The Sun.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1887.

In the Departments.

Senator FRANCIS MARION COCKRELL of Missouri is still in Washington collecting information for the use of the Senate committee appointed at the last session to investigate the methods of doing business in the executive departments. The first meeting of that committee will be held in June, so that Mr. COCKRELL will have plenty of time for his investigations. "We want to see," he says, "whether it is the Administration or Congress that is responsible for the arrears of work and for the slowness with which the work of the Government is performed."

His investigations will probably bring him to the conclusion that Congress is not responsible. There has always been a demand from the departments for more men, yet whenever an extraordinary pressure has been exerted, as, for instance, when the present Administration came into power and before it settled into Republican routine, it has been found that the arrears of work in any department can easily be wiped out.

The simple fact is that the persons employed in the executive departments seldom overexert themselves. If the Administration had taken upon itself to perform the first duty which the Democratic party expected of it, to institute a thorough reform and improved methods in the departments, the Government business would now be transacted with more efficiency and probably with more economy of labor than have prevailed or now prevail. The unity and coherency of spirit and purpose which might have been secured by the employment of officials thoroughly interested in the success of the Democracy, have not been attained. The men and methods employed under Republican Administrations have been retained to an indefensible extent; and under such circumstances a great improvement in the despatch of business cannot be expected. This is, of course, the fault of the Administration.

Mr. COCKRELL may be able to acquire a knowledge of the methods in which the business of the departments is transacted and of the officials who transact it which will be of use to the Democratic party as well as to his committee. The Administration has missed a great opportunity, as well as failed in its duty, in not making careful investigations and thorough changes in all the departments.

Dr. McGlynn's Address.

To say that the Rev. Dr. MCGLYNN's address at the Academy of Music on Tuesday evening was a remarkable intellectual performance, is to do it imperfect justice. The address is entitled to rank with those great orations which, at critical times and from the mouths of men of genius, have swayed the course of public opinion and changed the onward movement of nations.

We do not mean by this that in our opinion Dr. MCGLYNN is right either in the assumptions he makes of facts, or in the consequences he draws from those assumptions. On the contrary, we believe him to be wrong in both, and that time will show it. But he has presented his views so plausibly and with such seductive eloquence that for the moment he cannot fail to carry multitudes with him. The miseries of human life are so overwhelming and press so hardly upon every one of us, that the apparently easy and potent remedy for them proposed by the reverend orator, is certain to win a great deal of immediate favor, especially as the application of it involves loss to but a comparatively few, and gain to the comparatively many.

Dr. MCGLYNN's fundamental position, that the rent of land belongs to the community, and that if it were paid to the community instead of being paid as at present to individuals, there would be no need of any other taxes, but, on the contrary, a surplus which might be devoted to public improvements, is, of course, borrowed from HENRY GEORGE. Like HENRY GEORGE, too, Dr. MCGLYNN contents himself with asserting the proposition without adducing any evidence of facts to support it. Of the money which would be raised by rent confiscation he says:

"This magnificent fund would go to support all public burdens; it would do a great deal more than is done at present by the present tax levy for a common purpose; you would have larger and more beautiful and more numerous parks; you would be able to sweep away the greater part of the wretched rookeries that, under the name of tenement houses, are a sin and a shame, and are a blot upon the fair name and fame of this beautiful city, and instead of those the best class of houses will be built, and we will have parks, with trees and flowers and singing of birds, to make glad and beautify this island and God's children, and will thereby add enormously to the value of the surrounding land; and then it would be no longer Quixotic for a man of sound business principles to build rapid transit railroads of solid foundations, on which trains could travel at the rate of thirty miles an hour for twenty, thirty, or forty miles into the suburbs, to give homes to all the people, from which they could come and go every day, and in which they could enjoy some of nature's life, by which they could get the sun and the air, green fields, and flowers. This is no fanciful sketch; it is entirely feasible, and in every view it could be brought about if a majority of the intelligent citizens would become convinced of the truth of this doctrine and would carry it into practice and deposit their ballots in the ballot box in favor of this thing."

Cold arithmetic plays havoc with this attractive picture. In no locality in this country is the rental value of land higher in proportion to its area than it is in this city; and yet that rental value in the aggregate is not only far from exceeding the public needs, but it falls considerably short of them. The annual expenditures of the city Government are about $32,000,000, while the aggregate assessed value of all the real estate within the city's limits, improvements included, is $1,257,275,903. Deducting only one-half of this amount for the value of the improvements, which is much too little, there remains $628,637,951, and a rental of even four per cent. on this sum, which would be more than could be obtained by the city Government, would be only $25,145,518, or nearly $7,000,000 less than we collect under the present system. This allows nothing for Federal taxation, which, at $5 per head, may be reckoned at $7,000,000 more. When, too, it is considered that the value of city lots is largely composed of assessments for the cost of grading, paving, sewering, and other work necessary for their use, irrespective of the buildings upon them, this estimate will be seen to be if anything too favorable to Dr. MCGLYNN's theory.

Another fallacy adopted by Dr. MCGLYNN, and upon which he insists with his most beguiling eloquence, is that the Creator of the universe has provided the necessaries of life for all his creatures, and that it is only man's perversity which prevents any one from getting his share of them. We wish from the bottom of our hearts that this were so, but stern facts compel us to declare that it is not so. Events happening every day in every part of the world demonstrate that multitudes of human beings are born, who, without any let or hindrance from their fellow human beings, are unable to procure for themselves the means of life, and who perish in consequence. Dr. MCGLYNN's ideal, therefore, of a state of things in which all men shall be enabled, as he says, "not merely to satisfy the brute necessities of the animal body or barely enough to keep it from the inclemency of the blast, but to go on adding to all those; to make the very shelter itself a thing of beauty; to make the home a kind of temple in which there may be a family altar; to erect great public works that shall serve not merely purposes of utility, but shall educate the eye and the fancy, and shall gladden the habitations of men during their brief temporal abode; to add something to the mere garments that shall clothe and preserve the body from the inclemency of the atmosphere; to make even the raiment of man a work of art; to give a charm and a grace and a dignity even to the mere feeding of the animal," requires for its realization far more than the nationalization of land. It requires a radical and all-pervading change in human nature, and, above all, in human capacity, such as Christianity has not been able to effect in two thousand years, nor unaided human ingenuity in all the ages that it has been busied with the task.

Of the effect which Dr. MCGLYNN's address may have upon his relations with the Roman Catholic Church, we are not in a position to speak definitely. It may be that he has not violated either its principles or its discipline, but the appearance of the case is that he has done both. This is a point for his ecclesiastical superiors to determine and not for us.

What will Churchill Do?

The fact that Mr. GOSCHEN, a Liberal Unionist, has been called upon to play the part of chief defender of the Ministry in the debate upon the Crimes bill, as well as in the antecedent discussion of the urgency proposal, must mortify Conservatives and prove particularly galling to Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL. So sharply contrasted are the characters of the present and the late Chancellor of the Exchequer that neither is qualified to appreciate the other. Lord RANDOLPH may fail to recognize the forensic effectiveness of businesslike statement and cool ratiocination, and Mr. GOSCHEN quite as certainly is disposed to undervalue the electrifying qualities of the Tory HOTSPUR. The latter never was a man to say "ditto to Mr. BURKE," and when we remember how he elbowed out of his path such veteran leaders of his party as NORTHCOTE and CROSS we cannot expect to see him, now that he has returned to London with renewed vitality, accept the rôle of satellite to one whom he deems an interloper in the Cabinet.

It is apparently significant that since he came back from the Continent nothing has been said about CHURCHILL's reëntering the Ministry. Rumors to that effect would certainly have been started by his followers if he had indicated a willingness to resume office. The reserve he has maintained on this subject may mask a doubt of the expediency of the bullying attitude toward Ireland adopted by the Government, and a purpose of intervening at some decisive moment to soften the harsher features of the BALFOUR Crimes bill, if not to condemn *in toto* a resort to force until some palliatives in the shape of a suspension of evictions and a scaling of rents shall have been tried. If any material changes in the measure now before the House were made at CHURCHILL's dictation, Mr. GOSCHEN's position would be intolerable to a man of self-respect, since in Tuesday's debate he publicly defended the most stringent and offensive clauses of the bill.

That CHURCHILL is strong enough to force the Government to at least mitigate the Draconian severity of their coercion programme will hardly be disputed. While he was still absent on the Continent more than thirty Conservatives were missing at the muster of their party votes on the urgency proposition. For a man who has protégés and allies in the Cabinet itself, and who has acquired so strong a hold upon the Tory masses, it should not be difficult to gather a larger body of protestants against the shocking proposal of the BALFOUR bill to authorize a change of venue from Ireland to London, and the unprecedented clause giving unlimited duration to the subversion of common law rights in a part of the United Kingdom. If but fifty Conservative members should follow Lord RANDOLPH in pronouncing such odious anomalies unwarranted by any aspect of the Irish situation, they would place the Government in a minority, and force it to submit to the excision of the most objectionable proposals in committee. Thus maimed, the BALFOUR measure would fail to satisfy anybody, and after successive postponements might be suffered to drop. Something else would be likely to drop at the same time, namely, the element which has displaced CHURCHILL in the Cabinet, and which is most prominently represented by Mr. GOSCHEN. Nor would the fact that Mr. BALFOUR's resignation of his office would no doubt follow the withdrawal, or even the emasculation of his bill, be apt to acutely distress Lord RANDOLPH, who has ceased to hold himself a debtor to the present Irish Secretary for his whilom cooperation in the now defunct fourth party, which consisted of four members. It was he who raised his former colleagues to a place of power, and not they him.

That in the actual conjuncture Lord RANDOLPH has an opportunity of reasserting his individual importance in a sensational way is patent even to onlookers. By a well-timed and successful protest against the most obnoxious features of the Crimes bill he might not only benefit himself, but signally promote the future advancement of his party. It was by insisting that coercion should give place to conciliation that he first acquired a Cabinet office, and by no other line of conduct will he ever become Prime Minister.

An Old Story.

We think that Mr. HOUGH deserves more of our attention than the majority of individuals who have sent us communications of a nature similar to this:

"I was forced to drop your paper during the last Presidential campaign, and I felt its loss keenly.

"Yesterday I bought a copy of the Sunday SUN, and a grand paper it was. I enjoyed it ever so much until I came to the quotation referring to the President as 'that damned old hind quarter of beef up at the White House.' I haven't any special love for CLEVELAND, but such a quotation is unworthy a great paper. Good by for good. "WM. T. HOUGH."

We are sorry for our friend HOUGH, for he seems about to force himself again into a daily deprivation of something that he greatly likes, and that would always do him a power of good—a very unwise act, in our opinion. But it is proper to inform him of two circumstances probably unknown to him at present, namely, that Senator PUGH of Alabama is a very able and very prominent Democratic Senator, and that the *St. Paul Daily Globe*, in which this remark attributed to Senator PUGH originally appeared, is the most important and influential Democratic journal in the Northwest. While Mr. PUGH's saying is queer and comical in itself, and worth reading as a specimen of dry American humor, it is not complimentary to Mr. CLEVELAND, and it does not pretend to be strictly accurate; but it forms a noticeable manifestation on the part both of the Senator and of this great Minnesota journal; and, to men interested in politics, it is full of instruction. Such expressions in Republican newspapers are of very little account, and THE SUN lets them go by unnoticed, so far as it is concerned; but appearing as this did in a regular Democratic organ of the first importance, its significance is very different, and of far greater moment to the Democrats than pages of twaddling praise would be from any ordinary source.

However, if Mr. HOUGH likes to hear of Mr. CLEVELAND's greatness and not of his weak points, let him ask some friend to read to him THE SUN's criticisms upon Mr. CLEVELAND that are favorable and leave out those that are otherwise. He will find some of each kind; and, though he will be apt to get a pretty one-sided view of the subject, he will at least not be entirely deprived of SUN light.

Stanley's March.

STANLEY's expedition reached Matadi, the head of navigation on the lower Congo, a week ago. It is now, no doubt, in the midst of its first land march, following the sinuosities of the great river in the most crooked part of its course along the Congo cataracts. Many of the 620 Zanzibar carriers know the route well, and helped to build the road to Stanley Pool, along which they are now carrying many tons of trading goods and ammunition.

It is to be hoped that STANLEY likes the aspect of things better than when he was last on the Congo. Then he was tearing his hair in bitter vexation of spirit because, while he had been away for many months on the upper river, his agents at a number of the stations which he is now marching through, had permitted the buildings to go to ruin, grass to choke the gardens, and the natives to become unfriendly. Matters have somewhat improved on the lower Congo. The stations wear a smarter appearance, and, by order of King LEOPOLD, the garrisons of the principal posts are turning out under arms when STANLEY looms into view, and salutes of twenty-one guns are firing in honor of the first Administrator-General of the Congo enterprise.

The blue flag of the Congo State will soon fly again at Stanley Falls, inasmuch as TIPPU TIB, who is boss in that region, is now hurrying up the river with a commission in his pocket as Governor-General of the Stanley Falls district, in the service of King LEOPOLD. He has doubtless received a good round sum for calling off his armed Arabs, who have been having things their own way for some months.

The third day after the expedition debarks at Stanley Falls a strong advance party will push on toward the Albert Nyanza, and the main column will follow it as soon as possible.

Pretty Late.

The Rhode Island election will be held next week, and Mr. CLEVELAND has apparently just heard of the fact. The United States Marshalship for that State, the Postmastership of Providence, and other offices have been given to Rhode Island Democrats at a time when it is particularly important that they should be in good humor. Considering how few Federal offices there are in the Statelet, Mr. CLEVELAND's recent distribution of them may be regarded as timely.

It would have been a good deal more timely, however, if it had occurred a good deal sooner. In Rhode Island as elsewhere, there are Democrats who, while they may admit the rule of better late than never, are still irritated that he has been so tardy, and that so many Republican officeholders have been allowed to serve out their terms instead of being made to give up their places at once to Democrats.

We hope that Mr. CLEVELAND's appointments in Rhode Island may strengthen the party there; but with 1885 so far away and 1888 so near, his appointments may now be regarded as made rather for the purpose of strengthening himself in the next Democratic National Convention than of strengthening his party. For the latter purpose he should have begun earlier.

The People's Mayor.

"I happen to reside in the neighborhood of a small private park which is reserved for the use of the families of the adjacent lot owners. It is a sad sight to behold the children of the poor, looking wistfully from the outside of the locked gates upon the children of the rich enjoying themselves within the enclosure."

So writes Mayor HEWITT to the Board of Aldermen.

Gramercy Park is the enclosure to which he refers.

He goes on to say that if a few owners of property can afford to provide in this manner for the health and recreation of their families, this great city ought not to spend money on Pelham Bay Park, of which the poor can make little use, but should make some provision for the outdoor life of the people, and especially for children, within the city limits.

We call attention to these utterances of Mr. HEWITT, not so much to commend their wisdom, which is evident, as to praise the spirit which they manifest.

They show the Mayor to be a man of warm sympathies, whose heart is in the right place—a true friend of the people.

We have no doubt that Mr. BLAINE is perfectly honest in his intention not to interfere in any way with the decision of the National Republican Convention next year. He has once been the Republican candidate for President, and has been beaten; and it is creditable to his good sense that he should determine that, if he is to run again, it shall be the unassisted determination and act of the Republican party itself. We do not believe that Mr. BLAINE really desired to be nominated in 1884, and we have no idea that he desires to be nominated now. At the same time, it is not to be supposed that he will refuse the nomination if it should be tendered to him. He has evidently become a very level-headed politician.

Our highly esteemed contemporary, the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, is publishing a story called "Ariadne in the Wire Grass." We knew the Star-eyed Goddess had been left, if not deserted, but it is surprising that she has not been rescued from the wire grass.

JOSEPHUS COOK, the vaniscient vaporer, is going to start a journal "removed totally from the influences of money and popularity." Any journal which he will do the honor of editing it, will easily be free from those influences. But in starting such a sheet, he ought to be able to make a larger contribution of money than he can of popularity.

The prayer meetings held yesterday by the branches of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for the benefit of the constitutional prohibitory amendments pending in various States are not to be spoken of without the respect due to piety and honest conviction. It may be questioned without irreverence, however, whether the attempt to commit Heaven to the Maine law is judicious.

Our entertaining comic contemporary, the *Judge*, has a most amusing cartoon in which the three recent Presidential candidates figure with more or less fidelity to truth. Mr. CLEVELAND is represented as having hurt his foot by kicking it against a Democratic brick hidden under Mr. HILL's old hat. The conception of the picture is funny, and the mishap to President CLEVELAND reminds us of another accident that is described in a famous Irish poem:

"On Egypt's banks, contagious to the Nile,
Great PHARAOH's daughter went to bathe in style;
And as she ran about to dry her royal skin,
She kicked the box that had little MOSES in.
Then to her maids she spoke in accents soft and mild,
'Tare an' ages! gur rule, which of yez owns the child?'"

The *Judge* does not go to the length of quoting the remark which Mr. CLEVELAND addressed in his pain to the bystanders after he hit his foot against the brick; but it might very well have been something as lively as the observation made by the royal daughter of the great PHARAOH.

"I know that my Democratic fellow citizens," said Honest JOHN SHERMAN to the Birmingham folks, "are just as honest and sincere as I am."

We should hope so.

If there is a successor to HENRY WARD BEECHER as a platform orator it is EDWARD MCGLYNN. And Dr. MCGLYNN has the great advantage of being sincere.

SECRETARY ENDICOTT'S NEW MOVE.

He Revokes Peremptorily Some Appointments of Gen. Sheridan—More Trouble.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The points of difference between Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan and the Secretary of War are multiplying very fast. The latest of them has grown out of the method of putting into operation the recent General Order No. 14, in which, by direction of Mr. Endicott, the following regulation was published to the army, and numbered as paragraph 155½ of the revised regulations:

155½. Regimental Adjutants and regimental Quartermasters may hold office for four years and no longer, and will not be eligible for a second tour of such duty; nor shall an officer who has served in either of these positions be eligible for appointment in the other, except to serve an unexpired term of four years.

The object of this order was to extend to regimental staff details the rule which Secretary Endicott laid down soon after his accession to the War Department in regard to department, division, and army headquarters staff duty. The general impression is, no doubt, that in time of peace it is desirable on many accounts that no Lieutenant should serve on the regimental staff during more than four years in succession. Longer continued absence may give his fellow company officers an unnecessarily heavy load of duties to carry, and, in addition, it is desirable that an interchange of headquarters and company service should fit each subaltern as far as possible for various duties of his profession. Besides, if, as is frequently the case, a detail to the regimental staff is a relief from the monotony of company duty, it might fairly be shared by as many as possible of the Lieutenants of the regiment. The case would be different, of course, in time of war, when it might be unwise to break up the continuity of service through some arbitrary rule like the present. It is also conceivable that there might be a difference between the cases of army headquarters and regimental headquarters, even in time of peace.

But the specific trouble in the present case has occurred not in regard to the general value of the new regulation, but in its practical enforcement. On receipt of the general order already cited some artillery Colonels inquired of Gen. Sheridan, as the officer in immediate command of the army, whether those Lieutenants who were then performing a tour of light battery service were eligible for staff appointment as regimental Adjutants and Quartermasters. The Lieutenant-General was not then prepared to make a hypothetical decision, but suggested that the regimental commanders should make their appointments, and that he would then decide whether these appointments came within the new regulation. Light battery Lieutenants thereupon did receive such appointments, and Gen. Sheridan then confirmed them, apparently on the ground that there was nothing in the language of the new regulation preventing their selection.

It chanced that the Secretary was absent from Washington at the time, and on his return he revoked every one of these appointments, leaving some of the artillery regiments without any staff officers at all. This revocation was itself made after Gen. Sheridan had started on his tour of inspection of the Western forts; and this fact, coupled with some previous incidents, might pardonably suggest to both these high officers that the absence of either is the time not least likely to be chosen for a not wholly agreeable assertion of authority by the other. The present trouble following so closely the one with Surgeon-General Moore and the case of Col. Gibson and the Third Artillery indicates that Secretary Endicott is not averse to keeping the War Office stirred up.

BLAINE'S FLANK MOVEMENT.

To be in Europe when the Nomination is Made Next Year.

From the Evening Sun.

James G. Blaine started West from New York yesterday morning over the Pennsylvania Railroad in the private car of President Roberts. He was accompanied by Mrs. Blaine and Miss Hattie, his youngest daughter, a sweet-faced and sprightly maiden of 17. Big, blue-eyed, moon-faced Steve Elkins, who was the manager of Mr. Blaine's canvass in 1884, was also of the party. Elkins is going as far as St. Louis, where he says he is called by railroad business. Mr. Blaine will go on to Colorado, where he has an interest in the Henrietta and the Maid of Erin silver mines. Dave Moffatt, the Denver banker and railroad man, who is the richest citizen of Colorado by all odds, is a large owner in the properties, as is also the famous ex-Senator H. A. W. Tabor, otherwise known to fame as Night Shirt Tabor. Buck Grant's wife has a sixteenth holding in the same mines, which came to her by the death of her father, the late Jerome B. Chaffee. The Henrietta mine has developed within a year or two into the finest mining property in Colorado.

From Denver Mr. Blaine will go to Fort Washington, Indian Territory, to visit his daughter, Mrs. Lieut.-Col. Coppinger. He will come back in about three weeks, by way of Chicago. At the depot to see the party off were Senator Hiscock, Gen. W. T. Sherman, Chairman B. F. Jones of the Republican National Committee, ex-Collector Robertson, and Mr. and Mrs. James G. Blaine, Jr.

In June Mr. Blaine will sail for Europe. All the arrangements for that voyage have been perfected. Mr. Blaine will remain abroad for a year. He will be abroad when the next Republican National Convention is in session.

The EVENING SUN, which shines for all for a cent a copy, is the first to announce this purpose of Mr. Blaine to take a step that will possibly clear the cobwebs from the Republican field, and, on the other hand, may create only new films.

Mr. Blaine's friends say that he is indifferent to a renomination, and has decided to go abroad for so long a time for the purpose of indicating this indifference to his party followers. He is quoted as expressing himself literally disgusted with the constant pressure that is brought to bear on him to accept the position of an active candidate for the nomination. His friends say that he will neither seek nor avoid a nomination. He is to spend his time abroad in studying labor problems, social phases, and international problems. When he comes back he will take the stump for the nominees of his party.

Republicans who are not friendly to Mr. Blaine's renomination, who were told by our reporter yesterday morning of Mr. Blaine's intention, affected to believe that it was simply a shrewd bid for popular favor. A leading Republican, who is classed as a Mugwump, said: "Blaine wants the nomination, but realizes that if it comes to him by his own seeking it will be even more worthless to him than in 1884. If he could be abroad and be nominated over Sherman, Allison, Hawley, Lincoln, and others, he would be in a condition to claim more nearly unanimous support than he had before. Besides, the prestige of a foreign trip would be a valuable adjunct to a canvass by his friends for the renomination. Although he will be out of the country, his friends feel strong enough to procure him the nomination without great effort. They have already begun the quiet work of setting up State delegations, and will go at it more actively and openly after his departure. I was told some time ago that Blaine had a great coup in contemplation. This is it."

Is Mr. Vilas a Candidate?

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 27.—A prominent Minnesota Democrat said to-day that he possessed information that could not be disputed that Postmaster-General Vilas is a candidate for Vice-President in 1888. "Vilas, as Vice-President," he said, "would represent the political end of the machine, and would relieve the President of many embarrassments that he now suffers from. Every appointment under the control of the Postmaster-General has been made with this end in view, and a Northwestern boom, at the proper time, will be started for him. National Committeeman P. H. Kelly will be one of his stanchest supporters. Vilas is Kelly's key to power at the White House."

Mrs. George Gould's Kind Heart.

From the Boston Herald.

Mrs. George Gould is a very delightful person in private life, who, since her marriage, has not forgotten many of her other less fortunate friends whose lines have not fallen in such pleasant places as her own. I heard a very kind action of hers very pleasantly commented upon recently that is quite worthy of example. A young girl, who was formerly a member of the Boston Theatre company in this city when Miss Kingdon was also a member, was quite ill at a hospital in New York, and Mrs. Gould, hearing of it, sent flowers and fruit every day during her illness. There has been one or two other instances in which she has been a good Samaritan, and which speaks well for her kindness of heart and nobleness of character. Mrs. Gould and her husband are constantly seen at the theatre in New York, usually occupying a box, and also out driving almost any pleasant day. Mr. Gould tools along in a handsomely appointed dog cart, with his wife, enveloped in sealskins, beside him, and to all appearances they are a model married couple.

FOR BUILDING THE NEW NAVY.

Plant for an Ordnance Foundry in Washington and for the Brooklyn Yard.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Secretary Whitney is considering the plans submitted by the Board appointed to ascertain the amount of plant required to equip the Washington Navy Yard as an ordnance foundry. As soon as the plans are decided upon work will be begun on the machinery and plant. Very few of the large tools, such as lathes and steam hammers, necessary for the finishing of heavy ordnance, can be procured by purchase in this country, so that it will be necessary for the new foundry to make most of its tools. It is believed that two years' time will be necessary for the completion of a plant large enough to turn out the heavy calibres of steel ordnance, but meanwhile the foundry will be able to handle material for guns not exceeding six inches in calibre. Every effort will be made to have the plant completed in time to undertake the assembling of the heavier pieces when the deliveries of steel begin under the new proposals.

The Board, composed of Naval Constructors Pook and Hoover and Assistant Constructor Nixon, have started for a visit of inspection of the large shipbuilding and tool works of the country. It is expected that a week will be consumed in this trip, and the Board will then draw up its recommendations regarding the plant required at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to build a large armored vessel.

Commander Chadwick, attaché of the London Legation, was at the Navy Department this morning and had a consultation with Secretary Whitney touching the plans he had forwarded from England for the 6,000-ton vessels. Eight sets of plans for these vessels have been received at the department, and it is probable that they will be opened in a few days by a Board appointed to consider them.

The cruiser Chicago, now at Chester, was to have been sent to New York on Tuesday next, but the Navy Department has concluded to finish all of the work on machinery and extras, and make alterations in the furnaces, boilers, and hoisting gear before she leaves Chester. Therefore the vessel will not be ready to sail for New York for six weeks. The alterations in the machinery of the Atlanta are nearly completed, and that cruiser will again be despatched on a trial trip about the middle of next month. The engineering bureau is hopeful of a satisfactory performance by the vessel, but some doubt is felt as to the capacity of the engines, with their small boiler supply, to develop the 3,500 horse power required by the contract. Little work will be done on the Boston before the trial of the Atlanta.

The Chicago is built for a cruiser, and has no armor but an outside sheathing of steel, varying from three-fourths to an inch and a half in thickness, which would offer little resistance to a shot. The hull, lower masts, decks, and other parts of the vessel are of solid steel, with the exception of joiner work, wardrooms, and decorations. The turrets for her large guns project somewhat over the side of the ship so as to admit of the guns being fired almost dead ahead or astern. The engines are double-compound beam, and are below the water line. Above them is a protective deck of two-inch steel on an inch of timber, which curves down to the side of the ship, and is slightly below the water line. Little of the trouble experienced with the Atalanta and Boston in securing an airtight fire room was encountered in the Chicago, and air can be pumped in so as to make a forced draught of great pressure. The Admiral's and officers' quarters, unlike most naval vessels, although well aft, are not in the stern, but have two guns abaft of them, and in time of action the bulkheads can be made to swing forward and aft, and allow the working of the guns. All of the interior decorations are of polished sycamore, and are very handsome. When the Chicago is completed she will be the handsomest and safest vessel in the navy.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.

Alderman Dan Dowling is in trouble. It all comes out of two free passes for the base ball matches at the Polo grounds. The Alderman's constituents have found out that he has got these two passes, or is to get them, and each constituent thinks he ought to have one of the passes. The Alderman's mail is freighted with applications, and the personal demands are many, with more to come. At last accounts the Alderman was afraid to promise a pass to anybody.

Lawson N. Fuller continues unwearidly his patriotic efforts to prove that the cable railway is the only source of salvation for New York. He is the first man now, as formerly, to arrive at the meeting of the Rapid Transit Commissioners. "Hang it all!" he said at the last meeting, "we had better do as old Commodore Vanderbilt did with one of his horse-car lines. The Commodore built the road without going through any formalities first. I said to him: 'Commodore, how's this? What right have you——' 'Oh, well,' interrupted the Commodore, 'I thought I'd build the road first and test its legality afterward.'"

Prof. Charles A. Collin of the law branch of Cornell University has been selected by the Governor to aid him in reading the numerous bills that the Legislature is passing. So many of the bills are defective in their construction, and new members occasionally draw up bills that accomplish something different from what they intended, that some check is needed. The Governor recommended in his annual message that a Revisory Board be appointed to see that bills read straight before they were passed, and to put them in proper and legal form. The legislators were too busy with their own private bills to look after anything like that, and the Governor had to do it himself. Prof. Collin has found many errors in bills, and several have been recalled for amendment and improvement. It would have been better had the Legislature adopted the suggestion of the Governor in his message.

Thomas Bernard Maguire of the General Executive Board, Knights of Labor, is one of the most energetic and lively of men. He talks so quickly and powerfully that he upsets all his listeners' nerves, and after two or three hours leaves him crushed and wilted. The Knights of Labor have had more of a peculiar kind of information from this city since he has been in power than at any other time, and the fights between workingmen have been on narrower basis than at any other time. Maguire was in East St. Louis at the time of the railroad riots, a year ago, as T. B. Brown of the East. He carried $10,000 of the Executive Board's of the Knights of Labor money in his clothes, and every dollar was rigidly accounted for. He denies that all this fight against the trades unions is his work.

George F. Murray is one of the dignified men among the leaders of the workingmen in this city. He is a printer on the *Graphic*. He is prominently identified with many organizations, and one or two, perhaps, if it was generally known, would cause his friends to look at him with surprise. He was a prominent candidate for a place on the General Executive Board of the Knights of Labor. He was too popular with the newspaper men to get the place, and with Joe Buchanan, a newspaper reporter, was beaten when up for election.

Alderman Patrick Napoleon Oakley, whom President Beekman has taken to task in the Board of Aldermen recently, arose to fame and fortune some years ago, when Grand Marshal of the Hibernians on St. Patrick's Day. There had been Grand Marshals before Oakley, but none like him. He sat on his horse more magnificently than any other of the Grand Marshals. He tired out three horses on one parade, and came home covered with mud and glory. The fourth horse had upset him. Recently he had an idea that he ought to have a crayon portrait taken of himself. He turned a photograph over to an artist, and the latter brought the portrait home the other night. A few friends were visiting with Oakley when the artist came. Oakley looked at the portrait a moment and failed to recognize it.

"Take that down to Tom Farrell, in Roosevelt street. It's his portrait, not mine."

The astonished artist protested, but all of the Alderman's friends stood by him, and there was nothing left for the artist but to go to Farrell with it.

Mr. Youngman of Albany and Mr. Bacon of Brooklyn, two of the respectable members of the Cities Committee, have been having trouble with Mikado McCarthy, Chairman of the Cities Committee. The Chairman is a high and mighty man, and he rules the committee. He puts the motions, argues on them, votes on them, and declares them carried. If anything comes up that he doesn't like, he shelves it. Mr. Youngman feels insulted at his treatment from the Chairman, and he declared that he didn't see the use of his going to a committee where he had nothing to say on what went on. Ernest Crosby, another respectable member of the Cities Committee, seldom goes, and the charge of the affairs of cities is given to Mikado McCarthy of Syracuse, and men like Hagan, Power, and Henry, though they haven't much to say about it when the Mikado makes up his mind. It's a big change from Col. Hamilton's committee last year.

Some Assemblyman has brought down a novel slang phrase that is becoming popular in Albany. Instead of saying "Chestnut," they now say "That's a pretty good goat." This is regarded as bright. Every countryman knows what a goat is, and how strong and rank a pretty good goat is.

Mr. Depew to Explain to Cornell Alumni.

The annual dinner of the New York Association of Cornell University will be held at Delmonico's to-morrow evening. Chauncey M. Depew has accepted an invitation to explain what he meant by saying not long ago that Cornell is going to become one of the great universities.

The Voice of Destiny.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

Mr. Cleveland is sure to be the next President if he lives.

Byard.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Please inform me the correct pronunciation of the name of Thomas F. Bayard. ALBERT H. BURRELL.
BIXAR CORNERS, O

BERNHARDT SEES FEDORA.

With Mrs. Langtry She Watches Fanny Davenport in Her Great Play.

Every seat at the Grand Opera House was occupied yesterday afternoon, and there were besides upward of five hundred persons standing, many of whom were women. Among those who were so fortunate as to secure seats were Sarah Bernhardt and Mrs. Langtry and Mme. Bernhardt's son. They occupied the first box on the left as the spectator faces the stage. All about it were twined the French and American colors, but Mrs. Langtry evidently had not been expected, for no English flag was visible. The commotion caused by the entrance of the two famous actresses spread quickly over the house, and everybody knew that they were there. Opera glasses were trained on the box, and for a time it seemed as if the visitors would get more attention than Miss Fanny Davenport, who was billed to play *Fedora*.

The box rail was so high that all the audience could see was the head and shoulders of its occupants. Mrs. Langtry wore a brown hat of the conventional high style so objectionable when it is in front of one at the theatre, and Mme. Bernhardt wore a low black bonnet. There was another lady with them in the box whom no one recognized. She sat at the front, nearly facing the audience, and M. Bernhardt sat just behind her. Mrs. Langtry sat next, and when her purple fan was not before her face people could see her celebrated profile. It was the subject of much comment and discussion among the spectators, and the old question of her beauty was thrashed over again.

Mme. Bernhardt sat so that the curtain of the box concealed her entirely, but now and then the rapid flashing of her black fan could be seen, and this little favor was thankfully received. Between the acts hundreds of ladies tried to crowd around to the aisle on the right of the auditorium, that they might look directly into the box and see all that was there; but they were disappointed, for Mrs. Langtry and Mme. Bernhardt withdrew into the back part, where they conversed with favored acquaintances who called.

They made a live y party. Mrs. Langtry whispered a great deal with Mme. Bernhardt, who smiled, and often went so far as to laugh, quietly but heartily. The unknown lady also found occasion to put her face behind a fan several times and speak to one or other of her companions. Mme. Bernhardt devoted herself almost entirely to the performance.

At the end of each act both of the actresses spatted their gloved hands together vigorously, and when the curtain rose on a recall at the end of the third act, Mme. Bernhardt stood up and, stepping into full view of the audience, tossed a huge bouquet upon the stage. It was either awkwardly thrown or loosely put together, for several of the flowers fell out of it and were scattered over the boards. Mr. J. H. Barnes, who was playing *Loris*, stepped forward and picked it up and gave it to Miss Davenport, who bowed very low to her illustrious rival. When the play was over and the last recall responded to, the people shouted "Bernhardt!" and the orchestra played the "Marseillaise." Mme. Bernhardt then came to the front and bowed to the audience and saluted the leader of the orchestra.

HE REPRESENTS ONLY HIMSELF.

Neither Henry Villard nor Any One Else Seems to Be in Mr. Ives's Enterprise.

The friends of young Mr. Henry S. Ives, the would-be railroad magnate and banker, say that he has succeeded in convincing Mr. Robert Garrett that at some later date he may be big enough to buy Mr. Robert Garrett's Baltimore and Ohio stock at $225 per share, and that of Mr. Garrett's fellow citizens and the Johns Hopkins University at $175 per share. It is doubtless the possibility that this may be done that blinds Mr. Garrett to the character of the people he is dealing with, or rather trying to deal with, and also makes him ignore the fact that even if Ives and his party should buy the road they could do nothing to improve it or the city of Baltimore. The fact remains that Ives has scraped together what securities and money he could and deposited them with Mr. Garrett for an extension of his option upon a majority of the Baltimore and Ohio stock.

Some people assert that what amounts to $1,000,000 has been paid. But those in a position to know say that this is unlikely, and that the more recent transaction simply amounts to supplying Mr. Garrett with a little more pocket money until he can sell his inheritance. The option has been extended to April 25, pending the conventional examination of the goods offered for sale, and it is stated on good authority that if Mr. Ives has not grown up to the job of buying the road by that time he can have his option extended, presumably by supplying more pocket money to the would-be seller. People who are not friendly to Mr. Ives, and it seems that there are a few who are not, also have excellent information that he has secured an extension of his option.

The statement that Mr. Henry Villard was back of adventurous Ives provoked a prompt and decisive denial from Mr. Villard yesterday. So far as can be learned, and there has been diligent search on all sides, Mr. Henry S. Ives represents no one but himself in this matter. It is learned on excellent authority that even his business partner, Mr. George H. Stayner, who withal has a keen appreciation of money for itself considered, has dropped out of the deal and left Mr. Ives to pursue his vision of greatness alone.

"The young man is dreaming," said a leader in Wall street affairs yesterday. "Some day he will wake up."

CARD PLAYING UNDER THE VESTRY.

The Bishop Refuses to Re-establish the Disbanded Temperance Society.

The dissolution of the Parochial Temperance Society by the Rev. Father O'Laughlin, on the ground that its members were devoting themselves too assiduously to poker and billiard playing, has caused quite a flutter among the venerable priest's flock in St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Brooklyn. The Rev. Father Kilpatrick, one of the assistant priests, said:

"The society occupied rooms under the vestry, and the services were frequently disturbed by the clicking of the balls and other noises. The gambling denounced by the pastor was the card playing which has been indulged in. Father O'Loughlin proposes to organize a new society, which will have for its aim temperance in a spiritual and not a benevolent sense."

A committee representing the disbanded society has made a protest to Bishop Loughlin against Father O'Loughlin's action, and has put in a defence of the society against the charge of gambling. The Bishop, it is understood, refused to interfere. The society is one of the oldest temperance organizations in the city, and it has a membership of nearly 150.

QUEER WRINKLES.

Sunday Morning.

Little boy (studying his Sunday school lesson)—Pa, how do you spell Pharaoh?
Pa (thoughts elsewhere)—F-a-r-o.

Social Life in Boston.

Servant (to the Rev. Jo Cook)—The Hon