The Sun.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1886.

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.

Advertising Rates.

DAILY AND SUNDAY, 60 cents a line, ordinary advertisements; large type, 90 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.

Prophecy Untaxed.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Missouri Republican*, benevolently but unnecessarily warns Governor DAVID BENNETT HILL not to "allow himself to be deceived by our anti-CLEVELAND contemporaries, the *World* and THE SUN. He has no chance," so says this St. Louis sage, "of being President—not the slightest. New York could not force the Democratic party to repudiate President CLEVELAND without making the nomination of any New Yorker out of the question."

There is no excise tax on prophecy, and if there were one, we should never insist on its being collected in St. Louis. A corrective drop of fact, however, ought to go with this mixture of assertion and vaticination. In the first place, then, THE SUN is not an anti-CLEVELAND nor a pro-CLEVELAND journal, but an independent Democratic journal. It is for Mr. CLEVELAND in so far as he represents in his general policy or particular acts the principles and the purposes of the Democracy, and no further; and in whatever policies or appointments he is not true and satisfactory to the Democracy THE SUN is opposed to him. The Democratic party is too great to be absorbed by any personality, and too strong to be ruined, whatever temporary disaster may come upon it, by unwise leadership.

Now for our Western contemporary's attempt to put aside Mr. HILL on the ground that New York must take Mr. CLEVELAND in 1888 or accept an outside candidate. Unless the Democratic party is to make what may be called a fool departure in that year, the only question to be considered will be: Who will make the strongest candidate? That question includes this one: Who will be the surest to carry New York? If it be thought that Mr. HILL is the man, he will be nominated. If it be thought that Mr. CLEVELAND is the man, he will be nominated. If it be thought that somebody *else* is the man, somebody else will be nominated. At this time of day it is childish to insist that nobody but your own favorite candidate has any chance. New York is a big State, and we know of no law which will restrict its freedom of choice in 1888; and yet it may happen that there will be only one Democrat who can carry it. In that case the Democratic party will nominate him, or get beaten.

The American Federation of Labor.

The great meeting of the trades unionists at Columbus last week resulted in the formation of the American Federation of Labor, an association containing already between twenty and thirty important trades unions, and having for the main object "the encouragement and formation of local trades and labor unions, and the closer federation of such societies throughout the organization; of central trades and labor unions in every city, and the further combination of such bodies into State, Territorial, and Provincial organizations to secure State legislation in the interests of the workingmen."

The American Federation of Labor is apparently confident of deserving prosperity, and its formation must be a blow to the ambitious hopes of the Knights of Labor. The Executive Committee of the new Federation are to issue an address in regard to their controversy with the Knights. The latter were represented at Columbus by a committee which had no power to act, Mr. POWDERLY apparently knowing that the trades unionists would not accede to the demands of his order. It is scarcely possible that concord can be reached until the Knights have abandoned any intention of annexing the trades unions and have indicated a purpose not to interfere with them.

For the moment the trades unions seem the stronger. The Knights of Labor have suffered from the folly of hasty leaders, particularly in the West, and renewed financial demands upon the assemblies are received with a disfavor which is largely due to a widely spread feeling that money has been wasted injudiciously, and that strikes hopeless and not justifiable have been encouraged. These are mistakes for which most of the members of the order are not responsible, but better leadership, more prudence, and less ambition will be needed in the Knights of Labor are to justify if even a small degree the hopes which were once entertained of them.

There ought to be room for the Knights and the Trades and Labor unions to dwell together in harmony, without weakening each other by quarrels born of real or supposed encroachments upon each other's privileges and powers. The dreamed-of day of united labor must still be afar off, when it is so hard to unite even a part of labor.

A Misfortune for Mr. Cleveland.

The successor of Dr. WARNER MILLER in the Senate will be a Republican. Whether Dr. MILLER himself or some other Republican will be the colleague of Doctor EVARTS will be ascertained early in January. One thing, however, is already settled. During his four years' term Mr. CLEVELAND will not see even for a day a Democratic Senator from the State of New York. We believe it has never before happened, from the beginning of Gen. WASHINGTON'S Administration down to the present time, that a President has not had at least one Senator in Congress of his own party from his own State; and usually there have been two of them. To this rule the peculiar case of ANDREW JOHNSON scarcely forms an exception. He hardly belonged to either party while President; and moreover, on account of the civil war, one of the Tennessee seats in the Senate was vacant for four years and the other for two years during his term.

This unparalleled condition is unfortunate for Mr. CLEVELAND. It must be especially so in secret sessions of the Senate when nominations to office are under consideration. A confidential adviser from his own State, in close personal and political relations with the Executive, might be able to give his reasons for making certain peculiar nominations, which could not be as freely intrusted to the cold and unsympathetic ear of a Senator from an outside commonwealth. Then, too, in open Senate, when questions are debated about which the President feels deeply, or holds views apparently at variance with the general current of Democratic opinon, it would be convenient for him to have a home Senator, a bosom friend as it were, to express his sentiments and explain his position. The country witnessed the working of this plan in the instances of VAN BUREN, WRIGHT, and the Sub-Treasury controversy, of PIERCE, ATHERTON, and the Nebraska bill, of BUCHANAN, BIGLER, and the Kansas struggle, as well as in times nearer our day. However, owing to various causes, the country will see no Democratic Senator in Congress from New York till the term of Our Own EVARTS expires; and then the President may perhaps live in some other State, or perhaps Brother EVARTS may be returned to the Senate for a second term.

At the Mexican Capital.

According to a despatch to the *New York Times*, the nomination of Mr. T. C. MANNING to be Minister to Mexico is still in the President's hands and is likely to remain there. The climate of Mexico, it will be remembered, had an unfortunate effect upon Mr. MANNING very soon after his arrival in the country.

In his case the trouble was a cold. "I caught a severe cold," he telegraphed to a friend a few weeks ago, "went to my apartment, took a stimulant, and have been confined to my bed with pneumonia ever since." Instead of curing the disease the stimulant seems to have aggravated it, but we are glad to hear that Mr. MANNING is recovering, though there is always danger of a relapse in the case of such a cold. At any rate, President CLEVELAND seems to think that his constitution is hardly robust enough to stand the rarefied atmosphere of the city of Mexico, and it is not improbable that a new Minister may be nominated in his place.

But it is reported also that the Administration is about to make a change in the consular service at the Mexican capital. Does this mean that there is an intention of removing Consul PORCH? And if he is to be recalled, what will be the reason given for it? There is no complaint, so far as we know, that he is subject to colds, and no charge has been brought against him that he is negligent as an official.

Consul PORCH, however, ought long since to have been removed if his charges against Mr. SEDGWICK were false. The reports concerning the conduct of Mr. SEDGWICK at the Mexican capital emanated from Consul PORCH. He made himself responsible for them, and went so far as to call a meeting of American residents to denounce that gentleman. Mr. SEDGWICK has denied the reports, and published certificates of Mexicans that his behavior throughout was that of a gentleman; yet the man who accused him and who circulated the accusations has remained unrebuked.

So long, therefore, as Consul PORCH remains in Mexico Mr. SEDGWICK can have no complete vindication. Certificates avail him nothing while his accuser continues to hold his office. If, therefore, Consul PORCH is to be removed, it should be stated explicitly by Mr. BAYARD whether his removal is or is not because of his conduct with regard to Mr. SEDGWICK. Simply recalling him at this late day will not be sufficient.

Chicago Should Stop It.

THE SUN has never joined in the carping criticism of St. Louis upon the unrivalled size of the Lake City's female foot. Chicago never boasted of it as a virtue, and if it was a fault, it wasn't Chicago's fault, and we have not thought it part of our duty to lay it before the public for consideration and correction. Silence has been Chicago's method of dealing with the fact, and we have followed her lead.

Now, however, a subject has arisen with our Western sister calling for comment and protest of the most emphatic sort, and since it has received such treatment from Chicago, we will lend her the most helping hand possible.

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, the American Opera Company gave a performance of "Lakmé," ballet and all, and on Thursday a citizen raised his voice to this effect, through the intermediary of the *Inter-Ocean*:

"It was my misfortune to sit in the parquet in front of a proscenium box occupied by prominent society people. They kept up a continuous chatter, ridiculing the performance and appearing to consider it very condescending on their part to sit through it. Such expressions as: 'Isn't he just too cunnin'!' 'Now hug her tight!' 'Oh, yum!' and—when the ballet appeared—'Don't you think we'd better adopt that for a summer costume?' might be expected from an audience at a variety show, but hardly from ladies who pretend to move in the 'first circles' of society. Their constant jabber was a great annoyance to at least fifty people in their vicinity."

Let the rebuke thus administered to these unmannerly chatterers by one of their own fellow citizens, echo with redoubled clamor from the sympathizing press of New York. The habit of talking in theatre boxes so as to be heard in the parquet appeals to every public-spirited journal for denunciation, and we give it to the rude offenders of Chicago.

We speak with greater freedom in this matter since we believe that there is no longer cause for such complaint in our own town, although we do not mean to suggest that any conversation in the Metropolitan Opera House ever resembled that attributed to the fashionables of Chicago. The fact is that operas nowadays are listened to with unprecedented interest, and attention to the music is becoming nearly as fashionable in the boxes as it has always been on the floor.

The Boston Election.

Another contest between Republicans, Democrats, and the Labor party, such as we lately witnessed in New York, has just been decided in Boston, and the result is interesting both as an indication of the state of politics in Massachusetts, and as furnishing further light upon the recent canvass here which ended in the election of Mr. HEWITT.

The 3,500 votes given in Boston to Mr. McNEILL, the Labor candidate, formed but about one-thirteenth part of the total votes cast for all three candidates, while the 68,000 for GEORGE formed nearly one-third of all the votes polled here in November. This represents the Labor strength as greatly inferior in Boston to what it is in New York, and it cannot be wholly accounted for by the greater proportion of citizens of foreign birth in this city. The Germans and Irish in New York form two-sevenths, or less than one-third of the whole population, while these two races make up about one-fifth of the inhabitants of Boston. Mr. GEORGE says that the McNEILL forces were not so well organized as his, but that may well be doubted. The great advantage that the GEORGE movement had over all previous labor manifestations, was the assistance of a regular political organization, that of Irving Hall, and it appears that the Labor party in Boston included an element of equal strength in the County Democracy, so called, an offshoot of the regular Democratic party of that town.

But these considerations serve only to emphasize the fact that in Dr. McGLYNN Mr. GEORGE had an ally perhaps of greater power than himself. The votes of the Labor movement in New York were due as much to the earnest, passionate, and unselfish support of this eminent priest of the Catholic Church as to the laborious efforts of the candidate himself. It is also apparent that in Boston the agitation for an independent party of laboring men has not yet evolved an idea of sufficient vitality and attractiveness to make it of any conclusive importance between the two great parties.

Still, whether big or little, the Labor party merits the most studious attention on the part of all philosophic statesmen of the day.

A Serious Omission.

We have looked in vain over the scholarly and elegant memorial of Mr. TILDEN, presented to the Bar Association on Tuesday evening by WILLIAM ALLEN BUTLER, for any adequate reference to the great fraud by which Mr. TILDEN was cheated out of the Presidency, and an unparalleled cheat and donkey put in his place.

Possibly this omission may have been due to the fact that Mr. BUTLER knew his audience, and feared that some of the fledglings would seize the occasion to prolong debate by maligning Mr. TILDEN. But, whatever may have been Mr. BUTLER'S reasons, his memorial is defective.

It is a poor return for Mr. TILDEN'S great services that no member of the Bar Association could be found with the courage to tell the truth as to the facts of Fraud first triumphant in American history.

Yesterday was a bad day for the lambs of Wall street. Since the middle of November they had been buying all sorts of fancy stuff at steadily advancing prices, and so long as prices continued to advance they were happy. A reaction began last week, which has now culminated in something resembling a general smash. The lambs are shorn, as usual; but, no doubt, so soon as their fleeces grow again, they will be ready for a fresh shearing.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Auburn Dispatch*, propounds to us the following conundrum regarding the civil service question:

"Does THE SUN desire to see a system of competitive examinations, in which Democrats or Republicans exclusively shall stand a chance according to which party happens to be in power?"

No; we don't desire any competitive examinations at all. We detest that Chinese system, its purpose and its results. Neither do we desire its corollary, a permanent tenure of office with all the consequences of bureaucratic and anti-Democratic practices.

There should be examinations to test the qualifications of applicants for the work they propose to do, and the mass of offices should be filled with sincere partisans, capable and faithful men who will aid their official chiefs in administering public affairs according to the principles which the people have voted for.

If we are not to have party government, we might as well have an Emperor at once. No parties, no republic.

We owe an acknowledgment to the *Buffalo Courier*. We have assurances from Mr. JOHN CAHILL that the disputed letter to Mr. CLEVELAND approving of his celebrated silver screed sent to Congressman WARNER in February, 1885, was really dictated to him by Mr. TILDEN, and was signed by Mr. TILDEN'S own hand.

At the same time the peculiar phraseology of this letter does not sound like Mr. TILDEN'S, but like something suggested to him by somebody else and signed by him on the request of somebody else.

Yet, admitting that it was fully his, was it or was it not a "wild and wandering onset against silver"? It was, indeed, most wild, most wandering, and the events of these two years have stamped it with condemnation. Thus even a wise man may be ed astray;

"Quandoque bonus dormitat Homerus."

It should not be forgotten that, in the recent correspondence with the British Government on the fishery question, Secretary BAYARD has sustained the position of the United States with patriotism, ability, and dignity.

Our esteemed comic and Republican contemporary the *Judge* errs sadly in presenting as the portrait of the Hon. WARNER MILLER a picture so nearly identical with the portrait of Mr. MANNING and Mr. CLEVELAND. Apart from the difference in politics, candor requires us to declare that of the three, Mr. MILLER must be esteemed the handsomest and most graceful statesman; and however much the *Judge* may be opposed to his reélection as a Senator in Congress, it ought not to do him any wrong as regards his personal beauty.

Congressman GROUT of Vermont has once more introduced his bill for the election of fourth-class Postmasters. It was reported adversely last session, and it is probable enough that the same fate will befall it now; but the idea is one which comes up every year, and as the details of the GROUT plan are rather interesting, it is worth while to mention them. It is proposed that each fourth-class Postmaster shall keep at his Post Office an open registry for the use of the people who get their letters and papers there. When it appears that a majority of these want a new Postmaster, the Postmaster-General is to be notified. That official thereupon appoints a Commissioner, who doesn't belong to the town where the Post Office in question is, to issue a proclamation for a meeting, a special town meeting, as it were. At this meeting the voters ballot for a Postmaster. The name of the successful candidate is sent to the Postmaster-General, who may appoint him to the office; or, if he refuses, a second election is held and some other candidate chosen.

The aim of Mr. GROUT is to keep the fifty-five thousand Post Offices out of politics; and this much may be said in its favor: It does not propose to create an official class whose term shall be for life, nor does it depend upon competitive examinations as tests of the fitness of candidates. It leaves the disposition of the thing with the people, and the Postmasters whom they would elect would be elected in the main for political reasons. But the present system of appointing fourth-class Postmasters is all right. Even in Republican towns the Postmaster should be Democratic if the Administration is Democratic.

A correspondent in Oysterville, Washington Territory, informs us that there is nothing "too hot or heavy for the Republican party to tackle" in that country. The special fault that he mentions, and he proves it by a copy of the *Pacific Journal*, is that the Republicans of Pacific county paid Mr. MARCUS SCHILDBROUP'S fine of $80, in order to get him out of jail so that he might vote. This event was not important, for the Democrats carried the election; but it may serve as a pointer for statesmen who think of making new States.

Mr. Cleveland May Well Be Pleased.

From the Baltimore American.

Mrs. Cleveland is a great favorite with a number of statesmen and prominent men who visit the White House. The President always likes to hear her beauty spoken of and takes great delight in commenting on it. A few days ago, before the President was taken ill, a prominent citizen of North Carolina and one from Georgia called to pay an evening visit at the White House. Soon after they arrived the North Carolinian remarked to Mrs. Cleveland: "I saw you on the avenue to-day in the carriage."

"Yes," replied Mrs. Cleveland. "I saw you, too, and I bowed to you."

"So did I," said G. C.; "but you did not see me."

"Were you in the carriage, too?" asked the Southerner.

"Yes," replied the President; "I was sitting back, but I saw that you only had an eye for pretty girls," and he gave an sish-you-sweet look at his wife, and all the party laughed.

Mrs. Manning's Popularity.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Of the wives of the Cabinet members Mrs. Manning is this year mentioned as the favorite. Though not beginning to approach Mrs. Whitney in the splendor of her entertainments, or the elegance of her toilets, she is said to number more pa pie among her friends than any other woman in official society. This is due to her winning manner as much as to her never-failing tact. There is no assumption of superiority about her, and her manner is the same toward all. Since Mr. Manning's illness Mrs. Manning's first care has been his health, and the improvement in his condition is due quite as much to her care of the Secretary as to the medical attendance he has had.

Just the Truth!

From the Jersey City Argus.

If Governor Hill should be nominated for President, he will carry his state as gallantly in 1888 as he did in 1885.

THE ROSEBERY-BAYARD DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

Shall the Rights of Our Fishermen in Canadian Ports be Maintained?

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The surprise and gratification with which the New England fishermen learned that their grievances against Canada had been vigorously presented to the British Government by Mr. Bayard seem to have led to unwarranted hopes of a speedy and satisfactory settlement of the dispute. This reaction of feeling was natural, but the truth appears to be that the correspondence on the subject between London and Washington thus far gives no ground for the expectation that the full American demands will be conceded. In fact, where the thread of the negotiations is dropped in the documents recently sent to Congress, the British Government declares that it proposes, before granting any redress whatever, to await the issue of suits brought in the Dominion courts for the purpose of condemning the seized American vessels. In a letter from the Marquis of Lansdowne to Earl Granville, the former asserts that Mr. Bayard's statement that the Dominion Government is seeking to destroy the commercial rights of our American fishing vessels is not warranted by the facts. The reason assigned is that the seized schooners which were then under consideration "are both of them, beyond all question, fishing vessels, and not traders," and therefore come wholly under the treaty of 1818. Earl Rosebery remarks on this letter, of which he asks that a copy be sent to Mr. Bayard, that "her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the views expressed."

This goes to the root of the American controversy, and controverts the American position. The American ground is that all vessels duly authorized by our Government to visit British colonial ports and there trade, whether they are fishing vessels or not, are entitled, under British acts of Parliament, enacted thirty years later than the ratification of the treaty of 1818, to exercise the same rights and privileges of trade that are conceded to British and Canadian vessels in our ports under acts of Congress passed about the same time, in pursuance of a mutual understanding for an interchange of advantages in trade.

This is the exact point involved in the matter of the right to buy bait in Canadian ports, to procure provisions, and to do other acts having no necessary relation to fishing within the three-mile limit which latter privilege our authorities admit was withdrawn by the treaty of 1818. In the very latest utterance from London contained in the correspondence sent to the House this fundamental American doctrine is denied. It is to be hoped that at some day it will be conceded, but we only speak of the matter as it stands.

A second point well worthy of consideration is the proposal of Earl Rosebery to await the trial of the seizure cases in Canada before doing anything more. On this declaration it may be well to recall the words used by Secretary Daniel Webster in a speech to his neighbors three months before his death:

"The treaty of 1818 was made with the Crown of England. If a fishing vessel is captured by one of her vessels of war and brought in for adjudication, the Crown of England is answerable, and then we know whom we have to deal with. But it is not to be expected that the United States will submit their rights to be adjudicated upon in the petty tribunals of the provinces, or that they will allow our citizens to be seized by constables and other petty officers, and condemned by municipal courts of Canada and Newfoundland, New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia. No! No! No!"

Nevertheless it is a subject for congratulation that the Department of State has firmly presented the American case in its diplomatic guise. Now we are to see what Congress has to say.

MR. CLEVELAND VICTIMIZED.

An Ex-Convict Works the Governor of New York for Eight Dollars.

From the Albany Argus.

When Gov. Cleveland was here in Albany a man came to the door of the Executive chamber and said his name was Miller; that he was a Buffalonian, but becoming moneyless with his family he was embarrassed here in the city, and he wanted to see the Governor and state his case, hoping he would help him and his family to Buffalo. It was evening, and the Governor told the doorkeeper to let Mr. Miller in. The Governor looked sharply at the man, but he did not know him.

"I am in the lumber business in Buffalo," began Miller, "and I am anxious with my family to be in Buffalo to-morrow. The train leaves in an hour, and I have not enough to pay the fares. If you will only help me, I will send the money back to-morrow. Nobody knows me here or I would get a check cashed. I also own a farm near Buffalo, and I shall keep the Executive mansion stocked with apples all winter."

Miller was neatly dressed and intelligent in appearance. All the time he conversed with the Governor he kept pulling a handkerchief over an apparently bruised wrist. Meanwhile the doorkeeper in another room had looked up the Millers in a Buffalo directory, and there was a Miller in the lumber business in that city with the initials Miller gave when he presented his card. This fact was communicated to Gov. Cleveland upon a card unknown to Miller, whom the Governor had kept in conversation.

"I have not a great deal of money with me," said Gov. Cleveland, handing Miller eight dollars. "This is all I have, and you are welcome."

"Thank you," said Miller. "That will just help me out nicely. I'll send it back to you to-morrow night, and half a dozen barrels of apples with it."

That night Grover Cleveland went home without a cent in his pockets. But before he went home something aroused a suspicion in his mind that Miller was a fraud. He summoned one of the clerks, told him the circumstances, gave a description of the man, and ordered him to write to a certain State prison and see if such a party answering Miller's description, with a bruised left wrist, had not been discharged a day or two before he came to the Executive chamber. In forty-eight hours back came a letter from the prison, giving a perfect description of Miller; that he had a small abscess on his left wrist; detailed the exact color and shape of the clothes he wore when he left the prison, and when he left town he bought a ticket for Albany. It seems Miller was not his name, but in twenty-four hours after he left prison, where he had served a sentence of five years, he presented himself to the Governor and victimized him out of eight dollars. This was superhuman cheek. Grover Cleveland has never yet seen his eight dollars or the six barrels of apples.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.

When Gen. W. T. Sherman wants a drink he walks up to the bar of the Fifth Avenue Hotel and says to the bartender, "Toddy, please." There is a difference between this and the behavior of Senator Edmunds of Vermont, who is by no means a stranger to the taste of liquor. He wrote to the lady President of a temperance society in Vermont that he was obliged to take something because he has asthma.

Mr. George Ilsa, the manager of the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, has been at the Brunswick a few days. He is one of the active spirits in preparing for the winter carnival to be held in Montreal in February, and says the festival will far eclipse any previous effort of the kind. The carnival workers at Montreal differ from those of St. Paul in drawing their funds from private subscriptions instead of a joint stock company. This gives the Canadian fête the endorsement of the social leaders of the community, and brings also the generous cooperation of the railroad interests. Mr. Ilsa says that winter excursions to Montreal are the latest things of interest. A series of three from Boston has just been arranged, and one from Saratoga is under way.

Some one asked Charles Dudley Warner whether he did not think the gilded dome of the State Capitol at Hartford was a monstrosity. "It may or may not be," he replied, "but that is not for us to say. It is enough for any loyal New Englander to know that the dome of the Capitol in Boston was gilded first."

Gen. Daniel E. Sickles is seldom seen about town in the daytime, but appears to manage to attend everything worth the while in the evenings. Young and pretty ladies are very often his companions—two at a time as a rule. Gen. Sickles is the only living hero of the war who looks as he did in his fighting days. A portrait of him in the *Century* for December, taken from a war-time photograph, is a good picture of him as he appeared in his last battle—with the gas companies.

Joseph H. Choate presents a singular example of the combined effects of hard work and good living. His face is fat as his habit, but his shoulders stoop and his face shows deep thought lines. Some years ago he did a very remarkable thing. The speakers arranged for at a woman's charitable association anniversary in Chickering Hall all failed to come. He was called to the platform in their places. "I don't know anything about this except that it is a good thing, but I am going to talk to you for two hours and a half," he said. Never was an audience better entertained. That stamped Choate as the best impromptu speaker in town, and who can say he is not that to-day?

White-haired Sergeant Andrew J. Thompson of the Leonard street police can look back upon a varied and interesting career of service in the Police Department. He has been a policeman for twenty-seven years, and what makes his experience unique is that Chief of Police William Murray served as a patrolman under him. A conspicuous Captain of the force was also once a patrolman under him. The best thing of all is that in all the years of his connection with the department he has had but one complaint against him. That was of absence without leave, and was made through a misunderstanding.

Better Late Than Never.

From the Philadelphia Press.

It is denied that changes in the President's Cabinet are contemplated. This is very unfortunate for the President. There is at least one change which he should make, or rather which he should have made many months ago, and that is in the Attorney-Generalship. Mr. Cleveland has been indifferent to the character of his legal adviser so long that he would get little credit for his removal now, but for the honor of the country Garland should go.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

The Open Executive Sessions Bill Tabled—The Railroad Attorneys Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—In the Senate today Mr. Vance (Dem., N. C.) introduced a bill to repeal the Civil Service law. It is the same bill he introduced at the last session, and which was reported adversely.

Mr. Conger (Rep., Mich.), from the Post Office Committee, reported favorably the House bill extending the free delivery system to towns having a population of 10,000, or a gross annual postal revenue of $10,000; also the House bill authorizing the employment of mail messengers in the postal service.

Mr. Cullom (Rep., Ill.) presented the conference report on the Inter-State Commerce bill. After debate, the report was ordered printed, and Mr. Cullom gave notice that he would call it up on Tuesday next, and if the Senate desired to discuss it at length it might go over until after the holidays.

Mr. McPherson (Dem., N. J.) offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling on the Secretary of War for information as to the proposed bridge across the Arthur Kill, between New Jersey and Staten Island.

The bill repealing the Tenure of Office act came up as unfinished business, and was, on motion of Mr. Hoar, allowed to stand over till to-morrow.

Mr. Platt (Rep., Conn.) then called up his resolution that executive nominations shall hereafter be considered in open session, except when otherwise ordered by a vote of the Senate.

Mr. Hoar moved to lay the resolution on the table. Agreed to—yeas 33, nays 21, as follows (Democrats in italics):

Yeas—*Allison, Beck, Call*, Cameron, Chace, Cheney, *Cockrell, Colquitt*, Edmunds, Evarts, *Gorman, Gray*, Harrison, Hoar, *Ingalls, Jones* (Ark.), McMillan, *McPherson*, Mahone, *Maxey, Miller, Morgan*, Morrill, *Pugh*, Sabin, *Saulsbury*, Sawyer, *Sewell*, Spooner, *Vest, Walthall, Whitthorne, Wilson* (Md.)—33.

Nays—*Berry*, Blair, *Butler*, Conger, Cullom, Dawes, Dolph, *Eustis, Frye, George, Gibson*, Hawley, Mitchell (Oregon), Mitchell (Pa.), Platt, Plumb, Sherman, Van Wyck, *Voorhees*, Williams, Wilson (Iowa)—21.

Mr. Hawley said he had voted "No" only because he wanted a direct vote on the resolution.

Mr. Beck (Dem., Ky.) called up the bill prohibiting Senators or Representatives from acting as attorneys for subsidized railroad companies, the question being on the substitute reported from the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Beck said the substitute was a burlesque on all legislation, and was so intended by the Chairman and leading members of the committee. The object was to defeat a measure which Senators dared not vote down directly. He denounced it as indecent for Senators and members to sit and vote upon measures affecting great railroad companies to the amount of hundreds of millions while having the money of those companies in their pockets.

After further debate, and without reaching a vote, the Senate went into executive session, and when the doors reopened adjourned.

In the House the Speaker appointed Messrs. Caldwell, Eden, and Cooper as conferrees on the Electoral Count bill.

The House then, in Committee of the Whole, debated the bill for the allotment of land in severalty to Indians, and then took up the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill.

Mr. Dingley (Rep., Me.) offered an amendment, which was adopted, appropriating $147,500 for the construction of a lighthouse supply steamer for use on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Mr. Lanham (Dem., Tex.) offered an amendment, as directed by the Coinage Committee, providing for the redemption of the trade dollar. Ruled out on a point of order.

Pending further consideration of the bill the committee rose.

A bill was reported from the Committee on Appropriations to supply a deficiency in the appropriations for public printing. It appropriates $85,000 for public printing and binding, $17,000 for distinctive paper for United States securities, and $5,000 for the recoinage of silver. The House then adjourned.

MR. OSBORN'S CHARGES.

Appraiser McMullen and Others Reply to his Attacks Upon Them.

A Washington despatch printed in this city yesterday morning gives what purports to be the substance of a report of a special agent of the Treasury Department, charging Appraiser McMullen of this port with permitting fraudulent undervaluations of cutlery imported from Germany. The charges are made by W. H. Osborn, who has held no place under the Government for several months.

Appraiser McMullen said to THE SUN reporter yesterday that he denied every allegation in the pretended report of the so-called Special Agent, from the first statement, that Osborn is a Treasury Agent, to the end of the chapter. Mr. McMullen said that Osborn was sent abroad a year or more ago at the instance of certain American manufacturers of cutlery, who urged upon Secretary Manning that he be appointed a special agent of the Treasury Department in order to investigate certain rumors of fraudulent undervaluation then current. It is understood that the American manufacturers paid Osborn's wages. Mr. McMullen said further that Osborn was undoubtedly animated by malice in publishing his present charges, because when he applied to be made a Special Examiner Mr. McMullen rejected him on the ground that his moral character was bad. In August last Osborn made certain charges against importers of cutlery, which were referred to Special Agents Hanlon and Adams for investigation, and so far as Mr. McMullen knows no report has been made.

Assistant Appraiser Halsted, whom Osborn denounces as incompetent, contradicted Osborn in detail in every statement.

Osborn's statement implicates Alfred Field & Co., H. Baker & Co., Alexander Coppel, and A. Kastor. Representatives of these firms denounce Osborn as unworthy of belief, and offer evidence to prove that his charges are unfounded.

Collector Magone said that he had not read the report of Osborn's charges, but he denied Osborn's statement that he had sent for Appraiser McMullen to censure him.

Special Agent Hanlon refused to talk of Osborn's charges further than to say that he made a report yesterday which he had sent to the United States District Attorney.

Apocynum Cannabinum in Bright's Disease.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: THE SUN'S office cat struggled very successfully with chirography which the writer himself often cannot read. The only important typographical errors were in putting as for and, and *apocynum coma binum* for *Apocynum cannabinum*.

The history of the use of this remedy in dropsy and Bright's disease is very curious. The old Dutch settlers used to drink it in gin or bitter schnapps. It once grew largely on the old Brevoort estate corner of Broadway and Eleventh street. Dr. David Hosack, who flourished from 1769 to 1835, introduced its use into the New York Hospital, where it has held its own, with many ups and downs, according as the root could be obtained fresh or only stale, up to the present time. The late Dr. John W. Gray learned its use from Dr. Hosack and the Brevoorts. He cured Mr. Hunt, who was an enormously fat man, of dropsy and Bright's disease with Apocynum. Helpers were cured with the same remedy by Dr. John C. Peters. Hunt finally died and his wife was left very poor. She and her husband had long collected the fresh root, both for himself and such patients as he could sell to him. Drs. Gray, Peters, and other physicians gave Mrs. Hunt their opinions of the uses of the remedy, and finally her so-called secret was purchased by a large manufacturing drug concern. This is now the famous Hunt's remedy for dropsy and kidney diseases. Whether it is as well prepared as when the Hunts made it the deponent knoweth not.

Regular and homœopathic physicians have used the remedy for forty or sixty years and more, with success or failure in proportion to the goodness of the root and the curability of the cases.

It was discussed very thoroughly at a late meeting of the section on Materia Medica and Therapeutics of the Academy of Medicine, and a great variety of conflicting experience was brought out. Great stress was laid upon the fact that the Drs. Jewett of Syracuse have made a specialty of collecting and preparing the drug. They are accomplished and bona fide regular physicians, who do not sell it, but supply all physicians who send for it with all they can spare from their sanitary stores, and furnish at least specimens of what the drug should be, so that all doctors and apothecaries can judge for themselves of the preparation they have on hand or can procure.

It is needless to say that Dr. Gray did not use the remedy in homœopathic doses. He was a sound empiric who used every useful remedy, and also big doses very often. MIDDLE CODS.

Proposed Reorganization of the National Banks.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Comptroller Trenholm appeared before the House Committee on Banking and Currency to-day by request, to state his views touching the national banking system. The Comptroller said that he was not yet fully prepared to suggest a scheme of reorganization, but believed that he would be able to suggest a practicable plan some time in January next. Meanwhile he submitted for the consideration of the committee a draft of a bill amendatory of the laws relating to national banking associations, embodying many of the recommendations contained in his last annual report, with the addition of clauses authorizing the Comptroller to assign to the Deputy Comptroller such duties as he might delegate, and sanctioning the continuance of a full-d bank under its old name where it appeared that all liabilities have been paid, upon a vote of two-thirds of the stockholders.

Nominations by the President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A large number of recess nominations were sent to the Senate to-day, including the following:

Postmaster—John M. Corse, Boston; Edward F. Meeker, Bridgeport, Conn.; Aaron C. Seeley, Danbury, Conn.; William H. Greenhow, Hornellsville, N. Y.; Francis A. Willard, Moonville, N. Y.; Daniel J. McGrory, Westchester, N. Y.; Andrew Dardis, Catskill, N. Y.; Frank B. Brown, Corning, N. Y.; Orville F. Levalley, Naples, N. Y.; Carlos E. Chaffee, Springville, N. Y.; Thomas A. Ryan, Ogdensburg, N. Y.; Orville A. Manville, Whitehall, N. Y.; Lullus C. Keyes, Yonkers, N. Y.; Michael Tirney, Salem, N. Y.; Charles E. Rose, Paterson, N. Y.; Harlow K. Sandy, Oneonta, N. Y.; Hilliret Leite, Summit, N. J.; Enoch L. Moore, Trenton, N. J.; George W. Lamar, Savannah, Ga., and John C. Riley, Cincinnati.

Nothing Like It.

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THE CONTEST IN INDIANA.

A Republican Senator Elect Accused of Bribery—The Democratic Programme.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 15.—The Republicans have abandoned their contests for seats in the Legislature in St. Joseph, Warrick, Spencer, and Orange counties, and the Democrats in Cass county. The testimony against Republican Senator-elect McDonald of Jackson county is being taken, and charges of alleged bribery look very like being sustained. Of four witnesses, two swear that McDonald met them shortly before election and gave them both small amounts of money, said nothing, and passed on. Another witness testified that McDonald met him just before election, shook hands, gave him $50, and failed to say a word as to what he should do with the money.

The Democratic members elect of the Legislature have all gone home. Everything was left in the hands of the committee, of which Jewett, Speaker of the last House, is Chairman. His ability, courage, and knowledge of parliamentary law are unquestioned.

It is said that the Senate will be organized with Green Smith or some other Democrat in the chair, and that the chair will be refused when Robertson, Republican, recently elected, makes a formal demand for it. If Robertson can be kept out of the chair until the contests are settled the Democracy feel that they will have gained everything needful to checkmate any Republican movement in the lower House. It is their purpose to compel him to institute quo warranto proceedings, and by the time that these have been passed upon by the courts, the session of the Legislature will be over.

FATHER M'GLYNN AND HIS FRIENDS.

Bishop O'Hara Says Priests Should Keep Out of Politics.

WILKESBARRE, Dec. 15.—The case of Dr. McGlynn of New York excites more than usual interest in this part of Pennsylvania. Some of his relatives reside here. Miss Kate Higgins of this city is a cousin and a prominent member of St. Mary's Church choir. Her brother, Mr. Will Higgins, a shoe merchant here, says that Dr. McGlynn is too good a Catholic to violate the rules of his Church. "When Dr. McGlynn advocates Henry George's ideas," said Mr. Higgins, "it is because he loves downtrodden humanity, and is willing to lift up his voice in its behalf. Dr. McGlynn's sympathy with the poor has made him a poor man. There was a time when, to my own knowledge, he was worth $35,000. It is doubtful if he is worth $1,000 to-day. Still Dr. McGlynn is not going to sacrifice his holy Catholic faith for his own opinions, no matter how laudable those opinions may be."

Father McGlynn is well known and esteemed by Bishop O'Hara. A reporter called on Bishop O'Hara to-day to learn his views regarding the controversy between the Archbishop and Dr. McGlynn. The distinguished prelate said:

"The matter will be decided at the proper time by the proper authorities. The Roman Catholic Church moves with great deliberation in such matters as these. The restrictions of our Church are such as to prevent priests from participating in politics. Priests are at liberty to exercise all the rights of American citizenship, but the duties of the priesthood, but a priest's character and the course of life which he is bound to pursue make it imperative that he should not descend to the arena of politics."

DID NAGEL SELL REAL DIAMONDS?

A Piano Bought on the Installment Plan and Sold on the Indian Plan.

Detective Elliot of Chicago arrived at Newark yesterday with requisition papers for Frank Nagel, the bright and innocent-looking youth who is accused of stealing $500 worth of diamonds from Florence J. Lawrence of Chicago. Gov. Abbett has ordered the detention of the prisoner until an examination of the merits of the