The Sun.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1886.

The Sugar Problem.

One of the sure ways to reduce the surplus would be to take off the duty on sugar. Senator JOHN SHERMAN, Republican and protectionist, proposes to do this, and the proposition is freely considered by other influential members of his party. It would be a movement toward free trade, but it would effect a great reduction in the revenue, about fifty millions a year; while the industry to be wiped out is confined to the Democratic State of Louisiana, and thus nothing would be lost to the Republicans from a political point of view. Indeed it is conceivable, if it were done, that out of sheer vengeance against the Democracy for permitting it, Louisiana might cast her next electoral ballots for her Republican despoilers.

But we find that when a Democratic contemporary of unquestionable free trade propensities, the *Indianapolis Sentinel*, considers this plan, it is utterly opposed thereto. It says it would be unfair to let other industries retain their protection against competing foreigners while this Southern industry, the "little ewe lamb" of that region, is sacrificed. As Mr. WEBSTER said in the Dartmouth College case, "This is one of the lesser lights in the horizon of our country. You may put it out." The sugar industry is at the mercy of Congress, and, when it is threatened, the first voice raised in protest is that of a free trader. The heart of our contemporary is partisan after all, and it beats harder for American enterprise than for that of other nations, at least when it is conducted in a Democratic State.

The difference between our contemporary and THE SUN is that in the discussion of the tariff, as in all other questions, THE SUN looks constantly toward the welfare of the Democracy, not in any single State particularly, but in the country at large; and the surest way to scatter and defeat that organization as the controlling power in national affairs would be to crush it not only in Louisiana, but in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, by a general tariff slash.

Irish Tenants and the Dillon Incident.

The precise nature of the legal proceedings against Mr. JOHN DILLON must be kept in view, if we would forecast their effect on the plan of campaign recommended to Irish tenants by the Nationalist leaders. Had Mr. DILLON, the chief advocate of conveying rents to trustees, been convicted by a jury of a violation of the law, the British Government would doubtless have taken rigorous measures to parry the new device for thwarting unconscionable landlords. They would have arrested the custodians of withheld rents, as well as every public defender of the trustee process, and, on the plea that the National League was conspiring to defeat justice, they would have suppressed that organization.

As a matter of fact, the situation is much less encouraging to those members of the Cabinet who hold that landlords should be backed by the whole power of the Government in enforcing the letter of their rights. Mr. DILLON has not been tried before a jury, and it is questionable whether a jury could be found in Ireland to convict him of breaking the law. He has simply been arraigned before a Judge in Chambers under a statute passed five centuries ago, which confers a discretionary power to compel any person to give bonds to keep the peace. A summary proceeding of this kind, in which the Court's decision is avowedly based on *ex parte* testimony, represents nothing but the first impression of the Judge, and carries no more weight than attaches to an injunction before its merits are examined under an order to show cause. Mr. DILLON can force the Crown to test before a jury the legality of his plan of campaign by continuing to do the very thing which the Court bound him not to do. Then, upon an attempt being made to enforce a forfeiture of his bond, the sureties would contend that no legal offence had been committed, and an issue for a jury would thus be made.

So we see that even Mr. DILLON has not been effectually muzzled, and it is certain that the other Nationalist leaders will not be daunted by anything short of a conviction by a jury. They hold that a recourse to the trustee process is justifiable on moral grounds, and they will go on advising it, until its illegality has been determined by more conclusive authority than the discretionary action of a Judge at Chambers. Pending such a determination Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH, who is said to be supported by at least two members of the Cabinet—Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL and Mr. MATTHEWS—is believed to consider a severe coercion policy inopportune. He knows that the reductions of rent which the trustee process aims to secure from certain uncompromising landlords, are not a jot larger than in his official function of Irish Secretary he himself had induced many landowners to accept, on the ground that the judicial rents fixed some years ago were no longer equitable.

The rumor that Mr. GLADSTONE had expressed a disapproval of the trustee process has not been confirmed, and we do not see how he could reconcile it with the principle embodied in his Land act of 1881. Under that law the relations of tenant to landlord in Ireland were to be regulated no longer by contract, but by status. In other words, the rent to be exacted from a tenant was to be measured by his ability to pay. It is true that the act provided certain machinery for defining a tenant's ability, but such a definition was to be provisional, not final. In the case of a marked decline in the value of farm products, the same equity, which in the first place ordered rents to be judicially determined, would require a suspension of the harsh power of eviction until judicial rents in their turn could be readjusted to the facts. That was what Mr. PARNELL tried to do in the autumn session of the present Parliament, and the rejection of his bill by the Tories and Unionist-Liberals has compelled the Irish tenants to invoke the trustee process as a means of coping with those landlords who insist upon the utmost penny of their nominal dues. We should remember that tenants, in employing this weapon of defence, do not refuse to pay as much rent as the yield of their holdings will permit, and as other landlords in the neighborhood have voluntarily agreed to accept. It is only when landowners refuse to assent to compromises which members of their own class pronounce reasonable, that the sums offered and declined are turned over to trustees. To obtain these sums the landlords do not require legal assistance; they have only to give the trustees a discharge in full for the term covered by the rents deposited.

It is, of course, possible that the landlord party, which is now zealously supported outside of the Ministry by Lord HARTINGTON, may also gain the upper hand within the Tory Cabinet, and compel the resignation of Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH. But there could hardly be a weaker case for violent coercion than the attempt to gain by the trustee process just such a recognition of status in lieu of contract as it was the fundamental object of the last Land act to secure.

Chauncey Depew and the Central.

When Mr. CHAUNCEY DEPEW's accession to the Presidency of the Central Railroad was announced, a great many eminent railroad men condemned the choice and said that it was a sad mistake to put an amateur in a place of such importance. The test of practical efficiency in a great railroad's administration is not as complex as many people suppose it to be. Wall street considerations being eliminated from the subject, it will be found that that management is the best which best maintains the railroad's physical condition while operating it for the lowest percentage of the earnings. The distinguished amateur who is now at the head of the New York Central Railroad has made a report to his stockholders showing that he has reduced the ratio of operating expenses from the 74.34 per cent. of last year to 55.95 for the present period, coupled with an increase of gross earnings amounting to over six millions. Such a state of things speaks volumes for the Central property, and is enough to make Mr. DEPEW's critics turn green with envy, to say nothing of mortification.

But when we consider that the condition of the road, its track, bridges, stations, and safety appliances was never at any time in its history comparable to what it is now, the result is as creditable as it is astonishing. We have always known Mr. DEPEW's versatility and remarkable general capacity, and when he took the chair vacated by Mr. RUTTER we gave him a hearty welcome to its responsibilities and expressed our lively faith in his success. But we were not prepared to have him turn out a professional of the highest force, competent in the face of the severest vicissitudes to extricate the property from its difficulties and restore it to its proper rank as the great highway of the Empire State.

We speak from a careful inspection of the Central Railroad throughout its entire length, when we say that its physical condition is unexceptionable, and that it is as remote from that slovenly accumulation of scrap iron and neglected rolling stock, of which it consisted six years ago, as sound railroad science and well-directed energy can make it. It is all the more agreeable to be able to say these things of it because they could not at any period heretofore have been truthfully said; and so we salute Mr. DEPEW and tender to him once more the assurance of our most cordial and distinguished consideration.

The New York and New England Railroad.

Now that by a decided majority the stockholders have turned out the HIGGINSON-CLARK management, which promised so much and has done so little for the New England Railroad's permanent welfare, it is to be hoped that the new directors will appoint a manager who will work the road from end to end in its own interest, and for the benefit of all its customers.

They declare that this is their purpose, and yet it is also reported that they want to retain Mr. CLARK's services as General Manager. This is hardly to be credited, for his policy, as we understand it, has been wrong in almost every particular. He and his associates, after putting the road into the hands of a receiver, in a method which has recently received the severe condemnation of Judge GRESHAM in another case, lost no time in shutting off the business of the Erie Railroad at Newburg, and especially the coal for the accommodation of which the western extension of the road was built. They humbled themselves to the Consolidated road, and have striven by every species of servility, but in vain, to form a closer alliance with that proud and prosperous corporation. They have been repulsed at every point, and now we see them turned out, as they deserved.

The fact is that the New England Railroad is bigger than its management has been for the last three years. It has great possibilities, and if vigorously worked in the interests of its own stockholders and in a spirit of fairness toward the public and firmness toward its rivals and connections, has a great future before it. But managed as a provincial road, as it always has been under Mr. CLARK's supervision, it must, so far as we can see, continue to drift, without hope of ever becoming a source of profit to its owners or of special utility to the people.

The truth is that but for the wisdom and energy of Mr. CLARK's predecessors in securing the incomparable terminal facilities that now belong to the company, in buying engines and cars, and building a double track, side tracks, and terminal yards, his career would have been much less successful than it has been, and would have been terminated far more promptly, while the road itself would scarcely have been worth buying at the present time.

It constitutes and must always constitute an important part of the shortest line from New York to Providence and Boston—as good a general railroad route as there is in America, if not in the world—and the public should have the benefit of this circumstance. If the late change of management doesn't mean this, what does it mean? If Mr. CLARK remains as General Manager, he will control the policy of the road hereafter as heretofore, since the new President has already declared that he intends to delegate his authority to others.

Mr. CLARK and his rosewater methods have been tried and have conspicuously failed. Is there nobody who can see further and act more independently?

No Injustice to Mr. Atkins.

We reply willingly to a question put to us as a matter of fairness by the *Courier-Journal*:

"Why should our esteemed contemporary, THE SUN, seek to attach discredit to Gen. ATKINS, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, on account of the Pan-Electric scandal? He was not in Congress when he became a member of the Pan-Electric Company. It is not pretended that he has ever prostituted any office to its service. Why should THE SUN pursue him? Does it not, in doing so, break the force of its assaults upon real doers of evil?"

Our esteemed contemporary in Louisville, we are sure, has no more sympathy with Pan-Electric statesmanship, and no more desire to shield Pan-Electric statesmen, Republicans or Democrats, than THE SUN itself has. It is mistaken in its facts and dates, that is all.

Mr. ATKINS was a witness before the investigating committee of the House of Representatives, and testified that he was not a member of Congress when he entered the Pan-Electric organization. We suppose it is this that misleads the *Courier-Journal*. In one sense Mr. ATKINS's assertion was true. The Pan-Electric Telephone Company, in which he became a director, receiving $500,000 of gift stock, was not incorporated until Oct. 31, 1883, and was not organized until Nov. 23. Mr. ATKINS's term as a member of the Forty-seventh Congress ended on March 4, 1883, and he had not been reélected to the Forty-eighth.

But if Mr. ATKINS meant to convey the impression that he did not become interested in the Pan-Electric speculation while he was still in Congress, his assertion was utterly false and misleading. It was while he was a member of Congress that the ROGERSES approached him and enlisted him in their enterprise. ATKINS and HARRIS were their original associates among men holding office. ATKINS was one of the earliest and busiest of the promoters of the great scheme for enriching impecunious statesmen from Tennessee and Arkansas. It was he, indeed, that brought GARLAND into camp.

If the *Courier-Journal* desires evidence of the fact that Mr. ATKINS was actively interested in Pan-electricity while he was still a member of Congress, it can be found in the following extract from a letter written on Feb. 13, 1883, to Dr. ROGERS by Senator ISHAM G. HARRIS:

"I see no impropriety in gentlemen holding official positions, as ATKINS and myself do, becoming interested in an enterprise such as you suggest. ATKINS and I will be glad to confer with you or HARRY, or both, at any convenient time, and discuss the matter further."

It was while Mr. ATKINS was a member of Congress that he went into the Pan-Electric speculation and persuaded other statesmen to go in; and he saw no impropriety in doing that thing.

Mr. CLEVELAND's recent attack of rheumatism only emphasizes the wisdom of our advice, that, instead of buying the pair of seal browns, he should invest in a pair of lively trotters and drive them himself for exercise.

We renew our suggestion not to sell the seal browns—they have proved unexpectedly useful—but to get the trotters. They will provide him with a most agreeable way of taking the air and using his muscles, so imperatively indicated by his recent affliction, and no doubt would enable him to perform in twelve hours duties to which he now devotes seventeen. Besides, when he goes out now he will have a companion. Mrs. CLEVELAND is represented as being very fond of sleighing. Perhaps Mr. CLEVELAND would sometimes hand over the reins to her.

The prosecution in the McQUADE case were much like the Germans in the war of 1870. They were all right after they captured Metz.

We learn through the *Albany Evening Journal* that a resolution introduced in the State Dairymen's Association in favor of recognizing the services rendered by Dr. WARNER MILLER to the cause of butter was coldly referred to the Committee on Oleomargarine. It would be very unkind if the butter men should smother in oleomargarine that statesman's chances of reélection to the Senate.

In sending a check for $500 to the committee which is raising money to build monuments to the two Southern poets, PAUL H. HAYNE and RICHARD H. WILDE, Mr. GEORGE WASHINGTON CHILDS of Philadelphia once more puts on record his own sympathetic appreciation of poetry in the minor key:

"The sweet and touching verses of WILDE (accomplished scholar and statesman, as well as poet) have been familiar to me since my boyhood, and HAYNE's poems we all know and love, even in his timpet calls to his Southern countrymen in a cause to which he was devoted, but which, in common with his Northern countrymen, I held to be wrong.

"The genius of both belong alike to our American inheritance, and we should all sympathize with the movement which pays homage to its memory. WILDE says, as KEATS thought, and as probably HAYNE also did, that his life was

"'Like the prints which feet
Have left on Tampa's desert sand,
Soon as the rising tide shall beat
All trace will vanish from the strand.'"

This letter, with its enclosure, drew from the *Augusta Chronicle* the following deserved tribute to one of the best and most modest men that ever declined a nomination for President:

"This noble contribution from Mr. CHILDS will endear him all the more to the people of the South and add one more wreath to his glorious fame. He is a rich man, whose heart is open to all merciful appeals. He is the diligent man, who not only has been found worthy to stand before monarchs, but merits the approving smile of the King of Kings, whose faithful steward he has always been.

"Mr. CHILDS has put his money and his name to more charitable uses than any man in America, perhaps in the world. His acts of charity are boundless."

It is high praise, but who will say that it is exaggerated? We should have missed this new evidence of the popular appreciation of Mr. CHILDS's monumental beneficence if we had not found it conspicuously reprinted in the columns of the *Public Ledger*.

Fine resolutions oleomargarine no parsnips, but surely Dr. MILLER had a right to look for aid and comfort from the dairymen, and he has a right to wail and weep:

"But when Doc WARNER MILLER got that stab,
Ingratitude, more strong than MORTON'S boom,
Quite vanquished him."

Still one cheese doesn't make a dairy, and Dr. MILLER may be all right up to date—and then again he may not.

It might turn out something of a joke if this new boat, the Thistle, that a Scotchman intends to build to compete for the America cup, should be a bigger cutter than any now existing, say more than 100 feet on the water line. That can be done with much greater ease than building a bigger sloop than the Mayflower. The latter's mainsail is about as big as can be handled with advantage, and this fact would indicate that about the limit of size in a sloop is reached. But a cutter's mainsail is much smaller, and to build a cutter up to the size of the Mayflower's sail would produce a boat far larger than the Galatea, and that might make things very interesting. But we shall know more of this later on.

There are forty-eight tramps on strike in the workhouse at Lancaster, Pa. They refuse to return to work until the authorities give them roast beef, vegetable soup, and a plenty of chewing and smoking tobacco. This was their ultimatum Wednesday, but by this time their demands may have grown, and they may insist upon canvasbacks and Clos de Vougeot. They have taken up a strong position in an old building, whence the authorities hope to dislodge them by cutting off their supplies; and so the war goes on apace. The Pennsylvania tramps, by the way, are noted in the profession for their originality and self-possession. Some of our readers may recall the tetrastich which was chalked upon a Reading freight car, and enjoyed a deserved popularity:

"Tramping is my occupation,
Hunger gives many a cramp;
Work and I are no relation,
I am a Pennsylvania tramp."

Poor MERLATTI, the fifty-day faster, is having a hard time. Cruel scientific persons are experimenting with his stomach, filling it with all sorts and conditions of food extracts, in order to ascertain the nutritive power of each preparation. If MERLATTI can survive this promiscuousness of thin diet he will have performed a much greater feat than fasting fifty days.

There have always been two theories upon the shoeing of horses. One is that they ought to be shod, and the other, supported by what we will call the Barefooted Brigade, is that they should go without shoes. The Shoers are much the more numerous, but the Barefoots are, if anything, more cocksure that they are right. We have always been inclined to approve of shoes, not for weak and defective feet only, but as the proper appliances for all feet, however good, and as practically indispensable for horses that are liable to be called on for a high rate of speed. When it comes to pounding, there must be something to pound with more substantial than the naked hoof.

We have often seen instances of horses belonging to quiet country families going shoeless with perfect comfort and safety, but the performance of Gov. STANFORD's trotting colt Antevolo, a flyer of the first rank, without shoes, maintains the arguments for bare feet in the highest prominence. Antevolo has been trotting now for several years without shoes, or with tips only. He made a record of 2:19¾ in September, 1885, and in the great race recently won by Harry Wilkes, Antevolo was timed in each of the four heats, with this splendid result: 2:16, 2:17, 2:17¾, and 2:18¼. It must have been a good, hardish track to allow Harry Wilkes to beat that, and trot a half mile in 1:04½ besides; but it seems that the barefooted horse's hoofs were fit to pound about as hard and fast in the fourth heat as in the first. It was a very noticeable performance, and well worthy the careful consideration of all horse-loving economists.

Mr. HENRY N. BEERS, who professes to represent a body calling itself the Council of Political Reform, seems to be a most astounding fool. He appeared before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment on Wednesday and repeated the silly statement that while the average annual per capita expenditure of forty-eight cities was but $8.98, that of New York is $36.65. In the first place, the assertion as to New York is egregiously exaggerated, and, in the second place, if it were correct, it would have no practical significance. New York must regulate her expenditures by her own needs and resources, and not merely follow the example of provincial American and European cities.

ONE OF THE 306.

Gen. Beaver of Pennsylvania as a Stalwart Republican Candidate for President.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 16.—The one thing more noticeable than any other in relation to the recent conference between Gen. Beaver and leading politicians of the State was the absence of the Chicago kickers of 1880. Gen. Beaver was himself a delegate to the National Convention of that year, and, obeying the instructions of the State Convention to support Gen. Grant for nomination, voted upon every ballot for the third-term candidate. Like Senator Conkling and Senator Cameron, Gen. Beaver is the possessor of a *306* medal, and is proud of this memento of his party fidelity.

The leader of the revolt of 1880, Mr. James McManes, called to see Gen. Beaver on the day of the conference, but failed to secure an interview. Gossip now has it that those who led the rebellion against Grant in 1880 while receiving at the hands of Gov. Beaver the consideration their standing in the party merits, will not be permitted to boss his administration, which, it is believed, will be Stalwart.

The Stalwart leaders, under the inspiration of Senator Cameron, David H. Lane, and Hamilton Disston of Philadelphia, Cochran of Lancaster, and Magee of Pittsburgh, are already shaping matters for Gov. Beaver as the choice of Pennsylvania for President in 1888. The old Blaine leaders, McManes and Leeds of Philadelphia, Stewart of Chambersburg, and Tom Bayne of Pittsburgh, are said to be just as industriously at work for Blaine.

At this stage of the game it looks like a Pennsylvania delegation of two equal parts—thirty for Gen. Beaver and thirty for James G. Blaine.

FOR GROVER CLEVELAND TO CONSIDER.

A Lamplighter Has as Much Right to Seek Office as a President—The Sham Reform Denounced as Foolish and Un-American.

From Mayor Hodge's Speech to the Baltimore Crescent Club.

Any principle or any policy that tends to discredit party, to weaken party allegiance and lessen party vigilance, is contrary to the principles of American politics, and perilous to the liberties of the people.

Of course, it is very well to talk of the office seeking the man, and to point to Cincinnatus dragged from the plough, or to Washington called from the shades of Mount Vernon; but these luminous instances are the exception, not the rule. If the office always sought the man, all offices would necessarily be filled by the personal friends of the appointees; for how could they judge of the fitness of a man for office who had a secret desire in that direction, of whom they had never heard, and who had no means of calling attention to his existence?

I confess that I cannot see why a desire for office should be thought discreditable, whether the office sought be the Presidency of the United States or the humble post of a street lamplighter. Is it discreditable to desire to give honest work for honest wages? Is it a disgrace to serve or wish to serve the nation, the State, or the city? Are those who have the temerity to avow this wish to be treated as a swarm of vampires or horse-leeches?

I am well aware that many abuses had crept into the old system, and that corrupt and incompetent officials had been appointed to office. I may safely admit that the public service for the last twenty-five years has swarmed with them. But I see no just remedy for this in the Civil Service law as it is at present framed. It is now a disturbing force to the contentment of the Democratic party, and it will be always unsatisfactory to the voters of any political party having control of the Government. I think it is not adapted to American ideas, since here public office is elective, and not hereditary. I think it tends to prostrate the will of the people as expressed at the polls. I believe that it leads to forming and perpetuating an office-holding class. I think it tends to enfeeble that general interest in political affairs which should be strengthened, and not weakened, by a free people; and I believe it will enervate that vigilant antagonism of parties which, as I have already said, is an essential safeguard to our liberties. Our system supposes that every citizen takes an interest in public matters, and acts with those who think with him; that he has political enemies and political friends; that he desires the success of one and the failure of the other. The man who is perfectly indifferent to these matters may be a philosopher, or he may be a fool; but to attempt to incorporate such an anomaly as the present Civil Service Reform law into our national politics, which was unfair in inception, and is unfair in practice, savors, to my mind, more of folly than of philosophy.

Gov. Hill's Popularity.

From the Indianapolis Sentinel.

A Democratic statesman recently said to the *Sentinel* correspondent, in speaking of Gov. Hill: "He is a wonderfully popular and astute politician. He is universally popular with the Irish and the workingmen of New York. During the Gubernatorial canvass of 1885 I attended a meeting in Brooklyn in that State, when Gov. Hill and others spoke in the Academy of Music. I had an opportunity of witnessing Hill's popularity. We had a splendid audience of 5,000 or 6,000 people. As Gov. Hill came on the stage that vast audience burst into thunders of applause, lasting for some minutes. At length it subsided, and in stating that he regarded this as a compliment to the great political organization to which he belonged, he said 'I am a Democrat.' He uttered the words in such a manner as to indicate that he meant all the words implied, and again the house thundered its applause and cheered and cheered to the echo. This was in the very home of the high priests of mugwumpery. I was satisfied from that hour he would be elected Governor of New York. Yes, Gov. Hill has a deep hold on the affections of the New York Democracy. He has the machinery of the Democratic party in hand, and certainly can have the vote of New York if he wants it, although I do not know that he will use his power. He is young, only forty-three, and may determine to wait a while.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland at the Theatre.

From the Baltimore American.

The reason the President went to the theatre last night was to show himself, and to prove that he was not ill. Early in the afternoon a rumor was started, and spread rapidly, that he had been taken with a stroke of apoplexy. Naturally, the news brought many people to the White House, and all were met with the prompt denial of the story. Then the President thought the best way to silence the report and show to the world that he was all right was to go to the theatre. He knew the fact of his being there would be telegraphed away, and this would effectually dispose of all stories of his illness. He did not, however, sit forward in the private box, but seemed to prefer to be hid behind the curtains. Mrs. Cleveland looked very handsome. She wore a simple brown silk dress and a small bonnet. She looked rosy and well, and seemed to enjoy the play and the people. Of course, she was looked at, and between the acts very few of the gentlemen left their seats "to go out and see a man." They preferred to sit still and look at Mrs. Cleveland. The footman, in the White House livery, guarded the entrance to the private box with great care.

Making Hector Useful.

From the Lewiston Journal.

"Here, sir! Come here!" exclaimed the President, the other day, in a firm tone, as a grave Senator dropped in. The visitor recovered from his astonishment when he saw Hector, the big black pet of Mrs. Cleveland, leap toward the President with an intensified doggish enthusiasm which upset the chair.

"Take these to your mistress," said the President, and Hector seized the bundle of papers and disappeared through the door like a black squall.

Can the Sun Stop Shining?

From the Harrisburg Patriot.

It is said that Sunset Cox gravely announces that he has given up joking. The world is the better for such jokes as Mr. Cox perpetrates, and nothing should interpose to stop their music.

Garland Means to Stick.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Everybody has indulged a slim and sickly hope that Attorney-General Garland might make up his mind during the few weeks yet remaining of this year to turn over a new leaf New Year's Day, but a close search through the annual report of that officer fails to disclose anything on which to nourish such a hope any longer. He means to stick.

MR. HEWITT EXPLAINS.

The Real Purpose of his Bill to Reduce the Treasury Surplus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Representative Hewitt said to a reporter to-day, in explanation of his bill to reduce the Treasury surplus and give security for national bank circulation, introduced in the House on Monday:

"The bill is the result of long and careful study. Its purpose is, first, to provide an outlet for the accumulating surplus in the Treasury, if the revenues of the Government are not reduced. The bill authorizes the Secretary to use this surplus to prepay the interest on the Government bonds in excess of three per cent., reducing the interest of all the bonds to three per cent. It is a mere business proposition. If a business house has out interest-bearing securities, and wants to pay off all the interest at once, they arrange with their creditors for a discount. Now, I want to apply the same business principles to the Government. By paying at once the Government will make the interest on the interest, computed at three per cent. The taxpayers will be relieved just this much, and the interest on the public debt will be reduced to three per cent.

"Now, as a second proposition, these bonds may be deposited in the Treasury to secure national bank circulation. The banks can buy these bonds in the market to replace the three per cents that have been called. Their interest being reduced, they will not command such a premium as they now do. It is probable that three per cents having ten years to run would command a small premium. To overcome this I propose to allow the national banks to issue to par upon these bonds. This I think will about make up the difference of the premium.

"I may properly be asked, 'Suppose the bondholders refuse to accept the prepayment of the interest?' This it provided against in the bill by the provision that the Secretary of the Treasury deposit the surplus in banks upon a security of an equal amount of the bonded or other indebtedness. I think it will be found that the bill meets all the requirements of the case. It will prevent the contraction of the currency and put the surplus into circulation among the people. The bill is intended as an expedient. If the revenues of the Government are not reduced. It would not be of so much value if the tariff were reduced, but it would even then be serviceable."

THE CASE OF GEN. MILES.

Favors to an Officer who was Charged with Disobedience of Orders.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—There was a new wrinkle in the case of Gen. Miles to-day which makes his peculiar position more peculiar still. Instead of ordering him before a court martial to be tried for disobedience of orders, as charged in the report of the Secretary of War to Congress, the President and the Secretary himself continue to treat the General with marked attention, and to-day the President ordered a rearrangement of the geographical divisions of the army, so as to give Miles a command of increased area and importance. Hereafter his division will extend from the Pacific Ocean to Fort Bliss on the Rio Grande, and his headquarters will be at Los Angeles, Cal., instead of at Albuquerque, which will be more agreeable. That such a favor should be extended to an officer who was only a week ago charged by the Secretary of War with disobedience, is about the strangest thing that ever occurred in the army; but it simply means that the President believes that Miles has been unjustly treated, and wants to compensate him the best he can.

It has been decided, after numerous consultations between the President and Mr. Endicott, that the latter shall write a letter explaining the misrepresentation in his reports to Congress, and disclosing the suppressed instructions under which Miles was acting, and which it is said were unknown to the Secretary when he signed his report. It is thought that the transmission of such a communication to Congress, and its publication in general orders, will make a window for Miles and let everybody out of the scrape without further scandal. Secretary Endicott would like to have the ordeal over with and the episode forgotten as soon as possible.

LIVE TOPICS IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The names of two Postmasters in Michigan have been sent to the Senate whose confirmation will be stoutly contested. They are G. C. Thompson, at Midland, and A. B. Moon, at Dowagiac. The circumstances connected with one of these cases, at least, are peculiar. Mr. Thompson is appointed in the place of a Democrat named Kelly, who secured his office in the last days of the Arthur Administration, upon the recommendation of the then Congressman from that district, the humorous Horr. Mr. Kelly was removed recently on a report by a Post Office inspector, which represents that his appointment in the original instance was secured through what may be termed a peculiar arrangement with the then Republican incumbent, Brewster. The story of this inspector's report is that Brewster purchased a tract of land of Kelly, and threw the Post Office in the bargain as "boot." The rather plain, unvarnished intimation of the Post Office inspector's report is that this was a bargain, and the Post Office inspector reports in favor of the removal of Kelly. Congressman Tarsney of Michigan is the man who was influential in having the inspector investigate and report the case. There is considerable indignation among the people of Midland at these charges, and they will ask the Senate to investigate them. The other interesting Post Office case from that State is from Dowagiac. The President about a year ago appointed to this office H. H. Porter, whom the Senate rejected because it was believed by the majority, at least, that Porter had written articles which attacked the memory of Lincoln, Garfield, and Grant. In the place of this man A. B. Moon is appointed, with whom the citizens do not seem to be much more contented than they were with Porter, for petitions have already been received here stating that charges have been preferred against him and that the evidence to sustain them will at once be forwarded to the Senate.

Mr. Thomas S. Tice, who was to-day appointed Assistant Appraiser of Merchandise at New York, is a well-known jeweler of Brooklyn. He is a sound Democrat, and his appointment was urged by Hugh McLaughlin, William H. Murtha, and other leading Democrats, and Secretary Manning approved the selection.

The friends of Congressman Ben Le Fevre of Ohio have recommended him for the Turkish mission, but it is understood that Minister Cox's successor will be another New York man.

The vote on Morrison's motion to take up the Tariff bill on Saturday will be very close. The Morrison men are not claiming a majority yet, but say they lack only two or three votes, which they will get before Saturday. The Randall men are quiet, but are well organized and confident. They say even if it is decided to take up tariff bills that Morrison's bill will be rejected by a large vote.

The leading Republican candidates for the Senate against Senator Van Wyck of Nebraska are Judge Amasa Cobb and ex-Senator Paddock. Judge Cobb used to live in Wisconsin, and represented the old lead mining district in the southwestern part of the State in the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, and Forty-first Congresses. He has been one of the Supreme Court Justices of Nebraska for several years. Ex-Senator Paddock was appointed a member of the Utah Commission by President Arthur.

The Wisconsin Republicans have concluded to give the seat in Congress made vacant by the death of W. T. Price to the Scandinavians. H. A. Taylor, a townsman of Senator Spooner at Hudson, a prominent party man, now Chairman of the Republican State Committee, could have the nomination if he would take it, but his game is the State Governorship, and he refuses to allow his name to be used. Judge Humphrey, who was in Congress for several terms until Price whittled the district into shape so that he could beat him, came to Washington to-day to ask his friends if he would stand any chance for the nomination. His errand has been fruitless. The leading Norwegians in the district are Nils P. Haugen, the present Pension Commissioner, and Hans B. Warner, ex-Secretary of State. Both are strong representative men. If either should be elected he would be the second Norwegian in Congress at present, Nelson, the Minnesota member, now being the only one.

She Knew Him.

From the Omaha World.

Maud—Oh! I just dote on palmistry. I've been studying it for a week, and I can tell any one's fortune now."

Augustus—Well, tell mine, please.

"Well, let me see. This is the life line, or the other one there is, but I guess it don't much matter, they look a good deal alike anyhow—yes, now I see. You are to meet some one who will be awfully in love with you, but she will die an old maid."

"And I?"

"Oh, you'll go through life just the way you have been doing, never seeing beyond your nose."

"But why will she die an old maid?"

"Because you won't have sense enough to ask her to marry you, that's why."

The Thermometer Repeats.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

Lovers of curious coincidences will find an instance to their fancy in the following record of the thermometer at this office yesterday:

2 A. M.	38	10 A. M.	38
4 A. M.	38	12 M.	38
6 A. M.	38	2 P. M.	38
8 A. M.	38	8 P. M.	38

It will be observed that there was not an appreciable variation of the temperature between 2 o'clock in the morning and 3 o'clock in the afternoon. By a reference to the files of last year's *Eagle* it appears that the record of the thermometer for Dec. 14, 1885, exactly corresponds with the table above given. Shakespeare never repeats, but the thermometer does.

An entertainment at Lexington Avenue Opera House this evening, in aid of the Northeastern Dispensary, appeals to the charitable. Marshall P. Wilder, Miss Ella Chamberlain, Miss Ollie Torbett, Liberati, and other artists are to appear.

PROF. DWINELLE LOSES HIS SUIT.

The Porter who Struck Him was Not Employed by the Railroad Company.

Prof. Charles H. Dwinelle, formerly professor in the University of California of Agriculture and Economic Entomology, sued the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company to recover $50,000 damages for an assault by a colored porter on a car, in August, 1885. The suit was tried before Judge Donohue and a jury. In the summer of 1885 Prof. Dwinelle was married, and obtained a leave of absence of one year from his college. He made preparations for an extended wedding tour to this city and Europe. With his bride he left San Francisco in August, 1885, to come to this city by rail.

At Utica there was a washout, which necessitated a transfer of the passengers from one train to another. The Professor and his bride at that time had occupied a section of the sleeping car "Norwood." The passengers were required to leave this car, and after doing so the Professor requested the porter to furnish him with a ticket or something to show that he was entitled to a section in the other train. The porter refused to do this, and told him that all the tickets had been transferred to the conductor of the other train. The Professor became anxious, and followed up the porter and touched him on the arm to again speak to him, when the colored porter exclaimed: "If you don't take your arm off me I will hit you." The porter then struck him.

"When I came to consciousness," Prof. Dwinelle said, "I found myself surrounded by a company of gentlemen, the blood pouring from my nose, and suffering great pain. As soon as I could collect my thoughts I went to look after my wife."

The Professor had been struck in the eye. He was attended by physicians in this city and also in Europe, where he travelled subsequently for about ten months. In the course of a year the Professor found that he could see double. His eyes are injured permanently, and in consequence of his injuries he was compelled to give up his professorship.

When the testimony for the plaintiff was concluded Mr. Loomis, on behalf of the company, moved to dismiss the complaint on the ground that the company was not liable, as the porter was not in its employ, and in any event the company could not be held responsible as the porter was not in the performance of his duties when the assault occurred. The porter was employed by the sleeping car company. The assault occurred on the sidewalk.

Judge Donohue decided that the railroad company was not liable, and dismissed the complaint. Prof. Dwinelle has a similar suit against the sleeping car company.

TAKEN FROM JAIL AND HANGED.

A Mob Meting Out Punishment to a Man Who Beat and Branded His Child Wife.

TEXARKANA, Ark., Dec. 16.—Last night about 12 o'clock a body of armed and masked men presented themselves at the Bowie county (Texas) jail, and surprising Deputy Sheriff Hargett, demanded James Howard, who was incarcerated yesterday for branding his wife. Hargett, refusing to give up the keys, was overpowered and bound, and his arms taken from him. The prisoner was hurried off to a trestle on the Texas and Pacific Railway, where he was strung up. The body was found by the Sheriff with a rope around the neck, a bullet hole in the head, and the following legend pinned on his back:

We will protect our mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters under any and all circumstances."

In July last Howard, then 35 years of age, married Mary Minchew, aged 13. Yesterday his wife and her mother appeared before Justice Cannon and made affidavit to the effect that about November 1 Howard maltreated his wife, hanging her up by her feet naked, whipping her, tying her on a bed, and branding her with the letter "H" in two places, the red-hot iron burning into the flesh, and disfiguring her for life. He threatened to kill her if she informed on him. The girl has been confined to her bed from this horrible and inhuman treatment until a few days ago. Howard did not deny the charges, but pleaded intoxication, which he failed to prove.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.

Mark Twain has recently been elected reader to a Browning Club at Hartford, and he says he is practising on some of the easy pieces of the obscure poet.

Recorder Smyth and Assistant District Attorney Nicoll had an adventure after the McQuade trial ended on Wednesday evening. They started up town together. The Recorder said that an elevated train was good enough for him, but Mr. Nicoll said that he was feeling so particularly good over the result of the trial that nothing short of a hansom would satisfy him. So a hansom was summoned to the Chambers street door of the General Sessions and the Recorder and Mr. Nicoll climbed in. All went well until the hansom was opposite Niblo's Garden. Then a big poster on the billboard before the theatre caught the horse's eye, apparently, and he stopped short to contemplate it. He kept right on contemplating it, and no amount of urging could induce him to take another step. After waiting patiently for half an hour the Recorder and Mr. Nicoll had to get out in the snow and look up another cab.

A charming party assembled at the house of Col. A. G. Dickinson, at 41 West 124th street, last night, to partake of a dinner in honor of Miss Annie Scott of St. Louis, who is spending a few days in town. She is a niece of Allen B. Pendleton, and a grandniece of Gen. John Bankhead Magruder, under whom Col. Dickinson was chief of staff.

James P. Graham, the newly elected Assemblyman from the Eleventh district in Brooklyn, is a handsome blond. He is still District Master Workman of the Car Drivers' Assembly of the Knights of Labor. It was not exactly right to say that he was a new comer in Brooklyn. He was born there, and when his father died he left him three houses. But that does not make the slightest difference to him. He drives his horse car every day now just the same.

A massive gentleman, with florid complexion and auburn hair, arose recently in Cable's, at a table spread with choice delicacies, and surrounded by such men as Martin Kalbfleisch, John Stratton, David G. Yuengling, Jr., Andrew L. Soulard, Charles E. Simmons, James D. Bell, and J. Ensign Fuller. The brawny, red-headed gentleman was Gen. Marble, former Commissioner of Patents. He spoke for twenty minutes to an audience who sat with open mouths, spell-bound at his eloquence. In that time he demonstrated the fact that a company in this city had secured patents for a process that would revolutionize the refrigerating world and make all present as rich as Lonan