means of railroad traction in a great city are absurd. Let us see what the cables will do.

The labors of THE SUN in dissipating the groundless fear of a contraction of the currency and a consequent financial panic, as the result of the continued coinage of the silver dollar, have, we are glad to perceive, not been fruitless. We chronicled some time ago the conversion of the *New York Times* to our view of the matter, and now we find that learned financier HENRY CLEWS, whom President GRANT once thought of appointing Secretary of the Treasury, expressing himself in his last financial circular as follows:

"The public at large have little expectation that the coinage of the silver dollar will be suspended, or even curtailed, by any act of Congress at its present session. It would not be surprising if this anticipation proves to be needlessly hopeless; but, in any event, we are yet at some distance from the worst results of continuing the coinage, and it would be prudent to avoid too positive opinions as to the shape and extent of those results. While the current coinage is as bad in policy as it is in principle, yet it can do no good to underestimate the offsets against the mischief it threatens. We have now $580,000,000 of gold in the country. This is nearly three times our stock of silver, and nearly four times the amount upon which we undertook to resume specie payments in 1879. In striking contrast to this preponderance of gold in the United States, the reserves of the Bank of France consist of 69½ per cent. silver, and those of the Bank of Germany include 47 per cent. silver; and yet those countries find no difficulty in maintaining the gold standard of payments. Undoubtedly, the United States is in some respects less favorably situated than either of these nations for maintaining its money standard; but we are at the same time so much better situated than either in respect to our proportionate stocks of the precious metals that, while the situation calls for caution and preventive legislation, yet it cannot be regarded as a real occasion for immediate alarm."

Mr. CLEWS might have added that never in the history of finance has a transition from a dearer to a cheaper currency resulted in anything but a rise in prices and a consequent stimulus to enterprise and speculation.

Mr. VEST would make it a misdemeanor for any man to solicit office.—*Senate Report.*

Then make it a misdemeanor to offer any man an office, and a capital offence for any man to take office, and you will have your reform perfect.

There is an awful deal of infernal nonsense in this world, and it is not monopolized by the —— fools either.

By calling attention to the opposition against JOHN A. TIBBITTS as a Catholic, our Hartford correspondent would seem to have secured his election as Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. The right word at the right time often produces a powerful effect.

Fresh proofs continue to be given daily of the blessings which free trade and the gold standard have *not* conferred upon Great Britain. Among others, we find in the London *Times* of Dec. 31 the following:

"It appears to be generally understood that after the turn of the year there will be an extensive general reduction of wages in the various branches of the iron and engineering trades throughout the country. The continued slackness of trade and the extreme competition, not only from home but also from foreign manufacturers, are held to render such a course imperative; and it is considered reasonable to anticipate, as a result, that a larger share of orders and more general employment of workmen will be thus secured in these trades."

Yet Great Britain has no protective tariff, and suffers from no fear of the silver standard!

He was a life-long Democrat, and held many important public positions.—*Albany Argus.*

Why not say he held many offices? What is the use of these newfangled affectations and vulgarisms? Better stick to the English language as long as you pretend to employ it.

An old subscriber is pleased to say: "I have read the *Journal* for thirty years, and it was never more popular with all members of my family than to-day."—*Boston Journal.*

For the best of reasons: the *Journal* was never so good as it is to-day. Among the Republican papers of the country the *Boston Journal* justly stands prominent for ability, enterprise, accuracy, and the faculty of being always interesting to the public.

What does the *Commercial Advertiser* mean by "the lavish expenditures of the Silver Ring?" Who are the members of the Ring, any way?

### Troubles of a Fat Officeholder.

*From the Tribune.*

ALBANY, Jan. 10.—The best paid officer of the State is Dr. William M. Smith, the Health Officer of New York, whose income from the position is known to be between $75,000 and $100,000 yearly. That is a tax paid by the commerce of New York; in the opinion of many of its merchants an unnecessarily large tax to pay for the protection of the country from the importation of disease. They would reduce the fees of the Health Officer, transfer such as he receives to the State Treasury, and pay him a salary. When Dr. Smith was appointed Health Officer in 1880, there was general astonishment. He was then a practising physician in one of the counties smallest in population and wealth—Allegany county. His income must have been petty. It seemed as if Gov. Cornell had searched the State for an obscure man. But Dr. Smith was not obscure in Allegany county. This meagre man, clothed in black, with long black hair and beard and cadaverous face, was the most powerful Republican politician in Allegany county and in the neighboring counties. It was political skill that won him the office of Health Officer, and at one bound a fortune. His term was for two years only, but he has held on to the office now for nearly six years. The fact that the Governor is a Democrat and the Senate a Republican body gives Dr. Smith, as a Republican, an advantageous position. Hints are thrown out here, nevertheless, that he is likely to be displaced. A prominent Republican politician who was here last week said:

"The object of the majority of the Republican Senators in voting against the proposition to refer all the Governor's nominations to a caucus of the Republican Senators was to secure freedom of action if a successor to Health Officer Smith should be nominated. Although he has gained a fortune through the kindness of the Republican party, he did not contribute a penny toward paying the campaign expenses of the Republican State Committee last year. We therefore feel in no mood to protect him in his office. If a good Democrat should be nominated for the office, I would be in favor of confirming him. Before doing so, however, a bill should be passed reducing the fees of the office."

### The Hon. Tim Campbell in Washington.

*From the Brooklyn Eagle.*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The Hon. Tim Campbell of New York is rapidly acquiring notoriety in the national arena. Yesterday he went to the White House, and, after a conversation with Col. Lamont, he pointed to the President's private room and asked: "Dan, is his nibs in?" The remark was overheard by two or three gentlemen, and to-day it is the talk of the town.

*From the Evening Telegram.*

A funny-looking little Irishman sent in a dingy-looking card to Congressman Tim Campbell of New York in the House this morning. When the Hon. Tim appeared, the visitor, who was a native of the Emerald Isle, asked him to get him a place. Then the Hon. Tim sawed the air with his right hand and said:

"You are no constituent of mine. I know you, sir. You live in Jack Adams's district."

"No, I don't," replied the unwelcome visitor. "I live at 1 Pike street."

"Well," said the Hon. Tim, "you go back to Alderman Tommy Sheils and get a letter from him, and if he endorses you, then I will get you a place; but I want you to understand that I am a home ruler and am not helping outsiders. If I find out that any of you fellows are lying to me, I'll pound the life out of you."

The funny little man has started for New York.

### Two Extremes.

*From the Louisville Times.*

THE SUN is probably the only one of the metropolitan dailies that can lay claims to artistic makeup. The ideal of poor make-up and general ugliness is very nearly approached by the *Cincinnati Commercial Gazette*, which seems to revel in its uncouth appearance.

## LIFE IN TEXAS.

**A State So Cosmopolitan that the Governor's Message is Printed in Four Languages.**

HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 28.—This State differs so materially from her sisters that everything concerning her must be interesting. Vivid contrasts meet you on every side, arising from the varied elements of the population. Of course the English or Anglo-American race is predominant. The Germans are numerically second, the Spanish or Mexicans third, and the Bohemians fourth. So well represented are the three nationalities last named that the Governor's message and State laws are printed in four languages, in about this ratio: 30,000 copies in English, 10,000 copies in German, 5,000 each in Spanish and Bohemian. Hence four tongues are legally recognized and there are four distinct styles of living to be studied on the soil. Add to these the Dagoes, an entirely separate nationality. They are Italians and Minoreans, who are almost exclusively engaged in fishing and in the oyster and fruit trade. They make a strange jargon out of our vernacular, totally dissimilar, but quite as queer as the pigeon English of the Chinese. These last, sparsely represented, confine themselves to the occupation of laundering, with the exception of a few laborers on the railroads. Yet in spite of their small number, so rapidly does vice gain ground, their presence has worked evil, for in every large city of Texas the police have had to raid upon opium dens.

The Mexicans, scattered throughout the towns are thrifty and industrious, and generally quiet and well behaved. They can live on a mere pittance, and are contented as long as they can have their cigarettes and coffee. Many of them earn their living by making and selling "Tamales and Chile con carne," two modes of preparing meat which are appetizing in the extreme. They manufacture, too, a delicious candy—"nueces Dulces"—out of pecans and sugar, which they sell upon the streets and from door to door. Their homes and habits are rich in the picturesque, and would present some rare subjects for the painter's art. The old Dutch masters would have loved to perpetuate this scene: A low-roofed wooden shanty, a bare pine table, and long bench, on which sit three noted politicians, taking an evening lunch and concocting plans for the dear people's benefit. One is fair-skinned and ruddy-haired, showing his Irish blood; one a typical American, the third a French Canadian. Each has a steaming platter of "Chile con carne." Behind him stands the Mexican host—tall, dark, dignified, and grave, yet watchful. They are four perfectly contrasting types. Over them flicker the dim rays cast by an oil lamp, deepening the shadows, throwing half lights into the obscurity of the corners. A tiny hairless Mexican dog sits motionless on the door step, while the stars, written in both English and Spanish, swings creakingly above his head. Outside the darkness is pierced by long shafts of colored light that stream through the stained windows of the Jewish temple and by the pale glimmer of a lamp in the street car waiting at a switch.

Houston is an anomaly, even in Texas, for you hear no grumbling about taxes, while the people allow themselves to be governed by a doubtedly corrupt. They are a patient people, evidently, and an energetic one, too, when one as well. Buildings are being put up on every side, streets are being graded and paved, and sewers and curbings are being put down. So the city grows and spreads herself in territory, and she already covers a vast space.

This is the principal railroad centre of the State. The settlements along each of her ten lines present a different and distinct phase. One route gives you to perfection the negro element of the population. Another traverses the rich sugar lands, with all their interesting operations of sugar and syrup making. A third and fourth wend through a cattle country, sparsely settled, where the cowboy reigns supreme. Still another leads straight to the great cotton plantations of the Brazos, the centre of wealth and refinement before the war. Two more open up the timber lands, with their population like Canadians or Maine men than Southerners. Along another, the Central, are found thriving villages and towns differing little from those in other Western States. The International passes through a sandy pine woods country, settled in most part by Georgians, Alabamians, and Tennesseans, agriculturists all, leading lives about as hard and bare as do other new settlers on new lands.

On this road, about forty miles from Houston, a colony of enterprising Bostonians have located, laid off a town, sold the lots, and named it Centre. They expect to make this the most thriving place in the county, which is one of the oldest in the State and is thickly settled. As Centre really deserves its name, geographically, its inhabitants are trying to have the county seat removed there from its present site, and they have a most excellent show for success. So much for New England push.

The Sunset road invites us, but before leaving Houston it will be well to say a word as to its appearance. Its people love to call it a city, and such it should be, with its many railroads, much wealth, and 35,000 inhabitants; but its appearance is very much that of an overgrown country village. It covers much ground, but is straggingly built. Shanties and fine dwellings stand side by side. The best paved streets lack crossings, and the need of a cleaning brigade is deplorably apparent. It has no parks, no public squares, no pleasure grounds, no drives, a want that might be supplied by some of its wealthy citizens if they were only sufficiently public spirited. The principal business part of the town is disfigured by swinging signs and awnings, which, however comfortable they may be in this summer land, certainly detract terribly from the beauty of the fine buildings that front Main street.

Vivid contrasts are perpetually recurring, and the Mexican life, which gives variety to the community in which it is found, presents some pretty examples. For instance, in a low-roofed, dark shanty lives a family of candy makers. A young man—slim, lithe, and dark-browed—sits on the raised threshold, cracking and picking pecans. Behind him another stands at a stove stirring a great kettle of boiling, seething syrup, the while a smooth-faced lad draws an inspiriting dance tune from the strings of his banjo, and a good-looking, brown-skinned woman rocks lazily to and fro in her wide, low chair, and sings softly in unison. Out on the sidewalk three girls dance gracefully and joyously to the spirited measure, while a circle of negro children, with whom mingle two or three ragged whites, stand around admiring the gay movements of the dancers. Two flaring gasolene lamps light up the scene, which is within the very shadow of the handsomest hotel in the State, and adjoining the most fashionable promenade in the city.

### An Industrious Congressman.

*From the Boston Post.*

There is nothing more unjust than the criticism indulged in of Mr. Perry Belmont. Mr. Belmont is young, but he has what a great many members of Congress lack—industry and equipment. There is no serious and fair observer in Congress who does not look upon Mr. Belmont as a growing man. He works hard and has a purpose, and he believes in himself. Mr. Belmont lives so quietly in Washington that society hardly knows he is there. He has a comfortable house, in which he lives alone during most of the winter, going to and from the Capitol, studying most of the time—too much sometimes, perhaps, for a clever man has said of him that he often has a mental dyspepsia. He takes a little exercise by way of horseback riding, and occasionally he drives out. His mother usually makes him a visit in the course of the season, but, on the whole, I should say that he lives a sombre life. Entertainments at his house are few, and the gas bills must be small, for the windows are generally dark. Mr. Belmont would make more of a figure in public life if he admitted a tride more of pleasure into it. He ought to have more color in his existence. As it is, he dwells too much on any subject which he may be considering and it takes possession of him.

### A Garter Brought Into Court.

*From the London Times.*

A singular trial has just taken place before the criminal tribunal of Colmar. There is a traditional usage in Alsace, evidently a relic of ruder times, that at the close of a marriage feast the bride gives one of her garters to the bridegroom's best man, who forthwith divides it into pieces, which are divided among the guests. The niece of the Burgomaster of Orschweiler, near Schlattstadt, was lately married to a resident of Ottenheim. The chief public authorities of all three places were present at the festivities, and the traditional ceremony was observed. The garter happened to be of silk riband, striped red, white, and blue. Following the usual custom, the gentlemen wore their fragments of the garter pinned at the coat buttonhole. One of the guests, the proprietor of a hotel at Schlattstadt, happening to be at the railway station of that town next morning, was upbraided by the guard of the train for his disloyalty in flaunting the French tricolor in a German town, and so endangering the public peace.

The public prosecutor heard of the affair, and at once instituted criminal proceedings against all the male guests, including the three burgomasters, for publicly displaying fragments of the offending garter. He based his proceedings on an ordinance passed by the French Provisional Government in the revolutionary period of 1848, forbidding the display of emblems calculated to disturb the public peace; but the Colmar tribunal acquitted the accused, on the ground that all the circumstances negatived the supposition that they intended to make a political demonstration, or to irritate German feeling by displaying a French emblem. Much ridicule has been heaped on the public prosecutor for falling back on an obsolete French ordinance to punish a supposed display of affection toward France.

### Probabilities.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Is it probable that the convict Ward will be able to endure the rigors of prison life at Sing Sing long enough to give his testimony on the trial of the criminal indictments found against Warner and Work?

MARINE BANK.

### The Sugar Crop of Louisiana Uninjured.

Mr. Eugene H. Levy of this city has received a despatch from a well-known New Orleans sugar firm saying that the weather has been so dry in the cane-growing districts of Louisiana that the sugar crop was uninjured by the cold snap.

### A True Leader of Public Opinion.

*From the Galveston News.*

THE SUN is a true leader of public opinion against the attempt to absorb business in Government.

## SALE OF FOUR VILLARD HOUSES.

**Mrs. Villard Retains the Southern Corner of the Magnificent Madison Avenue Block.**

A conveyance filed yesterday in the Register's office shows that Henry Villard's immense house, or group of houses, in Madison avenue, between Fiftieth and Fifty-first streets, which were conveyed by Mr. Villard about two years ago to Horace White and Wm. Endicott of Boston, as trustees, for the benefit of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, have been reconveyed to Mrs. Villard by the trustees for $1, and that the provisions of that trust have been satisfied. The trustees had originally stipulated to finish the several buildings which cover the Madison avenue front of the block, and they raised $330,000 on bond and mortgage. At the time of filing this reconveyance yesterday four deeds from Mrs. Villard were filed, whereby she conveyed to Harris C. Fahnestock and Edward D. Adams, both members of the banking firm of Winslow, Lanier & Co., the three houses on the corner of Fifty-first street and Madison avenue, and also three lots adjoining on the east. A proportionate interest in the Madison avenue courtyard goes with each house.

The corner house is to be finished and decorated as soon as possible as a residence for Mr. Fahnestock. The two houses adjoining are also to be speedily completed. On the lots two new residences are to be built. Messrs. McKim, Mead & White, the architects, will have charge of all the improvements.

The consideration named in the four deeds aggregates $237,500. Mr. Fahnestock invests $168,750 and Mr. Adams $68,750.

Mrs. Henry Villard retains the title to the large house on the southern corner of the block. The reconveyance to her recites that Mr. Villard's indebtedness to the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company has been satisfactorily adjusted. It is understood that securities held by Mr. Villard at the time of his embarrassment have appreciated greatly and enabled him to settle with the company.

## TINKERING THE TARIFF.

**Mr. Morrison's Committee to Prepare a Bill and Press it to a Vote in the House.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The *Post*, which is now the organ of the dominant Carlisle-Morrison wing of the Democratic party in Congress, announces authoritatively that Mr. Morrison will begin his work of tariff tinkering at once. It says:

There are in the House between 150 and 160 Democrats who can be relied upon to support the Ways and Means Committee. Opposed to them are about 135 Republicans who can be relied upon to do just the reverse. The balance of power is in the hands of something like 25 Democrats and 8 or 10 Republicans. If these people vote as they did in the spring of 1884 the bill will be beaten. If the 25 Democrats conclude not to betray their party a second time, it will be passed over to the Senate stamped with the approval of the people's immediate representatives.

Mr. Morrison, when asked to-day what tariff scheme was on foot, said that he had prepared no bill himself, but he understood that three or four members of the committee had bills to submit. The Ways and Means Committee will go to work on these at once, and out of them all a bill will be evolved and reported to the House. Mr. Morrison will press the bill persistently when it gets before the House, and will force a vote upon it, as he did upon his horizontal bill in 1884.

## BRIDGE SALARIES INCREASED.

**Policemen and Car Conductors to Get $2.50 Instead of $2 a Day.**

At a meeting of the bridge trustees yesterday, Trustees Howell, Clarke, and Macdonald, a sub-committee of the committee on mechanical appliances (including gratuities) for the bridge, made this report:

We have held ten meetings and received thirty inventors and examined their drawings. Very few plans have seemed to answer the purposes of the bridge cars, whatever other merits they may have. We have also corresponded with various parties. We have arranged with Mr. Westinghouse of Pittsburgh to apply his system of compressed air to operate brakes and a grip on one car for experimental purposes.

The report was approved. A committee reported in favor of increasing the pay of the patrolmen and roundsmen who had been in service of the bridge for one year from $2 to $2.50 a day. The receipts of the bridge have increased so much that this year the amount due to the sinking funds of the two cities—$75,000 to New York and $150,000 to Brooklyn—will be earned, and there will be a surplus for the betterment of the structure. An improvement in the service, the committee thought, should be followed by an increase in the salaries. The motion to increase the salaries of the policemen, as recommended by the committee, was unanimously adopted. Police Sergeant Phillips's salary was also increased from $1,200 to $1,500 and that of the conductors from $2 a day to $2.50, and of the collectors from $2.50 to $3. The increase amounts to $33,000 a year.

## PARSON CONKLING'S BUNDLE OF BONDS.

**$100,000 of the Late Mrs. Morgan's Estate Released by Him in Blank.**

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel W. Conkling, to whom the late Mary Jane Morgan gave a brownstone front up town, together with many securities, has transferred $100,000 of his $600,000 in United States bonds. On Dec. 10 he took to the Sub-Treasury building registered bonds to this amount and signed a release in blank. This means, the authorities at the Sub-Treasury building said yesterday, that the Rev. Mr. Conkling may dispose of the bonds in any manner pleasing to himself. They are equivalent to greenbacks, and may be disposed of in the market through a stock broker or be sold at private sale. How they have been disposed of does not appear.

### Business Men at Prayer Meeting.

The business men's prayer meetings in the John Street