The Sun.

MONDAY, JULY 12, 1886.

Amusements To-day.

Bijou Opera House—Humbug. 8 P. M.
Casino—Erminie. 8 P. M.
Cyclorama—Battles of Vicksburg. 7th av. and 55th st.
Grand Opera House—Wild West. 8 and 8 P. M.
Haverly's Theatre—Prince Karl. 8 P. M.
Madison Square Theatre—Prince Karl. 8 P. M.
New Central Park Garden—Concert. 8 P. M.
Panorama—Madison av. and 59th st.
Tony Pastor's Theatre—Daddy Nolan. 8 P. M.
Wallack's Theatre—Falka. 8 P. M.
Windsor Theatre—Brother against Brother. 8 P. M.

A Mistaken Correspondent.

A correspondent writes us a feeling letter to this effect:

"I am disgusted with the way in which you report every expression of the Mugwump papers that criticise President CLEVELAND. Still, if your wish is to harm him, they won't do it."

We agree with our correspondent in his idea that Mugwump criticisms won't hurt Mr. CLEVELAND, but we go further than that. Their tendency is much more to help him; or at least the clearer and wider is the distinction made between Mugwumps and Democrats, the stronger and more fighting-like the latter party will be.

Every indication of Mugwump displeasure toward the President will be greeted by every true Democrat with satisfaction. It shows that there must be a proportionately closer relation between Mr. CLEVELAND and the great organization of Democracy.

For every Mugwump that goes there will be ten Democrats to take its place. The Mugwumps must go.

For the Health of the Democratic Party.

When is the Department of Justice to be purified? Mr. JOHN GOODE has got his punishment; when will AUGUSTUS H. GARLAND get his?

It has been hoped by those who wish the Democratic party well that the time was near when Mr. GARLAND would resign or would be invited to step down and out. Congressman BRECKENRIDGE of Arkansas, however, an intimate friend of the Attorney-General, says that the latter has no intention of resigning and that the President's relations with him are "most cordial."

It seems that Mr. GARLAND'S friends have feared that he might resign on account of his health. Certainly if his moral and mental organization is not devoid of sensibility, his sufferings must have been exquisitely painful, and it is a wonder that he has been able to discharge any of his official duties. It is reported that he will ask for a long leave of absence, and spend August and September in Arkansas for the benefit of his health.

But he cannot expect that two months at Hominy Hill will raze out the written trouble of the brain. Mr. CLEVELAND should give him a permanent leave of absence, so that he may have some opportunity of recovering from the effects of humiliation and remorse.

If the President is not anxious enough about Mr. GARLAND'S health to dismiss him from Washington, he should at least be anxious enough about the success of his Administration and the Democratic party to perform that act of justice and political necessity. It will not be safe to keep GARLAND until the Congress elections.

What Will Mr. Gladstone Do?

The despatches from London are full of rumors and conjectures about the effect of the elections upon Mr. GLADSTONE'S plans. As his Tory opponents recognize that they will not be able, unassisted, to muster a majority, they are apprehensive, while imprudent friends, like the *Pall Mall Gazette*, are hopeful, that the Premier will not forthwith resign, but will announce a purpose of meeting the new Parliament with a view of arranging in the interim such a compromise with the Liberal seceders as will permit him to carry on the Government. The Tories judge GLADSTONE by themselves. They assume that his action will be stained by the same duplicity and treachery with which they compensated their Parnellite coworkers after last year's campaign. They imply that his high-minded vindication of Irish rights is, like the twaddling cajolery of CHURCHILL, a swindle and a sham.

We judge otherwise of Mr. GLADSTONE. We believe that he will break no pledges and make no mistakes. No compromise upon the Irish question with the Liberal deserters is conceivable, except through large concessions, of which his Nationalist friends would have to pay the cost. But if he showed himself inflexible on their behalf throughout the long debate preceding the rejection of his bill on June 7—when, although implored by some of his less scrupulous adherents, he refused to abate a jot of what the Irish members deemed their dues—how indissoluble must be the ties of sympathy and gratitude that bind him to them now! Seldom, indeed, has more been risked for principle by any party chief than was risked by GLADSTONE in this contest, but never has magnanimous devotion on the part of a commander been more splendidly repaid by those whom he befriended.

Wherever on the changeful field of electoral contention the eye of the standard bearer meets a gleam of comfort and of cheer, he knows that Irishmen were there. Not an inch of ground in Ireland is thus far yielded by the Parnellites, for the seat lost in South Derry has been counterbalanced in Belfast. In Great Britain, though Gladstonians are driven from 59 seats held by them on June 7, they have in reprisal gained 25 which were at that date occupied by the Premier's opponents. With two-thirds of these victories the Irish friends of GLADSTONE must be credited. Yet not by such hard-won gains alone can the value of their aid be measured. Not less than 50 British followers of the present Government have managed to keep their former places by majorities so slight that the decisive influence of the Irish vote upon their fortunes is incontestable. On the part of Irishmen, at all events, there was not a sign of lukewarmness and of abstention. Mr. GLADSTONE will not overlook the fact, which has been vouched for by Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR, that while at least a third of the English Liberals registered held aloof from the ballot box, the Irish vote polled in Great Britain came within three per cent. of the registration. Are these the men to be thrown over or put off with counterfeit concessions for the sake of clinging to the empty distinction of an office, which, shorn for the moment of the power of achieving a great purpose, would be but an encumbrance and a plague?

Mr. GLADSTONE has fame to live for—an object characteristically lost sight of by his traducers, who impute their paltry office-seeking motives to the foremost English statesman of the time. We shall see him presently resign his useless office, but he will hold fast his renown. He will not, for the doubtful tenure of a post that he may soon regain, jeopard his firm place in the affections and the homage of the English-speaking world. He will not abandon his best friends or cheapen the meed of their large merits to buy the grudging toleration of men who have deserted and reviled him. GLADSTONE intends to stand by Ireland as Irishmen have stood by him.

Black Jack's Invasion of Kansas.

When the Hon. JOHN ALEXANDER LOGAN perceived that Ohio had no use for him, and never would have any more use for him as a candidate for the Presidency, he turned with a chastened but still hopeful heart to Kansas. In that happy home of grasshoppers and prohibition there might be some call, he thought, for his somewhat shopworn stock of Republicanism. In bleeding Kansas there might be a chance to trot out his old charger of treason-trampling eloquence once more, and to impress anew upon the Kansas members of the Grand Army of the Republic that he is the soldier's friend, and that all others, even Extravagance BLAIR, are counterfeits. So LOGAN thru went to Kansas.

But his journey hasn't been a triumphal progress. The important journals in Missouri were invited to send reporters along with him and spread the boom, but they have not been enthusiastic over the invitation. The Grand Army, which he seems to regard as a sort of political appanage of his has not boiled over for joy at his coming. The Kansas Republicans have kept their composure in spite of Black JACK'S fire and frenzy. Perhaps the weather has been so hot that the presence of LOGAN was felt as an additional infliction. Perhaps the Hon. JOHN JAMES INGALLS is regarded in Kansas, as there is some reason to suppose he is elsewhere, as a bigger man than old LOGAN. Certainly Brother BLAINE is good enough for the Kansas Republicans, and they do not care to encourage LOGAN in his delusion. At any rate, they seem not to have encouraged him.

It is said, however, that Old Moustachios, undismayed by the bad business to which he has been playing in Kansas, intends to make a tour to the Pacific coast after the adjournment of Congress. And yet Brother BLAINE has the Pacific States rather more solidly, if anything, than he has his adopted Maine. It may be magnificent for Gen. LOGAN to attack these strongholds of the Plumed Knight, but it is not war.

An Amateur African Prince.

Mr. HOPFNER, a German traveller, has been adopted into an African tribe as the King's son, and he has possibly settled down to enjoy his royal honors and grow up with the country. Most African explorers are invited now and then to marry into various royal families and cease their wanderings, but it seldom costs them any great effort to resist the temptation. A few white carpet-baggers in Africa, however, just as in some of the islands of the Pacific, have improved their opportunities to become little potentates with almost absolute powers in their small spheres of influence.

The famous Zulu King CETYWAYO said a while before his death that JOHN DUNN, the Scotchman, came to him naked, cold, and starving, that in the King's own hut he was warmed and clothed and nourished, and that he grew and strengthened upon the King's bounty until he had great power, which he basely used in the days of the King's adversity to drive him from Zululand to die on British soil in Natal. There are two sides to this story, but it is true at least that JOHN DUNN, one of the thirteen chiefs among whom the English divided Zululand, is the most powerful man in the country. The shrewd, thrifty Scotchman has made a fortune among a savage people. His will is law in a large district, and his domestic establishment is as well stocked with wives as his kraals are with cattle.

Not long ago the cable announced that M. STORMS, chief of the International Association on Lake Tanganyika, had proclaimed himself Emperor of Central Africa. The report proved to be a canard, which was doubtless suggested by the fact that STORMS had acquired a remarkable influence over the natives around his station at Karema.

Mr. HOPFNER'S friends should really take the trouble to inquire whether it is of his own free will that he has become a naturalized citizen of Africa. It should be remembered that SERPA PINTO fled in the night to escape from the Ambuella princess who decided that he would be an ornament to the court and was determined to have him for a husband; also that BUCHNER had a terrible time getting rid of the sister of the potentate, the MUATA YANVO, who offered him not only her goodly self, but also a large interest in her broad acres and many herds of cattle.

There is a possibility that some African king, thinking a white man to be a useful object to have around his premises, has thrust unwelcome greatness upon the German traveller by making an African prince of him. All the facts should be ascertained before anybody sends Prince HOPFNER his congratulations.

Births and Deaths in the United States.

The vital statistics gathered for the last census put the mean annual birth rate of the United States at 36 per 1,000 of population, and the death rate at 18 per 1,000. How these ratios compare with those of European States the following table will show:

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
England and Wales	35.4	20.5
English Rural Districts	—	18.5
Sweden	30.2	18.1
Belgium	32.0	22.4
German Empire	39.8	26.1
Austria	39.1	29.6

Assuming that our vital statistics are complete and accurate, the birth rate of the United States is somewhat less than the average rate of the five countries included in the table, and the death rate is less by over 5 in the 1,000. But, unfortunately, we cannot fairly compare the American with the European statistics. As Dr. J. S. BILLINGS points out in his voluminous report on the subject, it was impossible to collect for the census data relating to births and deaths which could be treated as full and trustworthy; whereas in Europe such statistics are worthy of entire confidence. Yet he has carefully made such allowances for imperfections that the result as given by him may be accepted as approximately correct.

The birth rate among the colored people is higher than among the whites of the South, and more especially in the cities. In 23 counties containing cities or large towns, and having an aggregate population of 588,129 whites and 586,038 colored, the birth rates per 1,000 of the living population were, for the whites, 28.71; for the colored, 35.08; but in 51 Southern counties containing only very small towns, and having an aggregate population of 542,705 whites and 591,336 colored, the rates were, white, 34.31; colored, 39.46. In the cities also the death rate is much higher among colored than among white infants, just as it is higher in New York among the children of the poor and of the tenement house districts than among the children of the more prosperous and better housed.

A curious fact regarding sex in births is brought out in the report. It is that the proportion of female births was larger among the colored than the whites. For each 100,000 male births there were 95,469 female births, but in the colored population the proportion was nearly 99 females to 100 males.

Dr. BILLINGS also makes a very suggestive comparison between the number of births in different States and the number of women between the ages of 15 and 49 living in those States. For instance, to each 1,000 females between these ages there were during the census year 71.6 births in New Hampshire, 82.9 in Massachusetts, 83.2 in Connecticut, 88.7 in Vermont, 93.9 in New York, 115.1 in Pennsylvania, 122.4 in Indiana, 133 in Iowa, 148.5 in Louisiana, 156 in Georgia, 187.4 in Texas, and in Utah 198.9.

These figures bring into prominence the low birth rate of New England, where, but for the fecundity of foreign immigrants, the proportion of births would be much less, for the rate of increase among the native population of the old stock is startlingly small.

Judges' Pensions in the Constitution.

The people of this State, by a majority of less than 7,000 out of 487,682 votes cast in the autumn of 1869, amended the judiciary article of the State Constitution. Two of the innovations were of special importance, one making the term of judicial office fourteen years, the other fixing a limitation of age, namely, seventy years, to judicial service. The policy of limiting the term of office by the disability of age, first followed in the Constitution of 1822, was subsequently abandoned in the Constitution of 1846, and reëstablished by the judiciary article of 1869. The language of the Constitution is clear and explicit:

"But no person shall hold the office of Justice or Judge of any court longer than until and including the last day of December next after he shall be seventy years of age."

The words "of any court" have been held by the Court of Appeals to apply to County Judges, but not to Justices of the Peace.

In November, 1880, another amendment to the judiciary article was adopted by a popular vote of 221,903 for, to 111,225 against, but little public attention having been called to it. It included the following clause:

"The compensation of every Judge of the Court of Appeals, and of every Justice of the Supreme Court, whose term of office shall be abridged pursuant to this provision [the limitation by age], and who shall have served as such Judge or Justice ten years or more, shall be continued during the remainder of the term for which he was elected."

Judge THEODORE MILLER of the Court of Appeals is now seventy years of age, and will, therefore, be retired from the bench on Dec. 31 next; but as he has been a Judge of that court since 1874, his salary will be continued for, two years after his retirement. The *Brooklyn Eagle*, in referring to the amendment of 1880, says:

"The pay will continue to the end of the term for which the retiring Judge is elected, if he has served for ten consecutive years of that term. Ten consecutive years made up of two interlapping terms will not avail, although there may not have been a moment of time between the first and second term, except the one in which the oath at the beginning of the second term was taken. The last judicial amendment to the State Constitution was not intended to be capable of so strict a construction by its makers. They worked it through two successive Legislatures and arranged with the committees of both parties in great districts of population to give out ballots favorable to it and none against it. The measure of largess was put through to benefit one or two Judges, who became fountains of referceships to obliging, effective, and thrifty legislators while the project was under way. When it was adopted, the discovery was made that the labor and the rewards paid in legal patronage went for nothing. The Judges in interest had served ten consecutive years.

"The Judges, for whose benefit and at whose procurement the amendment was passed, have not dared mandamus the State Comptroller for the money meant to be voted to them."

The attack made by our contemporary is supposed to refer in part to the Hon. JASPER W. GILBERT, formerly a Justice of the Supreme Court in the Second district. Whether the strictures be well founded or not, Judge GILBERT was one of the ablest and best equity Judges in the State, and, moreover, was able to write the English language.

Nor are we of opinion that the construction of the pension clause, according to which the ten years must be ten consecutive years of one term, is sound. "The compensation of every Justice who shall have served *as such Justice ten years or more*," says the Constitution, "shall be continued." Now, a man serves as a Justice of the Supreme Court just as much in one term as in another. The office remains the same always, and we know of no decision holding to the contrary. So, after all, it may be that the retired Judges in question can successfully mandamus the State Comptroller.

An Ungrateful Task.

"Mr. VEST said there was no more ungrateful task than the construction of a River and Harbor bill."

This is what a despatch from Washington tells us.

The Senator from Missouri is right. The River and Harbor bill which he and his colleagues have constructed is altogether too expensive a specimen of Congressional architecture to be pleasing to the people, and we can readily understand that little gratitude should be manifested toward the industrious builders.

And why, indeed, should people be grateful for what they do not want?

The people do not want the River and Harbor bill.

The Democracy does not want it.

The President of the United States does not want it.

Why will Democrats in Congress insist upon a measure that is sure to bring discredit on their party if allowed to become a law?

Mr. HOAR'S resolution, offered in the Senate, calling upon the President for information about the seizure or detention of American vessels in foreign ports, is intended to ascertain just what the State Department is doing about the fishery troubles, but it may not attain its object. Congress has itself furnished all required means for coercive action in that section of the DINGLEY Shipping bill which authorizes the President to retaliate upon other countries that do not allow our vessels the privileges which we have hitherto given to theirs. The delay to use this power leads to the belief that other measures will be found effectual; and the course lately taken by Canada seems to indicate that she would rather rely for her vindication upon cases of admitted infringement of ordinary revenue laws than upon alleged infringement of fishery laws about which there is a reasonable doubt.

It is reported from Rhode Island that some of the hotels will have to close with the closing of their bars by the prohibitory law. The prohibitory law in Rhode Island must be an exceptional sort of prohibitory law if hotel bars are not able to do business in spite of it. Still, the matter is not one of much importance to the Rhode Islanders. Indeed, a well-enforced prohibitory law would be of distinct advantage to them. It would give them an excuse for taking needful exercise in the shape of a walk into Massachusetts before breakfast in search of a cocktail.

So the Hon. IRA DAVENPORT is once more upon the waters. Congress is still in session, but Mr. DAVENPORT thinks that, as he is paired, he can begin his vacation early; and the pay goes on although he has gone off. We hope he will enjoy meeting the other icebergs.

Many people of the United States who never heard of Capt. THEODORE SCHWAN, and who have heard of ADOLPHUS W. GREELY of Arctic fame, have regretted that the latter did not receive the nomination to the recent vacancy of Assistant Adjutant-General. But this implies no reflection on the successful candidate. A German by birth, Capt. SCHWAN enlisted as a private in the regular army on his arrival in this country nearly thirty years ago, and rose successively to be Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant, serving honorably through the civil war, soon after the close of which he became Captain, with the brevet of Major. He has held his present grade for nearly twenty years, so that his promotion cannot be considered premature. He also possesses those German traits of soldiership which have put his countrymen in the front ranks of the profession. All the same, many people would like to see advancement for GREELY.

It is fair that both sides should be heard. We therefore print the text of the message in which President CLEVELAND vetoes the bill granting a pension to a J. W. FARRIS of Missouri, and the interesting letter in which the Hon. JOHN W. FARRIS, State Senator in the Missouri Legislature, unexpectedly pops up as the man whose bill was vetoed.

It is rather an amusing case, all around.

The conviction and sentence of the Merrick marksman who killed his servant and companion while endeavoring to demonstrate his skill with the pistol by shooting a tomato can from his head, will perhaps be a lesson to sharpshooters who have a passion for playing at WILLIAM TELL and the apple. The tragedy in which a public performer, who made a similar exhibition nightly, killed the young girl who risked the fate that attended a failure to aim correctly, is still remembered. This event caused a general overhauling of statutes in order to make such killings, although purely accidental, punishable as crimes. It is clear, however, that these laws, as well as the dictates of good sense, are often ignored, as it occasions no surprise to read of riflemen shooting small objects from the heads of people who have recklessness, nerve, or cupidity enough to become living supports for the target.

Lovers of "the manly art of self-defence," as it was called in the days of SAYERS and HEENAN, no longer need to resort to the prize ring to see man pummel one another. The beautiful game of lacrosse, as played in different parts of the country just at present, affords all the sport of this kind that can be desired, and without any liability to interference or interruption by the police.

Within the last week letters containing checks have been fished up from the Oregon, now in DAVY JONES'S locker, and have been delivered in a perfect condition to the persons addressed, after their stay of months at the bottom of the sea. These may not be so wonderful finds as some of those at Zoar, but the recipients are satisfied.

Prophet STONE WIGGINS of Canada having made his predictions and arrangements for a sea-shaking and sky-splitting storm on the afternoon of September 29, sharp, it is high time for Brother DE VOE, the Wizard of Hackensack, to consult the elements and support or confound WIGGINS. The provinces may put up with WIGGINS, but the United States won't take their weather from Canada. As weather predictions, like dreams, usually prove their contrary, Prophet DE VOE should be kind enough to foretell bad weather. Doubtless he can do so without any serious disturbance of his prophetic system.

It seems strange for the Army of the Potomac to go to San Francisco for its annual reunion, as it will this year. But it was a national as well as an Eastern army, just as the capital it protected was national if Eastern, and Californians served in it like Vermonters and Wolverines. Beyond any doubt, too, its meeting, which comes the first week in August, will be among the most enjoyable ever known, with Pacific slope enthusiasm to help, and charming excursions to Monterey, Santa Cruz, San José, and Sacramento.

Outdoor Games and Exercises.

Midsummer makes yachting and swimming seem about the only seasonable sport, yet the swimmers rarely get ready to race in July, and the yachtsmen love June and September breezes. Hot horse racing and hotter lacrosse and base ball are still in vogue, and will wear out the dog days. The last fortnight has been a good one for the League, Detroit having held its lead, and New York having given Chicago a couple of good defeats, as earnest of others to come. To have either Detroit or New York gain the pennant would be a good season's work, for since the foundation of the League nobody has held it but Chicago and Boston, except one year, when it was gained by Providence, not now in the race. It is time for a change, especially as both Detroit and New York play the game as it ought to be played, and do not try to save a match in which they are fairly outplayed by resorts to bullying and disputing. A champion nine ought to be one that can set a model of losing with grace and good temper, as well as of winning by steadiness and skill.

The college oarsmen have finally settled the meaning of the Harvard-Yale race, and both the winning and the losing colleges agree that Harvard never sent to New London a more magnificent crew, and that Yale never rowed a more magnificent stroke. The theorists of the Charles from time to time take a view that a certain modification of a victorious stroke pulled by themselves ought to win, and fall out with their doctrines until it is shown that in practice it does not win, whereupon they revert to the old and successful stroke. The belief of more than one spectator was that the nearest approach to what was once adopted as the Harvard stroke was this time seen best in the other boat, and that the clipping stroke this year rowed by the crimson was better suited to seasoned professionals, who develop a special set of leg and arm muscles, than to young students who need to use their total strength and every ounce and inch of physical force.

A Democrat Gets a Place.

From the Watertown Times.

Barney J. McCarthy of Watertown has been appointed postal railway clerk on the Utica and Black River Railroad, between Ogdensburgh and Utica, in place of H. W. McGuire of Ogdensburgh, removed. Mr McCarthy is, and has for the past four years been, a member of the Democratic County Committee from the First ward, and is one of the most active ward politicians of the city. H. W. McGuire, whom he is to supersede, is one of the best men on the road. He has been in the service something over fifteen years, and during that time has never been derelict in his duties. Mr. McGuire was also a veteran of the late war, having served his country with credit. His removal was for no other cause than for offensive partisanship.

Sound Sense.

From the New York Freeman.

We do not understand the howl constantly made by colored newspapers about removals of colored Republicans from official place. We say we do not understand it, and for the that reason we do not see upon what grounds colored Republicans can hope to remain in positions under a Democratic Administration.

How many colored men in this country sympathize with the objects and aims of the Democratic party, past or present? How many of such men have any right to expect special favor and consideration from the Democratic party? Preferment goes by favor for value received, in politics as in business. How many colored men are entitled to such preferment for service rendered the Democratic party? And what right have colored Republicans to expect any different treatment from that given white Republicans by the Democratic party? The thing reduces itself to this absurdity.

We think the Democrats are entitled to the offices since the people have committed the Government to the Democratic party? and when the Republican party again comes into control of the Government we shall say let the offices go to the Republicans.

If colored men desire to hold office under the Democratic party the same as under the Republican party, they must divide their vote in such a way as to have the same claim upon the Democratic party which they should have (but have not got) on the Republican party.

Receiving His Wages.

From the Cleveland Leader.

I saw Attorney-General Garland on the street to-day. A tall, bent, starchy-looking man, in an unbuttoned double-breasted frock coat, he walked along in a listless manner, with his head hanging down and his dusty slouch hat pulled over his eyes. He looked far from happy and far from proud. His step has lost the elasticity of his Senatorial days, and he begins to look old and weary.

The wages of sin is death!

Garland is getting his wages.

His manhood is dying out under the weight of his Pan-Electric fight, and his political future is counted only by the days Cleveland retains him in his present position.

The Color of Logan's Moustache.

From the Kansas City Times.

An esteemed subscriber asks the *Times* to please tell me the real color of John A. Logan's moustache." Once it was a beautiful black, then a tell-tale gray, then a suspicious black. Now it is beginning to be a good deal of a chestnut.

SENATOR VANCE'S DISCOVERY.

He Finds that George Jones can Lie Faster than Truth can Contradict.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: On Sunday morning, July 4, the *New York Times* contained a pre-historic account of my speech to be delivered the next day in Tammany Hall, and replied to its arguments before they were made by giving a list of sixteen members of my family rejoicing in the name of Vance, for whom it said I had procured office under the Government. This was to account for my hostility to the Civil Service law.

On Tuesday morning, the 6th of July, the *New York Times* contained the very slightest notice of what I had said the day before, and accompanied it by a column of very coarse and vulgar abuse based upon the same statement concerning the list of my supposed kindred in office.

Some commentary upon this seems to be necessary. Judging from the temper evinced by these attacks I should say that I hit the editor of the *Times* very hard when in my Tammany speech I characterized the Mugwump as a man who fought now and then on either side, but lied very steadily on all. I think I am justified in this conclusion, for when you fling a rock at a dog in the dark it is generally safe to say that you hit him if you hear him yelp.

Now, I am aware of the unwisdom, in a general way, of engaging in a wordy warfare with even a partisan newspaper, which recognizes to some extent the principles of manhood and fair play. And I know that there is nothing more dangerous than to accept such a controversy with such a paper as the *Times*. The average Mugwump editor, one of those fellows who assume to reform public morals and to walk on that higher plane far removed from the earthy taints of partisanship, can lie, in the interests of the public good, faster than truth can contradict. Nevertheless, I must be permitted to say that the circumstances combine to render these gross attacks upon me a most becoming and edifying spectacle. It accords with the eternal fitness of things that a great political and moral reform should thus be led by a common liar.

It is well known to the editor of the *Times* that this story of my having so many kindred placed in office has been, time and again, refuted, and is utterly without foundation save as to two persons, my brother and my son, who is my private and confidential clerk. Nearly every other person mentioned in that list is unknown to me, and of whom I never heard until the list referred to was first published in the *New York Tribune*. They are all Republicans, and obtained their positions under Republican Administrations. One, at least, is a Florida carpet-bag negro, who obtained his position as a reward for his infamy as a member of a Returning Board by means of which the Great Fraud of 1876 was perpetrated, and he is retained in office, I suppose, to illustrate the beauties of civil service reform. If the charge should include it, I will state that I have a son also in the army, a position to which he was appointed without my knowledge or solicitation by that excellent and courteous gentleman, whom I grieve to know is languishing upon a bed of suffering, ex-President Arthur.

The notoriety of these facts, even if they had not been made known again and again in the leading newspapers of the country, was sufficient to put upon inquiry as to their truth any *honest* man in the land. Let me suggest to the editor of the *Times* that the man here upon whom that paper relies for its falsehood and abuse of the opponents of civil service reform is not earning his pay. He exhibits neither originality, fertility, nor ingenuity in lying, but persistence only. Had I gotten all these kinspeople in office, as he says, the man of common sense would naturally suppose that I would favor the Civil Service law for the sake of keeping them there; for that law has proven to be a veritable refuge for the old official barnacle. It is, literally, the friend of the incompetent; which, however, I hope none who have the good fortune to bear my name, happen to be.

Of course the *Times* will not publish this or in any way correct the wrong it has done the truth; that would not be reform. Doubtless that unfortunate class of my fellow citizens who are so unhappy as to read no other paper will still continue to regard me as an enemy of civil service reform because I have sixteen Vance kinsmen in office. I shall be content, however, if you will publish it, and let the readers of THE SUN at least know that the story is false, and that I am opposed to that pretentious humbug because I am a Democrat, and as such I believe that Democratic principles are best administered by Democrats in office; and finally that I prefer my friends to my enemies, as gratitude and common decency enjoin upon all men, except, of course, Mugwump reformers. Respectfully yours,

Z. B. VANCE.

WASHINGTON, July 10.

The Car-Number Craze.

From the St. Paul Globe.

"Car numbers! Oh, who hasn't had that disease some time during the course of his traveling career?" queried a nervous chap on the Omaha limited of his seat-mate.

"Before I went on the road," he continued, "I lived at Park Ridge, a suburban station near Chicago, on the Northwestern road, and used to ride in and out every day. I got to noticing the figures on the freight cars as my train passed along, and finally it got to be a mania with me. The moment I got on a moving car I was at the window looking out for the numbers of freight cars."

"Are you cured?" interrogated his companion.

"Wait and you will see," replied the nervous man. "I thought of the numbers by day, and actually dreamed of them by night. My main desire in that connection was to accumulate them. I was always on the lookout for the number 12,345, and if I saw such a number I believe I should have been perfectly satisfied. So interested in the search did I become that I conversed with train men about it and then learned it was a regular mania among the traveling public. The train men have it, too.

"Out on the road I went, still looking for the number. I happened to be out at Denver, Col., one very hot day in June. I got on the Kansas Pacific east-bound train, and had just taken my seat in the sleeper when the train pulled out. I was at the window, and there before my eyes was the number '12,345.' It was on a blue car. That cured me. I never look at the car numbers now. If I chance to be looking out of a window and see a freight car, the feeling is strong to look at the number, but I restrain myself, something that I could not do before, as I know how much I suffered in the past."

Congressmen who are Billiardists.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Senator Berry's principal recreation is billiard playing. He has certainly had practice enough to make him an expert. While he was Governor of Arkansas he was widely known as a patron of the science. A good player always found a welcome at the Executive Mansion and had social attentions showered on him. The Governor had one of Gordenker's costliest tables and a set of cues which cost a year's salary.

Robertson is known as one of the best cue wielders in Kentucky. He is not so devoted to the game as Berry, but when he takes a hand the others get left. He plays with great rapidity, seeming hardly to observe the position of the balls, still he makes them click quite often.

King seems to have inherited his skill from his father, the Hon. Thomas Butler King, who had no equal in Louisiana twenty years ago. He is slow and painstaking and makes many scientific shots.

Senator Warner Miller of New York is a very fair player. He is occasionally seen at Willard's engaged in a game. His science has deteriorated, however, since Senatorial cares has added many pounds of flesh and made him rather awkward in getting around the table.

Senator Butler of South Carolina also plays well. He is often seen in the Metropolitan billiard rooms, his antagonist generally being Ransom of North Carolina.

Senator Don Cameron used to like the game when he first came here, but his health has become so bad that he no long r seems to care for any kind of amusement.

Frank Hiscock gave an exhibition of his skill at Rugg's about two weeks ago. Runs of 22, 18, and 15 showed that he was no novice.

Reed of Maine, while City Solicitor of Portland had the reputation of being the finest shot among the lawyers of that city.

Warner of Missouri, McComas of Maryland, Reid of North Carolina, Crisp of Georgia, Hepburn of Iowa and Belmont of New York are quite passable players.

Robert McCleary's Bull Kills Him.

From the Port Jervis Gazette, July 10.

Robert McCleary was the name of a New York carpenter who about two years ago came to Pike county and purchased a mountain farm about two miles from Matamoras, Pa. He purchased a high-grade bull, of which he was very proud. It is a large, fine-looking animal, three years old, and was considered very gentle. On Friday Mr. McCleary went into the lot adjoining his house to give the bull some salt. He was sprinkling salt on the ground, the bull being within a few feet distant, when, without provocation of any kind, the animal charged upon him, and struck him with great force, one of its horns penetrating his abdomen just below the ribs. The bull threw Mr. McCleary in the air clear over its head, and he landed on his head and shoulders. He was rendered unconscious by the fall, and it is evident from bruises on his body that the bull afterward trampled upon him and only left his prostrate form after it considered that life was extinct. Mr. McCleary died at 6 o'clock this morning. His remains will be taken to his former home in New York for interment.

Politeness in Childhood.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

The polite child is the latest in the juvenile world. She was strolling around the neighborhood on a tour of observation when she came across a colored man sitting on a doorstep. She stood with her finger in her mouth looking at him. Finally she said:

"You're a colored man, ain't you?"

"You're a very polite little girl," he said. "Yes, I'm a colored man."

"Oh, yes, I'm very polite. I call every nigger I see a colored man."

THE VETO AND THE VICTIM.

State Senator Farris of Missouri Announces that he is the Man Accused by Mr. Cleveland of Playing Sore Eyes for a Pension.

From the Congressional Record.

I hereby return without approval a bill originating in the House of Representatives entitled "An act granting an increase of pension to J. W. Farris," which bill is numbered 6,156.

The claimant mentioned in this bill enlisted in the month of October, 1861, and was mustered out of the service in August, 1865.

In 1881, sixteen years after his discharge, he filed an application for a pension, alleging that he was afflicted with chronic diarrhœa contracted in the army, and in 1885 his claim was allowed, and he was granted a pension for that cause.

In September of the same year, and after this pension was granted, he filed an application for an increase of his rate, alleging that in 1884 his eyes became affected in consequence of his previous ailments and the debility consequent thereupon.

The ingenuity developed in the constant and persistant attacks upon the public Treasury by those claiming pensions, and the increase of those already granted, is exhibited in bold relief by this attempt to include sore eyes among the results of diarrhœa.

I am entirely satisfied with the opinion of the medical referee, who, after examining this case in October, 1885, reported that "the disease of the eyes cannot be admitted to be a result of chronic diarrhœa."

On all grounds it seems to me that this claimant should be contented with the pension which has been already allowed him.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

From the St Louis Republican.

LEBANON, Mo., July 6.—I hope I may be pardoned for writing this letter, but the constant reference by the press to the pension bill in my favor recently passed by Congress and vetoed by the President, and the gross injustice to me in all these publications, seem to demand some explanation.

A few weeks ago I was an honored citizen, held in high esteem by a constituency who profusely flattered me with the acknowledgment that as a Senator I had served them faithfully and well, and I was strongly solicited to be a candidate for re-election. Many of these people knew the extent of my physical disabilities, but believed that these infirmities were not sufficient to retire me to private life. In March last Congressman Bland introduced a pension bill for me, and as a truth I had no idea that such a step was in contemplation until the same was published in the daily papers.

I will here say that, personally, I doubt the expediency of the system of special legislation on this subject, and think that the general pension laws should be made broad enough, if possible, to cover all cases that might arise. But as the bill had been introduced, I was inclined to consider it as a spontaneous outburst of public sympathy, and felt, indeed, complimented by the thought that I—even I—had friends in Congress who could remember me in the hours of adversity.

Ordinarily it is enough to be a victim of disease and conscious of approaching permanent disability or early dissolution; but when this is accompanied with the brutal ex parte judgment of a President whom the sufferer had aided in electing, the withdrawal of personal and political sympathies, and the rude and vulgar taunts of the press, it only faintly illustrates the extraordinary dilemma in which I am placed.

If I had by persistent lobby and personal and political influence secured the passage of a bill for my benefit, there might have been some excuse for the severe language used by the President in his veto message. When the truth is told and the facts admitted, that the bill was not introduced at my solicitation, or even with my personal knowledge or consent, I am at a loss to know how a conservative public can justify the brutality displayed by the Chief Executive of a Government, to which I gave four years of active military service, hazarding life, imperiling health, and making myself prematurely old. And yet, such seems the result.

One of my competitors, Mr. J. B. Rackliffe, possessed of about the same degree of patriotism that induced Grover Cleveland to hire a substitute rather than fight his country's battles, ruled by the same brutal instincts which impelled the President to assault me so unjustly in his message, has gone over the district and covertly—yes, in a cowardly manner—used this veto message to manufacture sentiment against me, and build for himself that character and reputation which he had not been able to attain save through the misfortune of others.

I am content with the defeat which will probably come to me, but I am not content to remain silent and be branded by a President—even a Democratic President—with having devised an "ingenious plan to attack the public Treasury." No man who knows me would write such a sentiment, but, sent forth as the utterance of a Democratic President, and at a time when partisan blindness is so apparent, unrefuted, it would hand my name down to my children as that of an impostor and fraud.

I am proud of the record I made as a soldier. I left the army at the end of four years' service when, only 20 years old, bearing two commissions won by meritorious service in battle. Though in impaired health, as the result of that service, I am not too feeble to resist the criticisms and denounce the reflections of Presidents or Senatorial candidates who seek to cast aspersions on my character or impute dishonesty to my motives.

I have already indicated the effect of the proposed legislation, the veto, and resulting discussion of the subject. But conscious of the justice of my position, that I have "nothing to extenuate nor aught set down in malice," I will bide my time and let the future vindicate my character for honesty, patriotism, and Democracy.

J. W. FARRIS.

HOW DO THE IRISH AMERICANS STAND?

One of Them Expresses His Political Views Pretty Freely.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Several communications have appeared in THE SUN in relation to nominations for President in 1888.

I have voted at each Presidential election since 1844. I gave my maiden vote for James K. Polk. I have been reading THE SUN during that time, and flatter myself I have gained some knowledge, political and other.

In 1884 I voted for Mr Blaine in preference to Mr. Cleveland. My objection to the latter was the undemocratic company he affiliated with. My reason for voting for Blaine emanated from the opposition shown to him by the British interest and that portion of the New York press that is seemingly in the service of England. I am one of a very large number of citizens who look for no better cause of opposition to candidates for any official position in the American Government than England's desire toward their election. With all her deceitful palaver, England is not favorable to any man or measure favoring American progress and prosperity.

Mr. Blaine possesses the latter qualifications in a remarkable degree. Hence England's opposition to his election; and her opposition to Mr. Blaine is the chief cause of so many citizens of Irish birth renouncing their allegiance to a party whose Democracy is anything but genuine. They will continue to oppose bogus Democracy until some such man as Samuel J. Tilden is nominated for President, imparting to our sickly Democracy some of its old-time principles and vitality.

The fraud perpetrated upon Mr. Tilden in 1876 by the Republican party, and acquiesced in by a bogus Democracy, has injured that party more than it has Mr. Tilden. It appears to me and to many others that the best way to repair damages is to reelect Mr. Tilden in 1888. If that is not done Mr. Blaine will be the next President. Yours respectfully,

JAMES O'REILLY.

Are we to have Professional Beauties.

From the Baltimore American.

It is stated that some recent photographs of Mrs. Cleveland are beautiful beyond compare, and that no one who has not seen her face to face can form an idea of her exquisite loveliness until he has gazed upon one of these productions of the photographer. It is also said that copies are to be sold publicly, and that this will be used to start here a fashion which has prevailed in England for some time—the sale in the different cities of photographs of the society belles noted as beauties.

The Western Water Meter.

From the San Francisco Wasp.

I'm a wicked water me