The Sun.

FOR

1888.

The year 1888 promises to be a year of splendid political developments, one and all redounding to the glory and triumph of a

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1887.

An Impartial Opinion.

Amid the exultation which naturally follows our great success at the late election in this State, it would not be well to lose sight entirely of the counsels of prudence, or to neglect the judgment of intelligent and experienced observers who have watched the contest without being carried away by the emotional and partisan interest which it excited. Such an observer is Mr. PAUL LOESER, the accomplished editor of the *Staats-Zeitung*, the principal organ of our German-American fellow citizens; and we take pleasure in laying before our readers this morning a frank expression of his opinion respecting some of the causes which led to the glorious result of that extraordinary contest.

Mr. LOESER certainly does not speak without knowledge of the facts when he says that it was the aid brought to the Democratic party by the German brewers and Personal Liberty advocates which carried the election; but this body of voters are not, in his opinion, committed to vote for the Democratic candidate for President, though Mr. CLEVELAND, whose nomination, he thinks, is insured by this election, would be likely to receive a far greater portion of these votes than could be counted upon for any other Democratic candidate. If Mr. BLAINE should be the Republican leader, he would, in Mr. LOESER'S opinion, certainly be beaten; but if Mr. SHERMAN or Mr. HAWLEY should be nominated, or any other Republican free from the objections against BLAINE, the contest would be just as doubtful as it was in 1884.

Following the example of some other German thinkers who reside among us, Mr. LOESER regards the FELLOWS letter as a deplorable error on the part of Mr. CLEVELAND; and in this we must emphatically decline to agree with him. To our thinking, that letter was a bright evidence of Democracy; and so we believe it is esteemed by the great mass of right-feeling people, including even the unsophisticated and uncontaminated members of the Republican party.

The Unfortunate Atlanta.

The letter of Capt. F. M. BUNCE, criticising the new steel cruiser Atlanta, has apparently created a greater sensation at the Navy Department even than last year's report of Capt. R. W. MEADE, which pronounced her predecessor, the Dolphin, "a species of marine crazy quilt." But in the present as in the former case the censure affects the designers rather than the builders, the defects pointed out being due to the plans adopted by the Advisory Board. The criticisms cannot be called the fruit of hasty judgment, since Capt. BUNCE has been the commander of the Atlanta for many months, and, indeed, ever since she was put in commission. If any officer has had a full opportunity to judge of her merits and defects it is certainly he. His present conclusions are the more noteworthy, since it had been generally supposed that whatever the shortcomings of this much-tried vessel, she had at last received her final alterations, and was ready for service. It is a double misfortune if Capt. BUNCE'S criticisms are well founded, since the Boston is constructed exactly like the Atlanta in the points under consideration, and must share the adverse judgment.

One source of complaint is that the Atlanta constantly ships seas, both over bow and stern, and Capt. BUNCE says that she needs to be built up at both ends. Again, while she is constructed for fighting end on, with fore and aft fire, her protections against an enemy's shot by her deflective armored deck are suited only to fighting broadside. Objections which can be more easily remedied are that her eight-inch guns are too heavy for her and that her wheel is too much exposed. In all about fifty changes are recommended, most of them of a minor character.

It is fair to say that not all officers will agree with the criticisms of Capt. BUNCE. Chief Engineer MELVILLE considers the proposed change in the position of the pilot house to be the most important and entirely proper. Many of the changes recommended are thought to be mainly in the interest of comfort in cruising.

The point deserving particular notice just now is that Mr. WILSON, Chief of the Bureau of Construction, strongly objected, more than four and a half years ago, to the main points now criticised. He refused, on April 2, 1883, when the present design of the Atlanta and the Boston, which was the fruit of some changes in the original project, was submitted to him, to approve it. He declared that his bureau could not recommend or endorse vessels having such a construction. Secretary CHANDLER, who dissented from Mr. WILSON'S views, gave this statement of what they were:

"Mr. WILSON'S objections to certain points in the steel cruisers were few and clearly defined. The one now in question was that the Boston and Atlanta ought not to have open forecastles and poop decks. Because they have such, he stated before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs that he thought that while in smooth water they would have speed, yet in a heavy sea they would be practically failures as seagoing vessels, as their speed would be knocked down by forcing their bows into the sea, which would also be likely to roll on board aft as they ascended into it. He did not pretend that the seaworthiness of the ships would be affected nor their speed in smooth water lessened, but only that the high speed could not be maintained in rough weather.

"The statement of Chief Constructor WILSON that these ships will be failures because this plan is adopted of an open forecastle and open poop is an erroneous statement, which he should not have made, in my judgment. He qualified his statements, when revising his testimony, by saying that they will be failures as seagoing vessels. Whether they can make as much speed when they are being driven against a heavy sea as if they were differently constructed, I do not undertake to say; but, as has been stated by the members of the Board, such is not the object sought in constructing a fighting ship.

"Their capacity to ride out a gale, or make way against a head sea, is not the point to be considered, and all the disadvantages of having an occasional wave strike over the bows when they go flute a head sea, and of having the water come down on the poop when their rise from the water, which Mr. WILSON thinks should have prevented this construction, notwithstanding all the seagoing members of the Board think differently, are a mere inconvenience which it was, in my judgment, very wise in these ships to run the risk of, in order to get this effective range of fire."

At an expense of $200,000 each the Boston and Atlanta can now be altered back, if it is deemed desirable, to the form which Naval Constructor WILSON originally desired to have them assume.

German in the Public Schools.

The School Board election to be held in St. Louis to-morrow will decide for the present, at least, whether instruction in the German language shall continue to be given in the public schools of that town.

The Republican Convention declared in favor of continuing instruction in German and other extra studies, and nominated a ticket on that platform. Of the seven Republican candidates for the School Board, it is said that four have already declined, either from want of sympathy with the platform, or from the belief that it is opposed to public sentiment. The Democrats, who are a clear majority of the voters, decided to make no nominations. Democrats, many Republicans, and Labor men nominated a so-called Citizens' School Reform ticket on a platform which opposes appropriations for the purpose of teaching any other language than English in the schools, and insists that money raised for them shall be "applied solely to the teaching of such branches as are essential to an English common school education." There is at least one German on the School Reform ticket. The German newspapers, however, demand that the study of German shall be continued. The *Globe-Democrat* and the *Republican*, which seldom agree upon public questions, both demand that it shall be discontinued. The recent management of the St. Louis schools seems to have been extravagant, and the question of economy and retrenchment enters largely into the canvass. The supporters of the School Reform ticket propose to retrench in all practicable directions consistent with a successful administration of the schools, and to begin with cutting off German.

When it is considered that 60,000 St. Louis school children are now debarred from the public schools on account of insufficient accommodations, it would seem that nobody, however well persuaded of the usefulness of the German language, could doubt that it is the duty of the city to provide elementary instruction for all, and as a preliminary to that to cease expenditures for extra and not absolutely necessary branches. The considerable German opposition is easily accounted for. It arises from a natural but rather sentimental than practical feeling. Yet as English is the language of the United States, no other language, no matter by how many citizens spoken or how valuable for commercial or literary purposes, can be regarded as entitled to a place in elementary instruction. German does not belong in any proper scheme of English rudimentary education. It is on the same level as French or music or drawing, and no individual has a right to study it at the expense of the community.

Yet St. Louis seems to be ahead of New York city in comprehension of the proper scope and limits of the elementary education which it is the duty of the community to provide. In this city the multiplication of unnecessary studies continues, and while thousands of children are unable to get the simplest rudimentary instruction, hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent for superfluous and sham "colleges," where the few are educated at the expense of the many.

A Thrifty Journal.

Just glance again at one of the most extraordinary spectacles ever presented by any prominent American newspaper. We mean the double back-action, simultaneously reversible canvass of the *Atlanta Constitution* for and against prohibition in that town.

The *Macon Telegraph* printed a few days ago a cartoon which throws some light upon the mystery of the *Constitution's* attitude. Three gentlemen stand upon the counter in the publication office of that journal. On one side is Captain EVAN P. HOWELL—sometimes called Colonel and sometimes Major; his correct military title is not given in the Cyclopedia. Captain HOWELL is represented as serving a small army of thirsty subscribers from a demijohn conspicuously labelled "Bourbon." On the other side is Mr. HENRY W. GRADY, who is industriously serving a clamorous throng of Prohibitionists with ice water from a big silver pitcher. HOWELL and GRADY, in the exercise of their conflicting functions, stand back to back; but looming above both of them, with one hand extended in benediction over the head of the Bourbon whiskey editor, and the other hand blessing the labors of the ice-water editor, is a third figure—undoubtedly that of Mr. WILLIAM ACQUISITION HEMPHILL, now introduced to the public as the principal proprietor of the *Constitution*, and the Boss of both HOWELL and GRADY.

A correspondent in Atlanta supplies us with an interesting account of the relations existing between this gentleman, comparatively unknown at the North, and the world-celebrated GRADY and the almost equally renowned HOWELL. The theory is plausible, for it exactly fits the facts of the present astonishing situation. GRADY is a Dry, red-hot for prohibition. HOWELL'S heart and soul are enlisted in the cause of the Wets. Each editor is turning out every day columns of editorial matter for and against prohibition; and the *Constitution* prints all the manuscript that its editors can supply on either side of the subject, marks it all "Communicated," and charges for inserting it at the usual rates for reading notices.

For example, here in the *Constitution* of last Wednesday is a signed article by Capt. HOWELL, marked "Communicated," and containing this passage:

"There is not a Christian nation in the world that does not recognize liquor, beer, and wine as an article of commerce. It is used for various purposes in science, in medicine, in the home, kitchen, church, and almost in every department of trade in one form or another. Atlanta is a commercial centre, and has been built up inside of a third of a century from a cross-roads place to over sixty thousand people.

"Why should the people of Atlanta be compelled to go to Griffin and other places to supply their wants in purchasing these articles?

"The evils of intemperance are greater under this prohibition law than ever under even the state of affairs when the liquor traffic was without restraint. I have been in Atlanta since 1851 almost continually, except when in the army. I have never seen such a record as we have made in the past twelve months. Yet we are told what great benefits result from prohibition."

In the next column is the subjoined whoop for the Drys, conceived in GRADY'S well-known editorial style, but also wearing the ignominious brand of "Communicated:"

"The Prohibitionists were in a good humor yesterday.

"They are in a better humor this morning. It is the Antis who are mad and who are dealing out such epithets as scoundrels, base villains, and hypocrites. They are also getting our rearbacks about the white vote.

"Don't you know that if the Antis had the safe majority they claim they would not be howling! They would be smiling.

"But it is the Prohibitionists who smile and the Antis who are mad.

"The claim that a majority of the white vote is against prohibition is absurd. No man believes it, and no man will seriously assert it. The Prohibitionists will get over three-fifths of the white vote, likelier two-thirds, and the more intelligent negroes are against barrooms, and the balance are coming around in good shape. The monster meeting Monday night made the Antis mad.

"Remember this. It ain't the fellow who is getting beat that smiles. He is the fellow that gets mad and calls everybody scoundrels and hypocrites.

"All the Prohibitionists have to do is to continue to work and they will sweep the city and county like a whirlwind. Remember it is the other fellows who are mad and are howling."

And here is that charming humorist, Uncle REMUS CHANDLER, enlisted, as it appears, on GRADY'S side rather than on HOWELL'S, and compelled, like his associates, to send his plantation philosophy to the press by the roundabout way of the counting room:

[Communicated.]

"De licker mens is er callin' of us hipocrits en' Farisees. After de twenty-sixt of dis blessid mont dey'll be de Sad-u-sees.

"I sat in de S'perior Cote de udder day en' hyard Mos' CRAWLY HILL estplain to de jurry dat de crime ob arson 'sisted in one man burnin' out a nudder man; en' I thot den dat a heep ob dese barroom whisky slingers ought ter be diggin' coal in de mines, caws dey's burnt out er menya man.

"I could'en jine in de march de udder nite, caws dis heah leg wuz er trubblin me wid de roomatis, but I stud on de sidewalk en' seed de perceshon go ter de wairhous, en' I sez ter myse'f, 'Fahwel licker!'

"I ben er humpin' en' er limpin' 'roun ter all de meetin's lately. I slip' down ter de 'wet' meetin' las' nite, at de Cotehous' en' hit wuz a 'damp' meetin', de Lawd knows.

"Ise gwine ter take my ole 'oman ter de opery hous ter nite en go down ter de orkester chairs an see ef Mister DERSHIWYZ 'll let us set on de cushins.

"De licker mens hes sot up in print in de paper Senatur COLQUITT'S profisy ob wot de licker mens' prair wud be 'long side ob dat sout-wes' Georgy niggah's prair at de well, en dey sat which is de mos' blastfeemus. Hit proved dat Senatur COLQUITT wuz a profit, dat's all.

"I doan know whedder hit wuz de effecks ob de wair hous meetin' or whedder sumtin spiled in de camps, but I tell ver mun, de liker mens wuz mad yisteddy. A feller could er pick'd up er fight enny whah 'round de corners. I humpt 'roun mitey quiet myse'f; yah, yah."

Meanwhile, no reader of the *Constitution* who looks to the editorial columns of that newspaper to ascertain its position with regard to the burning question of the day will find a word for or against prohibition. Mr. WILLIAM ACQUISITION HEMPHILL is not only absolutely neutral, as between HOWELL and GRADY, Bourbon whiskey and ice water, but he is also absolutely silent. Everybody else in Atlanta has an opinion, and a strong desire to express that opinion. Mr. HEMPHILL, astute and thrifty gentleman that he is, seems perfectly willing that the Prohibitionist voters of Fulton county should buy the *Constitution* to read GRADY'S eloquent appeals and impassioned descriptions of the evils of intemperance, and that the Anti-Prohibitionists should also purchase the *Constitution* in order to study HOWELL'S masterly demonstrations of the ruin which a continuance of prohibition is sure to work upon Atlanta's business interests and future prosperity. Thus the newspaper is the organ of both sides, gets the political advertising from both parties, and is actually in a position to make its own editors pay for the privilege of appearing in print.

Was the like ever seen before? It is a neat arrangement, all around. We congratulate Mr. WILLIAM ACQUISITION HEMPHILL.

A Fatal Handicap.

"England," says Mr. FROUDE, "has never yet succeeded in governing Ireland constitutionally, and never will." "The Irish can be governed more easily than any other people under military or quasi-military rule."

This has at least the merit of candor. But it is only a few years ago since Mr. FROUDE was out here to tell us what the British press had been telling us for a long time, namely, that the Irish had no just cause to complain, because they were governed under the same laws as Englishmen, with the same rights and privileges under the Constitution; and he added at the close of his lectures, as if to contradict most that he had previously said in the line of argument, that he "would not yield to the most ardent Fenian in America in his sympathy for the oppressed Irish peasantry and in his efforts to relieve them."

The facility with which the Irish can be kept under military rule is explained by the simple fact that there is no country in the world so completely disarmed as Ireland is. Sticks and stones, as the people know, are poor fighting material against rifles and artillery, and the smuggling of arms into Ireland is a thing that the English have always been in dread of.

It is not the first time that Mr. FROUDE'S utterances appear to justify the position of Irish-American extremists. If military rule is to be the only government that the people of Ireland will ever get from England, then it is the right of the Irish people to endeavor to get rid of that rule by every means in their power; a condition of warfare or quasi warfare exists between the two nations, and England's difficulty becomes Ireland's opportunity. In other words, in any future war England may be handicapped by a bloody rebellion in Ireland.

Politics in It.

The appointment of Mr. DON M. DICKINSON of Michigan to be Postmaster-General would transfer from the Democratic National Committee to the Democratic National Administration a practical politician of the first degree of practicality.

Mr. DICKINSON is described by friends and by foes as the "slickest Democratic politician in Michigan." He has served the party well, and he has served the Administration well. He has had a good deal to do with the distribution of the spoils. In the Cabinet he would not cease to be a practical politician, nor would he cease to serve the Democratic party.

If there should happen to be a vacancy in the Interior Department about two weeks hence, and Mr. VILAS should be removed thither from the Post Office, and Mr. DON M. DICKINSON should be called in from Michigan, it would be additional evidence that practical politics are again on top.

Would any genuine Democrat be sorry?

The Fiftieth Congress will meet two weeks from to-day. Before or soon after the session ends, both the Democratic and the Republican candidates for President will be nominated by the Conventions of the two parties. Then comes the campaign and the election. The interest henceforth will be continuous.

We are right on the edge of lively times in politics, and the pace will soon begin to quicken.

ANTONIUS COMSTOCKIUS sees trouble ahead. That wicked Parisian, BOUGUEREAU, is painting a picture of ADAM and EVE weeping over the corpse of ABEL. Neither ADAM nor EVE is in modern, ample costume. ANTHONY should go to Paris. He would cause a great sensation in the art world, and this town would do its best to prosper without him.

MOST is not much.

Inspector-General BAIRD's recommendation that officers of the army be prohibited from entering into rifle competitions with enlisted men will not please all the devotees of marksmanship. He thinks that such competition is unfair to the soldier and harmful to discipline by breaking down the lines of separation between commissioned officers and enlisted men. The soldiers, however, seem quite able to hold their own, and perhaps also have none the less respect for officers, from finding that they not only give instruction about target practice, but under the excitement of competitions can hit the target. The whole idea of competitive shooting was a novelty for the army, and some officers looked doubtfully on what looked much like a militia proceeding. But its value in increasing the efficiency of the troops is undisputed, and those officers who like to take part in it will perhaps be inclined to argue that this very participation has kept up an enthusiasm among them which has also stimulated that of their commands.

Commerce and travel will be benefited by the international conference upon the perils of the sea which Congress is to be asked to call. The movement for this conference, made recently by the Maritime Association of New York, has been supported by the Boards of Trade, Exchanges, Chambers of Commerce, and like bodies in all the great ports. The urgent necessity is that of changing the methods of signalling by vessels in fogs, so that not only their position will be shown, as now, but their direction. Since each vessel is bound only to obey the rules of its own country, an international agreement on this question must be made. But when a conference of maritime nations is once held, many other measures for avoiding collisions and securing greater safety for life and property at sea can be brought before it. Tourists on the ocean and the great lakes must be concerned in this movement as well as the owners and insurers of vessels and merchandise.

This week will decide whether the Wet or the Dry end of the *Atlanta Constitution* is the bigger.

Move on, Pulitzer!—Repudiated by his Race.

From the Hebrew Standard.

Our popular Mayor has written many letters that will serve as models of letter writing for many years to come, but in none of his epistles has he displayed such consummate ability as in that written on the local canvass. With an audacity unparalleled even in editorial arrogance, the boss of a would-be Democratic paper dictates with singular success to the party which his paper has always opposed the nominees for a quasi-judicial and a judicial office, and upon that hobby tries to establish his superiority, and bring his paper into still greater notoriety. The reputation of a man upon whom a large family depends for their sustenance, and who has been lauded to the skies in the columns of the very same paper which now trails his name in the dust, is exposed to public contumely, his honor, his professional and private character is bespattered with mud, his poverty dragged to the public light, and all for the purpose of establishing the autocracy of the "brooding Buddha," as Mayor Hewitt designates him.

We Jews have a special interest in this would-be "Sahib" of the Bohemian tribe. He happens to be of Jewish extraction, which he denies, however, for some reason or other, probably as an impediment to certain ambitious designs of his. He is a Jew who does not want to be a Jew. And the peculiarity of it is that this unholy ambition of the said editor to lord it over the people and dictate to them who they should select and who not, will probably be laid at the door of the Jews, who he has denied, and who have never been anxious to count him as their own.

The Jews are never guided in their political judgment by either sectarian or national prejudices, but they have the duty of disclaiming any responsibility in the work of one who is credited to them as one in race and blood, and with whom no affiliation of any kind exists.

However, the best mode of repudiating the nefarious political manœuvrings of this man of intrigue is by voting against the man who has been selected by him as the tool of his ambition, by showing to the people that they have no sympathy with the man who proves a traitor to his party and a treacherous friend to his new allies. It is quite natural that he should act thus. The man who will deny his race and religion for the sake of ambition, social standing, or whatever motive, will betray his political friend, will betray his party, if his aspiration is served thereby.

The Fall in Panama Canal Securities.

From the London Economist, Nov. 12.

Panama shares, which for some time past have been steadily declining, suddenly dropped 16f. 25c. for money and 12f. 50c. for the account on Monday, and have not since recovered. Their closing price yesterday showed a fall of 25f. since the settlement of Nov. 1, and 32f. 50c. since the middle of October. The immediate cause of the fall this week was a rumor that the January coupon would be paid by a *bon de coupon* or certificate, instead of in cash. The rumor has since been contradicted by a letter from M. F. de Lesseps, although the company would be quite justified in taking such a step, as it had the precedent of the Suez Company, which left seven coupons unpaid after the opening of the canal, and afterward funded them in redeemable bonds, which now sell at a premium.

The dividends on Panama shares are paid from capital, and as the company declares in the same note from M. F. de Lesseps, that no further loan will be raised before the provisional inauguration of the canal in February, 1890, it would be only prudent of the company to reserve its resources. The weakness of the company is the wide dissemination of its shares in the hands of small holders, who count on their dividends, and cannot afford to wait. For a time this formed an obstacle to bear speculations in shares, from the difficulty of borrowing them in large lots for delivery, and sellers have invariably had to pay a backwardation at the monthly settlements. But, on the first rumor of a suspension of the dividend, the small holders, as shown by the heavier fall for money than for the account this week, were the most eager to throw their shares on the market. The fall has not been now confined to shares, all the groups of bonds having declined with them, and yesterday's prices showed a loss of 10f. to 20f. in the different 500f. bonds, three, four, and five per cents; and 25f. to 35f. in the different series of three per cent. bonds of 1,000f., which now stand at about 400f. since the commencement of the month.

Mr. Frye is Still for Blaine.

From an Interview in the Boston Journal.

"The remedy for these things, then, is a statesman in the President's chair, which, of course, you would like to see," I suggested.

"I certainly would like to see a Republican there."

"And do you expect to soon?"

"With a solid South and with New York city and Jersey City also solid for the Democracy, no man can say that a national political contest is without doubt in its issue. It seems to me that the recent elections indicate that the chances for the Republicans are much better now than they were six months before the last Presidential election."

"Do you see this in New York?"

"Certainly. Four years ago New York seemed almost hopeless. In 1884 we lost it by only a few votes, with adverse influences and with the so-called labor vote, small compared with the prohibition. Many Irish-Americans voted with us then. Next year there will be more, for if they had reason to then, a hundred times more reason have they now in these days of an English Administration. There is one man in the Republican party whose chances of carrying New York are exceedingly bright. Indeed, I think he will be nominated for that very purpose."

"And that man is——"

"Mr. Blaine."

A Future New Yorker.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Whenever I see Gov. David B. Hill on Broadway or in his parlors at the Hoffman I mark him as a future New Yorker. It is pure conjecture to say so, but he will never settle down in Elmira after he leaves the Governorship, any more than Grover Cleveland is likely to go back to Buffalo. The brilliant Governor is exactly at home in New York. The town is none too big for him. The whirl and dash and brilliant company attract him and key him up, and he shines here as a lamp that would be hid under a bushel in little Elmira. When he comes it will not be to hide in the crowd as heroic but eccentric old Gen. Sherman does, poking about the side streets unrecognized and hustled by the crowds, but it will be to figure among the most active and ambitious of his fellow men.

The President Liked Terre Haute Best.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

The President, in conversation with a prominent Indiana Democrat who called at the White House yesterday, said, in alluding to his recent trip through the West and South, that the reception accorded him at Terre Haute afforded him more satisfaction than he received at any of the other points visited. He says that the Terre Haute reception was the nicest and most cordial of all others on his trip.

No Danger From That Source.

Dumley—I say, Featherly, do you think Brown would resent it if I refused to drink with him?

Featherly—Well, no, Dumley, I don't believe he would. He would be too helpless from astonishment to resent anything.

The Sun in Indiana.

From the Shelbyville Democrat.

Never has THE SUN been a better paper than at present.

THE SHAM ON ITS LAST LEGS.

The State Civil Service Commission and Chief Examiner Potts.

ALBANY, Nov. 21.—Thirteen civil service examinations for clerical offices in the State departments were held in various cities and villages of this State on Tuesday of last week, and the returns are now coming in. They show how incompetent and negligent the present Commission has become. In his brief in the case of Thomas J. Killeen against the Civil Service Commission for a mandamus to require that body to show cause why it should not place him on its list of eligibles for a Canal Collector of Statistics, the Attorney-General held that since the resignation of Commissioner Schoonmaker, there being not a full Board, the Commission could not exercise the functions of a Board, and a mandamus could not therefore lie against it. Under the ruling of the Attorney-General, therefore, the present Commission is virtually defunct. It can exercise no functions without a third member, and consequently its recent examinations are likely to be declared nugatory.

But some of the incidents connected with the examinations are worth recording. One shows the strong hostility of the Board, and especially of its Chief Examiner, Potts, against the soldier preferences in appointments, as required by four separate laws of the State. On the applications for permission to enter the examinations there are four sets of questions as to his previous history which every applicant is required to answer, and to have his answer testified to under oath before a notary or other officer who may administer oaths. In these questions all the facts as to his birth, education, and especially as to his service in the army or navy, are required to be set forth fully and attested. Up to the present year, and under previous Chief Examiners, this testimony was considered sufficient. But the present Mr. Potts concluded that there was a chance to further embarrass soldier applicants for examination, and on his own hook, with no apparent warrant in law for the proceeding, he added a new requirement. In the body of his circular relative to the conditions on which applicants may be admitted to examination, he states that all claiming the soldier preference must present evidence from the Adjutant-General of their service and honorable discharge. He also sent out to each such applicant the following notice:

DEAR SIR: In your application for the position of clerk you claim the preference awarded by the law to honorably discharged Union soldiers and sailors. The application as made will entitle you to enter the examination, of which you will receive due notice, but before you can receive the preference claimed, it will be necessary for you to *obtain from the Adjutant-General's office and file with this Commission* a certificate of your honorable discharge from the United States military or naval service, or to furnish other satisfactory proof of the same.

This is, of course, in addition to the regular sworn affidavit of the applicant on the printed application. The result is that many ex-soldiers having lost their discharge papers, or not having evidence beyond their oath conveniently at hand, and feeling unwilling to incur the expense and incalculable delay which would attend getting a certificate from the Adjutant-General's office, were deterred from entering the competition at all. At the examination in this city there were only thirty-one present altogether, and of these there were probably not over six ex-soldiers.

In the village of Ithaca this curious incident is related:

Four candidates presented themselves to try the examination, but when the sealed packages containing the instructions to the examiners and the blank questions were opened, it was learned that *but two of the four persons had been granted official permission to enter the examination.*

This in a great college town, where it was presumed the graduating class would attend almost in a body.

The persistent hostility of the two members of the Board and its Chief Examiner, Potts, to the soldier preference is now a subject of consideration by the Veteran Rights Union.

THE END OF A FORTY YEARS' FIGHT.

The Defeat of Bonga, the Great African Home Ruler.

The story of Bonga, the famous rebel chief who for over forty years has defied the Portuguese in their East African dominions, was briefly told in THE SUN yesterday. The latest newspapers received from Europe contain this despatch from Lisbon, which indicates the close of his remarkable career:

The Portuguese Government has received an official telegram from Mozambique announcing that Bonga, the famous pirate of the Zambesi, has been completely defeated by the Portuguese troops, and that his thirty-six villages, all of them strongly defended by palisades, have been destroyed.

This man, of whom Livingstone wrote in his first book of explorations, has resisted the advance of the white race in Africa longer and more successfully than any other native chief. He has been the avowed enemy of the Portuguese since 1840, and, though several years have sometimes elapsed without hostilities, it has only been because the Portuguese meanwhile have let Bonga severely alone. Many renegade Portuguese, half breeds, and most of the robbers and disorderly characters of the Portuguese territories flocked to Bonga's standard, and his authority was supreme from the Zambesi, within twenty-five miles of the important Portuguese settlement at Tete, one hundred and fifty miles southwest to the kingdom of the Matabele. One of Bonga's sons-in-law was a nearly full-blooded Portuguese, and a number of these outlawed Europeans have smuggled ammunition from Madagascar, and in other ways contributed largely to Bonga's remarkable success.

Livingstone, fearing treachery, did not visit Bonga's stronghold on the Zambesi, but one or two other white travellers have been hospitably entertained there. Some years ago the Portuguese attempted to knock the defences of this place to pieces with cannon, but Bonga's soldiers made havoc among the gunners and compelled the whites to raise the siege before the very strong stockade had been destroyed.

The campaign in which Bonga has been hopelessly defeated is the fourth serious attempt that the Portuguese have made to subjugate him. Their long deferred triumph will give them complete mastery over the lower Zambesi and its tribes.

Base Ball Legislation.

The past week has been memorable both for legislation and diplomacy in the base ball world. The protective Brotherhood of League players has met the League managers, and, thanks to the firmness and moderation of its committee, has secured official recognition. The concessions to the players have been few, and the latter are still to be bought and sold, but at least they have had some share in framing their contract, which is a document more detailed and voluminous than a bill in equity or an international treaty. When players hereafter are suspended without pay, the time must be made definite, as when a criminal is sentenced, instead of indefinite, as hitherto; if injured while doing his duty, the player must hereafter have his full wages; he may be reserved, but not at a reduced salary. These are examples of the compromise effected, and "in practical life, ideal reform must compromise with expedience," say Messrs. Ward, Hanlon, and Brouthers to their brethren, with fine philosophy.

An important feature of the week's work has been the revision of the playing rules. One result which everybody will approve is the repeal of last season's rule allowing a base on balls to count as a hit. There are several good reasons why it should not so count, the best and briefest being that it is not a hit, but an error on the part of the pitcher. A second change back to old rules, in allowing the batsman only three strikes instead of four, is of more doubtful expediency, as it will keep down the batting scores. The rules declaring a runner not out for being hit by a struck ball after it has passed the fielder, but putting him out if he knocks down or runs into a fielder, commend themselves at once; but the rule allowing the runner to take a base if the ball hits the umpire is probably destined to a short life. The removal of the batsman's line to twelve inches from the home plate will be generally approved, but the rules calling him out if he attempts a foul hit after two strikes, or is hit by the ball on the third strike, must go through the probation of experiment.

It is a little questionable whether the new plan of allowing two extra players to be substituted in a nine during the game will be permanent. Such a substitution may sometimes be a relief to spectators who find a pitcher hit too hard, but it is likely to result also in unjust cries from the crowd for changes which will discourage players.

This autumn lawmaking by the Joint Committee of the League and Association is always watched with great interest, since it regulates the conduct of the game in many quarters for the next season, and now that is over, the prospects for 1888 will be carefully studied and discussed.

Not a Chance to be Neglected.

Mistress (who has been out)—Why, Bridget, where is the statue of the Venus of Milo?

Bridget (fresh importation)—Wan av them Oitalian image men, mum, came along an' said that he cud fix it as good as new for fifty cents, mum, an' I laved him the job.

The Attack to be Renewed.

Young Man—I love your daughter, sir, devotedly. May I hope for a blessing from you?

Old Man—Have you spoken to my daughter upon the subject?

Young Man—Yes, and she refused me.

Old Man—Well, doesn't that settle it?

Young Man—No, sir. You forget that I am a life insurance agent, and never take no for an answer.

THE MOUTH OF THE ORINOCO.

Venezuela and British Guiana Struggling for the Possession of a Great River.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—The news that a party of English colonists have landed on an island at the chief mouth of the Orinoco for the purpose of founding a settlement there, and that the Venezuelan Government is opposing them, has added fresh interest to a question in which the United States Government has been desired to take a part.

The dispute about the British Guiana boundary line antedates the independence of Venezuela, and is an inheritance from the Spanish and Dutch naval possessions in that region. The Orinoco, the great river draining with its affluents the northern coast of South America, north of the watershed of the Amazon, is likely to be an important highway of commerce, and for Venezuela it possesses an importance relatively as great as that of the Mississippi to our country. It is 1,600 miles long, and drains an area of a quarter of a million square miles, receiving a great number of tributaries in its course; and it is very wide and deep at the head of tidewater, 250 miles from its mouth. Communicating through its branches with all parts of Venezuela, it not only becomes the chief commercial waterway for the republic, but has an important strategic value for the defence of the country.

The chief river of British Guiana is the Essequibo. Forty miles west of this, toward the Orinoco, is the Pomeroon. The exact line between British Guiana and Venezuela was never exactly determined. The Dutch managed to establish themselves in the valley of the Essequibo about the beginning of the seventeenth century, and there remained for about two hundred years, when the western portion of their Guiana territory passed into the possession of the English. It was even then once restored to the Dutch, but speedily transferred again to Great Britain, soon after the beginning of the present century, the river Corentyn marking the boundary between it and what remained as Dutch Guiana. But on the western side the extent of the colony was not then quite determined. The Venezuelans claim that the Essequibo was the limit; but this claim never would be admitted, since the Dutch, from whom the British derived their title, are known to have at times occupied a portion of the region west of that river. Venezuela would be glad if she could establish the Pomeroon as the boundary; but Great Britain long ago went far beyond even that stream, and has gradually extended her colonial domain by occupation until she has reached the mouth of the Orinoco. The great river empties through a delta which begins to form more than a hundred miles from the sea, and several of its mouths are navigable; but the chief one is close to British Guiana, and by occupying its right bank and establishing themselves on the neighboring islands the English colony hopes to secure a substantial control of the great river.

The latest move of Venezuela has been to despatch to Europe Gen. Guzman Blanco, who had resigned the Presidency for the purpose, to see if it is not possible to submit the dispute to suitable arbitration. Three years ago Gen. Blanco went on a similar errand, and supposed that he had procured the assent of the British Foreign Office to that mode of settlement. But so far from practically acceding to it, the British colonists have since steadily advanced westward, being stimulated in part by the discoveries of gold in the disputed region. This conduct caused the severance of diplomatic intercourse between Caracas and London about nine months ago. The British insist that Venezuela has never practically maintained, nor until recent years even set up her present claim; and that more than forty years ago Sir R. Schomburg, having declared that the natural boundaries of the old Essequibo colony were the entire region drained by that river, the colonial authorities erected marks and bounds in accordance therewith. Venezuela declares that those bounds were not accepted by her at the time, and that the colonists have since overrun even that limit. But one of her main contentions is that it is only within the last quarter of a century that her Government has been sufficiently stable and tranquil to consider the boundary question. At the very moment that Great Britain secured permanent possession of the Essequibo colony, at the peace of 1814, Venezuela was endeavoring to secure her independence of Spain. Fifty years of political disturbance ensued, during which time no attempt was made to settle boundary questions in parts of the country little occupied.

It has been urged that the spirit of the Monroe doctrine would justify and perhaps even require the interference of our Government in this dispute; and Venezuelans, looking at the menacing situation of Trinidad Island, west of the Orinoco, and at the encroachments of British Guiana at its mouth, insist that Great Britain is taking steps to menace the independence of the country. The dispute, however, does not seem to fall at all under the Monroe doctrine, but involves only a question of boundary, which ought to be settled on its merits. It is not surprising that the Venezuelan Government should be irritated at finding additional encroachments made pending its efforts to secure such a settlement by impartial arbitration.

ABOUT TOWN.

It is curious how notoriety attracts women. Even so unclean and repulsive an object as Most has the warmest sort of admirers among the gentler sex, although many of these admirers are not attractive to the average man. The more notorious a gambler, Anarchist, or crook becomes, the surer are his chances of election into the affections of womankind.

Mr. Jacob Hess was out on Broadway on Saturday, walking slowly along with Senator Coggeshall on one side and Senator Gibbs on the other. It was the first appearance of the genial Subway Commissioner in many days. He had been confined to the house by illness resulting from a violent cold. Most people who consider Commissioner Hess's age, if they consider it at all, place it about 38 or 40 years. They would be startled to learn that there is a son of the Commissioner who has passed his 21st year, and who is known more or less about town. The younger Hess has the same genial qualities that distinguish his father.

Sunday in the Park is gradually growing notable for the decidedly queer lot of people who spend several hours a day rolling up and down the east side drive in handsome carriages that are certainly not their own. Magnificently dressed women who have more or less of a horsey look predominate. But there are lots of demure young persons who, though retiring in manner and garb, nevertheless suggest well-grounded suspicions to the knowing observer. The same carriages are filled on week days by ladies and gentlemen of respectability, though they are not always as attractive spectacularly as the Sunday crowd.

A remarkable illustration of the slumbering talent that hides itself more or less coyly in the average chorus girl was apparent the other day when the stage manager selected ten of the girls to appear in a violin chorus. The idea was to have the violins played by musicians behind the stage, while the girls operated what are known as "dummy" violins. The first of the girls chosen, Miss Lucy Rivers, announced that she knew how to play a real violin, and, borrowing one from the orchestra, she proved that she could play with skill, effectiveness, and expression. Other chorus girls begged for a trial, and Mr. Aronson found that eight of the feminine members of his chorus had studied enough violin playing to warrant their appearance in public, and yet nobody had known of this accomplishment. Some of the other girls are now under instruction, and the result is that real violins will be used on the night of the new opera.

The booming of pictures goes on apace. Every big painting now has its special exhibition and its paid press agent, and it is apparently only a question of time before the other functionaries are added and we shall have such advance notices as the following:

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE.
Gigantic painting.

Director	W. H. McGonigle.
Travelling manager	Thomas S. Wilson.
Press agent	J. Quiver.
Advance agent	Thomas H. Mulholland.
Gas and calcium effects	Michael Judkins.
Treasurer	H. Edwards.
Painter	Munkacsy

A bosom friend of the wicked Senator Gibbs has been making a call on Miss Summerville of the burlesque company now playing at the Bijou, and, wishing to compliment that l