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

UNITED DEMOCRACY.

In the Front Line will be found

THE SUN,

Fresh from its magnificent victory over the combined foes of Democracy in its own State, true to its convictions, truthful before all else, and fearless in the cause of truth and right.

THE SUN has six, eight, twelve, and sixteen pages, as occasion requires, and is ahead of all competition in everything that makes a newspaper.

| | |
|---|---|
| Daily | $6 00 |
| Daily and Sunday | 7 50 |
| Sunday, 16 and 20 pages | 1 50 |
| Weekly | 1 00 |

Address THE SUN, New York.


TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1888.

*Advertisements for* THE WEEKLY SUN, *issued to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.*

## The Carlisle Case.

"If his sense of honor," says the *New York Tribune*, "were as keen as has sometimes been supposed, he would insist on the most thorough investigation possible."

This refers to Speaker CARLISLE and the efforts of the men who have been using Mr. THOBE in an effort to reöpen the contested election in the Sixth district of Kentucky.

The object of the Republicans in Congress in making THOBE a party issue, and in clamoring for another hearing and a second investigation of the vote in the Sixth district, on the pretext that THOBE'S counsel did not serve him well in the first prosecution of the contest, has been twofold. The minority want to annoy the Speaker, and they want to cultivate the labor vote. That is why Mr. J. HALE SYPHER, late of Louisiana, was able to swing the Republicans into line behind THOBE and his unfounded and disproved claims.

The cry for fair play and justice and the pretended solicitude for the sanctity of the ballot are pure humbug, so far as J. HALE SYPHER and the Republican minority are concerned. This impudent plea, and the still more impudent insinuation that Mr. CARLISLE'S honor requires him to lend a helping hand to THOBE now, come with peculiar force from the party that stole the Presidency a few years ago, and from the journals that defended that crime and fought tooth and nail against any investigation of the facts.

We do not believe there is an honest man in the United States, however radically he may differ from the Speaker in matters of political opinion, who doubts that Mr. CARLISLE'S course in this matter has been governed and will continue to be governed by the most scrupulous considerations of right, and the finest sense of personal honor.

## Balfour and O'Brien.

Even Mr. BALFOUR, as he marks the outcome of Mr. WILLIAM O'BRIEN'S imprisonment, must begin to doubt the wisdom of his coercion programme. It is true that through the machinery of the Crimes act he can subject his political opponents to the degrading treatment ordinarily reserved for criminals. But of what avail is persecution of that sort, if the victim and the cause he represents acquire thereby a firmer hold upon the public mind? Mr. O'BRIEN comes out of jail a greater man than he entered it, and the fact that he uses his augmented influence to avert acts of vindictive violence on the part of his countrymen must make a profound impression on English and Scotch supporters of GLADSTONE.

That the exasperating course pursued by Mr. BALFOUR during the recess of Parliament has not, like the provocations given by Mr. FORSTER, been followed by some savage outburst of homicidal rage, is due to the admirable spirit evinced by Mr. O'BRIEN and his fellow sufferers. In order to justify the framers and enforcers of the Crimes act it was indispensable that Irishmen should be driven to reprisals before the House of Commons should reassemble. Just at this time a second Phœnix Park atrocity would be of inestimable service to the Tory Government. It would render the Unionist coalition indestructible, alienate British Liberals from the Irish Nationalists, and detach the Catholic episcopate and priesthood from the Land and Labor League.

As it is, Mr. BALFOUR has to face Parliament without a pretext for the indignities and barbarities to which Mr. O'BRIEN and his fellow prisoners have been exposed. Neither can he pretend that by punishing with extraordinary rigor promoters of the so-called plan of campaign he has put an end to the concerted withholding of rents in Ireland. On every large estate, with the exception of Lord CLANRICARDE'S, the very reductions demanded a year ago on the score of the low prices of farm products have now been brought about, partly through the interposition of the Land Commissioners and partly through voluntary concessions by the landlords themselves. Thus it is now patent that, from a moral point of view, Mr. O'BRIEN and the other victims of Mr. BALFOUR'S animosity committed no offence at all in advising tenants to hold back rents until a reasonable compromise could be effected.

So far, then, as the Crimes act was intended to prevent an equitable adjustment of Irish rentals to values, it will have to be acknowledged a total failure. No less flagrant is the miscarriage of the measure as regards its second purpose, the extirpation of the National League. By imprisoning its organizers and leaders Mr. BALFOUR had expected to paralyze that great association which at two general elections has returned five-sixths of the Irish members of Parliament. But as Mr. O'BRIEN points out, through the *Freeman's Journal*, the Irish Secretary has not even succeeded in extinguishing the 300 branches of the League which he has proclaimed, while 1,500 other branches have been left intact. The new experiment in coercion has, like Mr. FORSTER'S, simply resulted in demonstrating that, as Mr. O'BRIEN says, you can only suppress the League by suppressing society. For the League is the community.

The House of Commons has seldom witnessed a more striking spectacle than that which will be presented when Mr. BALFOUR and Mr. O'BRIEN meet each other in debate. The Irish Secretary did undoubtedly exhibit during the last session forensic abilities of no mean order, while, with the possible exception of Mr. SEXTON, the editor of *United Ireland* is the most effective speaker on the Parnellite side. In respect of intellectual ability the jailer and his victim may be pretty evenly matched, and the former will have the advantage of believing that he has a majority behind him. Nevertheless, we will predict for him an unpleasant quarter of an hour when he tries to justify to English gentlemen his methods of dealing with political opponents.

## The Hanging of Driscoll.

DANIEL DRISCOLL was hanged at the Tombs yesterday morning, and we give elsewhere a particular account of the execution. What will be the effect produced by that description on the minds of the many thousands who will read it with intense interest as the most important news of the day?

The Commissioners who lately reported to the Legislature in favor of changing the method of carrying out the death sentence say that the effect of such reports is to make heroes of murderers and to lessen the popular horror of crime and its punishment. They would, therefore, have restricted the newspapers to-day to the bare announcement that "DANIEL DRISCOLL was yesterday duly executed according to law" at such a prison.

The execution, too, would have taken place on a day not previously announced, the sentence of the murderer having merely appointed a week during which he should have been executed. The agent or warden of the prison would have fixed the day without the knowledge of anybody except the few persons whom he was directed to invite as witnesses. Then DRISCOLL would have been seated in a chair in the prison yard, a current of electricity would have been sent through his body, instantly killing him, and after a post-mortem examination the corpse would have been handed over for dissection to a hospital or medical college, no religious services over it having been allowed.

From the time of his sentence to his death DRISCOLL would have been kept in solitary confinement at a State prison, no one having been allowed access to him without an order of the Court, except the prison officers, his lawyers, physician, priest, and the members of his family. He would, therefore, have disappeared from the public view as soon as he was taken to the prison, and when he was killed the public would only have been told that the work was done.

Now, which method of execution would have fixed on the public mind a greater horror of the crime of murder and its punishment—the hanging of DRISCOLL, as reported by the newspapers to-day in all its dreadful detail, or the secret killing of the condemned man, as these Commissioners advise?

As it is, the attention of the whole public is fastened on that awful scene in the jail yard of the Tombs, and the hanging of DRISCOLL carries its terrible lesson to everybody. If he had been put to death in secret and only the fact that he was dead had been announced, the occurrence would have made little impression, and the great moral effect of the execution of the extreme penalty of the law would have been lost.

It is an awful thing to take the life of a man in vindication of the law, and if it is done, it should be so done that all the people may be made to shudder at the sacrifice, and to look on it as an event of supreme public importance.

## The New York Central's Tracks Through New York City.

The recent determination of the managers of the New York Central Railroad system to depress the tracks under their control north of the Harlem River, and the acceptance of their plans by the Park Department, have revived interest in a question of railroad construction that had long since passed out of view. This question gave rise to a great deal of discussion and not a little sharp criticism when it was up before, and at this distance we are able to see who were right, who wrong, and to trace all the consequences of the errors of judgment that were committed in the past.

It will be remembered that when the Grand Central Depot was built the Harlem Railroad within the city limits was a surface road. The territory passed over was thinly settled, the trains were comparatively few, and the urgency for depressed tracks was not felt. But the city was growing northward, and after the new depot was completed and the Hudson River road added its trains to the traffic of the two other roads Fourth avenue began to be a lively place for sensations. Every few days a horse or a man would be knocked over. A cry then rose for the depression of the tracks. Commodore VANDERBILT heard, and the City Fathers heard also, and thereupon they concocted a plan by which the road was to be depressed, the railroad to pay half and the city the other half of the cost.

The plan was not universally believed to be good. It was very commonly thought that the depression was not sufficient, and there were even those who held that not only should the bed of the road be carried lower, but that the depression should extend even into the depot. It was reported at the time that a competent engineer offered to shore up the walls of the building for something like $125,000 or $150,000, so that the interior could be excavated to the needed depth. But the offer was not accepted, all criticism was disregarded, and the work of construction or reconstruction went on in accordance with the original plans. It is in order now to examine the result.

Let us walk up the Fourth avenue from the Forty-second street depot, and observe the effect of time and development upon what might have been by this time about the finest thoroughfare in the city. It is the broadest of all our avenues, and where it runs over the old tunnel under Murray Hill, below Forty-second street, it shows by its costly and elegant dwellings that a railroad under a street is not necessarily an injury to property. Then follow the avenue northward, and perhaps we shall see the same lesson enforced. The first impressions are not favorable. As we leave the depot we find ourselves threading our way among factories and institutions of one kind and another that were located there because the ground was cheap. We find, too, much to the detriment of the dwelling house property on the lateral streets crossing Fourth avenue, that there is no crossing for vehicles, only foot bridges reached by stone steps spanning the railway. Street after street is passed in this annoying way, until we reach Fifty-sixth street, nearly three-quarters of a mile from the lower end of the depot. Here we come to the first paved street crossing for vehicles; and here, it is to be presumed, we shall begin to discover the advantages of a buried railroad.

But such a crossing! A man six feet tall and wearing a high hat, if standing on the sidewalk on one side of the avenue, might see the top of a similar hat at a like elevation on the other sidewalk. But he would have to stand on tiptoe. The crossing is a perfect arch, up one side of which vehicles climb painfully, and down which, on the other side, the driver of an omnibus or stage coach might find it necessary to apply his brakes with a pretty firm hand. In slippery weather this crossing is dangerous if not impracticable. But keep along up the avenue and you will find this to be only a representative piece of work in combined street and railway engineering. Here and there the ground happens to rise sufficiently above the bed of the railroad to carry the lateral street across the Fourth avenue at a comparatively moderate grade; but these are the exceptions. The rule is precipitous crossings, and there are places on the avenue between the lateral streets where the pavements, from the skylights of the so-called tunnel down to the curb, are so steeply inclined that no prudent driver would essay the passage even in the best of weather.

One would not look to see property greatly benefited by this kind of work. Certainly, were a man to look for evidences of any such results on the Fourth avenue, he would be grievously disappointed. Turn your eyes away from the ridge of little volcanoes with smoking craters at the summits which we call indifferently Fourth avenue, Park avenue, or some other name, and observe the condition of the buildings on either side. Some simpleton built a block or two of brown-stone dwelling houses facing the avenue at one particular section where the conditions seemed most favorable several years ago, but that was the end of the experiment. Here an armory, there a school building, and at other places an institution of some kind, surrounded by abundant open spaces, serve to fill in a few of the blocks along a distance of several weary miles. But generally, except the corner lots, the ground is unoccupied, and the dwellings on these corner lots always face to the lateral streets and present their bare brick sides to the avenue. Between them, attractive possibly to washerwomen, the eye of the pedestrian, roaming through all the areas, sees hung out to dry the washed linen of the inhabitants living on the blocks extending to the Madison avenue rear fronts on one side, and the corresponding fronts of the Lexington avenue dwellings on the other.

Now, judging from the plans adopted for the depression of the Harlem road north of the Harlem River, everything is prepared to duplicate the conditions to be witnessed on the Fourth avenue. The depression on Railroad avenue is to be ten feet deep. This will give an opportunity for an indefinite extension of the Fourth avenue ridge northward, for it is reasonably certain that the day will come when the conversion of the cut into a tunnel will be demanded, and the work will require an additional eight or ten feet to reach the necessary street level. The disaster in this case need not be quite so great as it has been on the Fourth avenue. The grade of the lateral streets could be raised in advance to anticipate the future. It will require many millions of cubic yards of earth to fill in the land up to the grade of Railroad avenue, as it will be if completed on the plans now in view; but it is to be presumed that the soil can be found somewhere. The filling in should extend several hundred feet each side of the avenue, and even then the thoroughfare would still be along a ridge. But it will be better so than the Fourth avenue is now.

It is claimed by the officers of the Park Department, speaking by inspiration, it is to be presumed, that the depression of the railroad at the north end is made with a view to building a tunnel under the Harlem River. A man would never suspect it. He would suspect, rather, that it was made with a view to maintaining the bridge. The water at low tide in the improved channel will be in the neighborhood of twenty feet deep. It will be necessary to leave several feet of earth between the bottom of the stream and the roof of a tunnel, and this, if the work be not made before the channel is deepened, will carry the roadbed to a depth of more than forty feet below the surface. Fifty feet to the roadbed is the least calculation that can reasonably be made; and to make preparations for sending trains under the river at this depth they begin by depressing the road ten feet. From the bottom of this depression trains can reach the bridge by a much easier grade than they would be compelled to use to reach the bottom of a tunnel.

But a question is raised on the ability of the railroad managers to maintain a bridge across the Harlem River after the channel has been improved. The franchise under which the bridge was constructed was derived from the State, and it was decided a half century or more ago that the consent of a State to cross a navigable stream was not sufficient. There is not a bridge across the Harlem, whether owned by a railway corporation or the city of New York, which will not be compelled to run a gauntlet instituted by tugboat captains and other seafaring men as soon as the channel is open for passage from the North to the East River; and if a United States Court hits this railroad bridge it is not likely that Congress will come forward to bind up its wounds. It will have to go; the trains will be compelled to seek a passage under the river, and they would find it much more convenient from the bed of a twenty-foot depression than from one of only ten feet.

The Park Department is not held entirely blameless for the makeshift plans which have been made for this improvement. It is believed that the Commissioners, unwittingly perhaps, have allowed themselves to sanction a policy which has been adopted by all the railroads terminating on the harbor of New York. It is a policy which leads their managers to make all their terminal and other improvements here at the least possible cost, and to expend all the money that they can raise in extending their Western connections. It may be a good enough policy for the railroads from the competitive point of view, but it subjects the citizens of New York to many inconveniences and some very heavy losses. Had the depressed road, or tunnel, or whatever it may be called, on, under, or above Fourth avenue, been properly constructed, the property adjacent to the improvements would have shown many additional millions in value at this time. Twenty years hence a similar remark should not be in order in reflecting on the improvements at the north end of the city.

## An Iniquitous Bill.

The whole machinery of our municipal Government is regulated by what is known as the Consolidated act, chapter 410 of the Laws of 1882. It is a complex, diffuse, and inaccurate codification of the various municipal laws affecting the city of New York.

A bill to amend one of the assessment provisions of this Consolidated act has been introduced in the Assembly by Mr. SHEA, and has been recommitted to the Committee on Affairs of Cities. Under cover of law, Mr. SHEA'S bill contemplates a grave wrong to the landowners of this county.

The law as it stands to-day provides that no assessment shall be vacated by reason of any omission to advertise, or irregularity in advertising, any resolution authorizing the work, or for proposals to do the work, or for any irregularity or technicality. This provision is all very well, for it was enacted to guard against the wholesale vacating of assessments by assessment lawyers on purely technical and immaterial grounds based on merely formal errors in procedure. But Mr. SHEA seeks now to interject a new provision that no assessment shall be vacated "for or by reason of the omission of the said city, or any officer, board, or department thereof, to acquire title to the street or avenue to which said assessment shall relate, provided, however, that said street or avenue shall have been dedicated to public use, or shall have been used as a public street or avenue or highway for upward of five years, and any ordinance adopted for such local improvement shall be presumptive evidence of such dedication or use."

In other words, if the roadbed of a projected street belongs to an individual citizen, an assessment may be levied for work done wrongfully by the city upon or along the inchoate street, and the passing of an ordinance by the Common Council shall be evidence that the land does not belong to its owner. The city may thus commit a trespass on private property, as by laying pipes along a private road, assess the owner to make him pay for the laying of the pipes, and deprive him of his property by citing against him the ordinance passed by the city itself directing the work to be done!

Such an enactment would be an outrage on justice. It would, of course, be unconstitutional, but it should be killed in its inception without making an appeal to the courts necessary to defeat such iniquity.

## Next Winter's Opera.

This winter's season of German opera at the Metropolitan Opera House has proved to be so unsatisfactory, financially, that the directors hesitate to undertake another one. They say that the assessment of $2,500 per box last winter barely met the difference between receipts and expenses, while this winter, owing to an average decrease of $800 in the receipts for each performance, and notwithstanding an increased revenue from other sources, a similar $2,500 assessment will be insufficient.

They therefore submit to the stockholders the following three disagreeable propositions: 1, to give no opera next winter, in which case there will be an assessment of $1,000 per box to meet taxes, interest, and repairs; 2, to give German opera again, in which case the assessment will be $3,200 per box; or, 3, to give Italian opera at some unknown cost, which will, however, certainly exceed the cost of German opera. In the interest of the musical public it is to be hoped that the stockholders will despise the expense, and give at least German opera, but nobody can blame them for not doing it.

The opera is the most expensive luxury of civilization, requiring as it does the combination of the best talent in all the fine arts. In London, it has already been abandoned as too costly, while in Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, and other great European capitals, it goes on only by the aid of the Government. To support it adequately here, from the sale of seats alone, would require the present high prices to be more than doubled, which, of course, is not to be thought of.

The question is to be decided by the stockholders to-morrow.

It is gratifying to know that the Republicans of that very doubtful State, Vermont, are thoroughly aroused, and engaged in the manufacture of Republican clubs. There seems to be a wide-spreading belief that, with proper effort, Vermont will be Republican next fall. It is not announced, however, that Mr. G. F. EDMUNDS shows any tendency toward lapsing into Blaineism.

Lady RANDOLPH CHURCHILL is still a true American. She affirms that the English sole is not superior to the Yankee flounder.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

There she is mistaken. The sole is as much better than the flounder as Mayor HEWITT'S Ringwood butter ($1 per lb.) is better than the best oleomargarine.

A man went into the office of a Newark newspaper on Wednesday and asked to be directed to the headquarters of the Salvation Army. The piety of the office being dormant rather than forcible, he failed to get the information for which he seemed to pine. Thereupon the inquisitive stranger sought a neighboring tailor shop, whence he abducted thirty pairs of trousers. Query: Was he simply a person of inconsequential mind, or did he wish to repent beforehand among the Salvationists for the theft he was about to commit?

We believe that most of the civil service reformers have been devoured by THE SUN'S office cat.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

Oh no; it isn't so bad as that. They are tough old cases, especially DORMAN B. EATON, and altogether inedible. Some of them, such as President CLEVELAND, have been signally converted, but they were all originally Democrats.

It is said that a couple of Mormon missionaries are going to start a Mormon church in southern Virginia. It would be wise for them to take a life insurance policy before making any vehement efforts at proselyting. The Southern people are liable to adorn the pinions of Mormon angels with tar and feathers. Mormon missionaries should go to New England, where they will find a more congenial atmosphere.

### The New Judge of the Court of Appeals.

*From the Brooklyn Citizen.*

In appointing John Clinton Gray of New York to the vacancy created by the death of Judge Rapallo, Gov. Hill has, at least, shown that political considerations are far from being all controlling with him. Mr. Gray is, indeed, a Democrat, having been identified with the party since the early days of Tilden's Governorship, but he does not appear to have exerted himself either actively or conspicuously at any time in behalf of any political candidate or political cause.

The influences which have secured his promotion to the Appeals bench must, therefore, be looked for in legal and commercial quarters, and in those directions we happily find endorsers whose testimony must be deemed conclusive as to his fitness for the exalted office. He is vouched for by Judges and lawyers irrespective of partisan differences, while the Tammany organization stamps him as sufficiently "regular" for all ordinary partisan purposes.

His practice has been of the lucrative rather than the fame-making kind. While he has done little if any work before juries, he has for many years been distinguished as a master of corporation law and as a counsellor in important cases involving such law. If we said that we received the announcement of the appointment with special pleasure, we should write what is not true, for, as a matter of fact, there are many Democrats upon whom we should have been more pleased to see the honor bestowed, not because they are better men than Mr. Gray, but because they are better known and have in better-known ways earned the general good will of Democrats. The essential matter, however, is the character of the man, and of that it can be said with complete truth that it appears to be unexceptionable.

### Democratic State Committee Call.

TROY, Jan. 23.—The following call was issued to-day:

There will be a meeting of the Democratic State Committee at the Delavan House, Albany, on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 2 P. M., for the purpose of recommending to the National Democratic Committee a representative from this State upon such committee, to fill the existing vacancy. By order of

EDWARD MURPHY, JR., Chairman.
WILLIAM L. MULLER, Secretary.

### A Fair Statement.

*From the Atlanta Constitution.*

Let the excise taxes go! Every genuine Democrat in the country is in favor of it.

### Yes, We Know. That Is So!

*From the British American.*

THE SUN is by far the brightest among the New York papers.

How many people remember, or ever knew, that the flag of the United States under which Andrew Jackson and Winfield Scott fought in the War of 1812 consisted of fifteen stripes and fifteen stars? The original idea was to add both a star and a stripe for every new State; but in 1818 a New York Congressman named Wendover suggested that at the rate the United States were growing the tallest pine tree in Maine would not make a mast tall enough to hoist the flag upon. This and many other interesting facts about the history of the American flag may be found in a patriotic little pamphlet written by Gen. Schuyler Hamilton, and published by Lockwood & Sons.

## THE LATE WALTER M. GIBSON.

The career of Walter M. Gibson, whose death at San Francisco was reported yesterday, was like a romantic chapter of the sixteenth century, where adventure and surprise were almost the rule of life. It is said that he was born in South Carolina, but it was in this city that he grew up to manhood. His mother kept a little shop on the Sixth avenue, and the circumstances of his youth were exceedingly limited. We made his acquaintance about 1850, when he appeared to be a man of 35 or 40. He had procured a schooner and crew and was going around the world, with a view especially of visiting the islands of the South Sea and the Malay Archipelago, and he desired to be engaged as a correspondent, to send accounts of strange and wonderful things that he might happen upon. He was evidently a very clever and intelligent man, and we agreed to take whatever correspondence he might send, and to pay for all that should be printed. Under this agreement the first letter that we received from him was written on thin paper, and very much crumpled. It was dated from a prison in Batavia, in the Dutch East Indies, and it brought the information that he was confined there on a charge of having organized a rebellion among the Malays of Java. The letter was written, he said, to be thrown over the prison walls, enclosed in a hollow bullet of lead. He was almost without friends in Batavia, except the one who was to receive the bullet and mail its contents to New York, and he hoped that his case would be brought to the notice of the public in this country, so that the Government of the United States might take some interest in it, and make some effort to save him from being treated with injustice in his trial which was approaching.

The next we heard of Mr. Gibson was his appearance in New York city some months afterward. When the trial came on, the Malay witnesses, on whom the Dutch authorities were relying for evidence against him, could not appear. They had all been drowned while crossing some sound of the Archipelago in a boat. A flaw of wind had suddenly struck the boat and capsized her. The witnesses and the military guard that were on board were all lost, save only the steersman, who escaped; and it was suspected that he had given the boat a sudden twist, as a means of rescuing the friend of the Malays and the enemy of the Dutch from the danger which these witnesses might subject him to in his trial.

Thus the case against him failed, and he had to be released. He made his way to this country, and his claim for damages against the Dutch Government was taken up by the State Department, and finally resulted, if we do not mistake, after several years, in the payment to him of a sum of money as indemnity for his losses and imprisonment.

Meanwhile the uncomfortable relations of the Mormons toward the United States Government had suggested the idea of transporting them to some unoccupied island of the Pacific, and Mr. Gibson went to Salt Lake City for the purpose of urging this policy upon Brigham Young. His purpose was to take them to New Guinea in sufficient force to establish, in some healthy and favorable part of that great island, a colony strong enough to resist the attacks of the natives. Arriving at Salt Lake City, it is said that he found it convenient to become a Mormon himself, as a method of advancing his scheme; but Young had fixed his attention upon the Sandwich Islands as more suitable for the Saints, and he sent Gibson there to explore and report. At least this is the representation which the Mormons had given of the matter, but we have never known Mr. Gibson to admit that it was correct. However that may be, his visit to Honolulu led him to purchase the island of Lanai, not for the Mormons, but for himself; and he settled there as a sugar planter, without doing anything more toward carrying out the project of Mormon emigration.

In the Sandwich Islands he has ever since resided, and some eight or ten years ago he rose to the dignity of Prime Minister, and had since governed the country in the name of King Kalakaua until a few months since, when he was ousted by a rising of the most prominent citizens of the kingdom, led, of course, by naturalized foreigners, principally Americans. We have been told that this event was due to a quarrel with Mr. Claus Spreckels, the sugar man of San Francisco, and very likely it is true. Shortly after his downfall Mr. Gibson came to the United States, and he has since remained in San Francisco suffering from consumption, which has now finally terminated his life. He leaves to his heirs a fortune estimated at a million, though when he left New York for Utah the value of his possessions must have been very small.

Mr. Gibson was a man of remarkable characteristics, as this sketch of his history sufficiently indicates. He was quick, intelligent, determined, adventurous, cordial, of pleasant manners, agreeable conversation and friendly qualities. And yet this whole story of adventure and fortune has occurred in this prosaic nineteenth century, and very much of it amid the commonplace monotony of civilized governments.

## THE OPERA IN PARIS.

### A Steadily Losing Enterprise—Salaries of Singers and Dancers.

*From the London Telegraph.*

In the report on the theatres which receive grants from the Government the figures show that the Grand Opera is in a lamentable financial condition. There is a deficit every year, the receipts for the first six months of 1887 being about £1,610 below those for the corresponding period of the preceding year. The former manager of the Opéra lost nearly £16,000 in five years. Nevertheless, a good many retrenchments have been effected.

Expenses have been cut down. The four principal tenors receive but an average of £1,380 yearly each, a small figure when compared with the pay of singers in London, St. Petersburg, or Madrid. The chief baritones receive £1,800 a year each. The salaries of the soprani and contralti are about the same, and the four chief danseuses get £760 per annum apiece. The most profitable of the operas which are now represented are "Le Cid," "Les Huguenots," and "L'Africaine."

### The Ingalls Boom Begins.

*From the Gerald Springs Herald.*

Ingalls would be a stronger man than Blaine. He is as able a man. He is vastly more independent; his Republicanism is as sound, radical, and deep rooted as is the political faith of the man from Maine. He has grown as fast intellectually and in matters of statesmanship in the last ten years as has Mr. Blaine. His nomination would arouse the enthusiasm of the old guard of radicalism. It would send the hats of enthusiastic young men high into the air with a shout and hurrah. There are just two Republicans who can poll Irish Democratic votes, Blaine and Ingalls, the latter as many as the former; but Ingalls would lose no Republican votes, Blaine will.

### International Exposition by the K. of L.

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

Several prominent Knights of Labor, among whom may be mentioned Senator Burke, Representative George Rohrback, Robert Nelson, M. J. Butler, and other well-known members of District Assemblies 24 and 57, have a grand scheme on foot. It is nothing less than to hold an "International Exposition of Industrial and Mechanical Arts," under the management of the Knights of Labor. This project is to be brought before District Assembly 24 at its next meeting for ratification, and it is expected that the scheme will receive the endorsement of every district assembly and trades union in the United States and Europe. The exposition will be held in Chicago next fall if the plan can be carried out.

### S. S. and the Church Fair.

*From the Kansas City Times.*

"If there is an abomination this side of hell it is the church fair," says Sam Small.

### "Ladies' Entrances."

*From the Denver Republican.*

In about every other saloon in this city is what is called a "ladies' entrance" where, if I am rightly informed, many who are supposed to stand well in society enter.

### The End of Time.

"At the piano again, Charley. I see," said his pretty cousin as she entered the room.

"Ya'as, Maude," responded Charley. "I've been playing for an hour or more, merely to kill time, y'know."

"For an hour or more! Why, Charley, time must be dead by now."

### Caution Necessary.

"Is Mr. Anthony Comstock present?" inquired the speaker, pausing a moment.

"No," came from the audience.

"Then, friends and fellow citizens," went on the orator, raising his voice until the rafters rang, "the sentiment that I have just uttered is the naked truth."

## THE CUSTOM TAILORS.

### They Denounce Ready-made Goods and Discuss the Tailors' Art.

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

The Custom Foremen Tailors' Association of America met yesterday afternoon to revise their constitution and to elect their officers for the ensuing year. Mr. George W. Mathews, merchant tailor of this city, rose to address the meeting on "The Ethics of the Trade." His clothes were dark and fitted him perfectly. The whiteness of his tie was relieved by colored bars.

"The mysteries of our craft," he said, "have been mysterious too long. Out of chaos we will evolve light. Our trade shall take rank with the highest branches of science, literature, and art. And what, gentlemen, has caused the chaos in which it so long has lain? Gentlemen, we are being ruined by ready-made clothing. As custom tailors we cannot affiliate with the makers of ready-made clothing. Let us rise above ready-made clothing. Let us banish ready-made clothing. Let not the paradise of tailoring be invaded by the serpent of ready-made clothes. If you would be good tailors, cultivate the art instinct. Attend art schools. Fill your mind with useful studies. It is only the artist who excels in tailoring. Let youthful tailors learn Latin and Greek. Let them apply themselves to the higher mathematics. Let them be versed in hydrostatics and dynamics of a particle. Let them be trained in manly sports—in boating, football, tennis, and, in short, other things. This, gentlemen, is the new sun which reddens our eastern sky. This, gentlemen, is the apogee of the sartorial art."

Mr. Mathews was succeeded by Mr. W. J. Collins, also a merchant tailor of this city. Mr. Collins has a blond imperial and goatee. He is stout. He wears striped trousers.

Mr. Collins opened in a melancholy vein. "My theme is only the 'Mistakes of Cutters.' I am competent to discuss it, for I have occasionally made up trousers at 29½ when they were ordered at $2. And yet, gentlemen, we shall not be rid of mistakes, alas! on this side of eternity. A cutter should not be a reed in the wind; he should be a sturdy oak. Do not take everybody's 'system.' Have a system of our own. Make your clothing fit. The fit's the thing. The chief fault of cutters is their pride. Employers have rights as well as cutters. Why should you despise the employers? They are a necessary evil. Tolerate them. Make fine clothes for them, for the customers, and for yourselves."

The proceedings terminated with a speech from Mr. Thomas O. Denny. He impressed upon his hearers the necessity of "going into society."

"Gentlemen," he said, "you want first-class work, first-class wages, and a first-class position in society. How can you get them? By social intercourse. Social intercourse is your duty."

### The New Army Tactics.

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—This detail of the Board to revise the tactics for the evolutions of the forces of the army is announced: Lieut.-Col. John C. Bates, Thirteenth Infantry; Major George B. Sanford, First Cavalry; Major Henry C. Hasbrouck, Fourth Artillery; Capt. J. T. Haskell, Twenty-third Infantry; Capt. J. C. Gilmore, Twenty-fourth Infantry; Capt. Edward S. Godfrey, Seventh Cavalry; Capt. James M. Lancaster, Third Artillery; First Lieut. George Andrews, Adjutant Twenty-fifth Infantry, Recorder. It is Gen. Sheridan's opinion that a separate and distinct system of tactics should be adopted for each of the three arms. Among those who will submit recommendations to the Board are Major Hawkins, Tenth Infantry, who has prepared a complete new set of tactics for each of the three arms; Lieut.-Col. H. M. Lazelle, Twenty-third Infantry; Lieut. Philip Reade, Third Infantry, now stationed in Chicago; Major Powell, Fourth Infantry; Capt. Powell, Sixth Infantry; Lieut.-Col. E. C. Mason, Fourth Infantry; Lieut. E. J. McClermond, Second Cavalry; Inspector-Gen. Hughes, Lieut.-Col. Howard, Twelfth Infantry; Lieut. Edward S. Farrow, Twenty-third Infantry; Major W. R. Livermore, and Lieut. G. N. Whistler, Fifth Artillery.

## ALBANY GOSSIP.

This is the twenty-second year that the "Act to Establish a Civil Code," as the Field Code is properly entitled, has been introduced in the Legislature. Several times it has passed the Assembly. Several times it has passed the Senate. Many times it passed neither House. Once it got as far as the Governor, who vetoed it. Last session it passed the Assembly and stuck in the Senate Judiciary Committee. This year Mr. Ives, who looked after it in the last Assembly, is in the Senate and has charge of it there. Mr. Ainsworth is looking after it in the Assembly. There will be the usual hearing on the bill on Feb. 8, when James C. Carter and David Dudley Field will appear and go over the old arguments they have spoken for years. The debate between Mr. Carter and Mr. Field has come to be one of the things to be looked forward to every session, like the Regents' Punch and the crumbling of the Assembly ceiling.

One of the Assembly clerks is an artist. He is making a series of sketches of spectators as they appear gazing at the crevices in the stone ceiling.

Gen. James William Husted has not yet assumed the leadership of the majority of the Assembly, which belongs to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. He has not taken part in the disputes on the floor, and he gives no sign of any desire to lead. Mr. Hamilton has been making most of the majority motions, and with Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Platt, and Mr. Crosby, the Republican majority has managed to get along. The silence of the Bald Eagle has given strength to the rumor that he is developing a deep plan of revenge to take effect later in the session.

The increased interest in New York politics by the people of other States is shown by the large number of reporters who have sent applications to the clerks of the two Houses for seats. All the regular seats are filled this year, and there have been additions extending up the side aisles of the Assembly. Clerk Chickering has given up part of his space, and there is more room needed. The large newspapers of other States have their work done by special men in several cases, and that increases the number of reporters until there are more reporters than Senators.

In the lower two rows of seats in the Assembly there is room for more desks than are placed there when the drawing takes place. This has been taken advantage of by several old Assemblymen who had bad choices, but are now sitting in the best rows of the Assembly. Mr. Sexton was in the back row, and had his seat transferred to the second row near the middle aisle, one of the best positions in the House. Mr. Crosby was in the rear corner. He came down in the front row beside Daniel Ebenezer Finn. Mr. E. Dry Dollar Sullivan was placed in the back row, as the only seats left when his choice came were there. He had his desk moved to the first row.

Senators are furnished with postage stamps at the expense of the State. Assemblymen are not. This is unjust discrimination to which the Assemblymen object.

In another respect the Assemblymen believe they are treated unfairly. That is in the distribution of stationery. Each Senator has received a box in which there are a dozen pencils and penholders, a paper cutter, bottles of black and red ink, a roll of red tape, an eraser, a box of Senate envelopes, a box of linen envelopes, a big box of linen note paper, a pad of Senate paper, a bundle of legal cap, a bottle of mucilage, a cut glass inkstand, blotting paper, and sealing wax. All this makes quite a load. The Assemblymen have no stationery sent to their rooms, and they do not get any unless they go for it themselves or pay somebody to get it for them.

Another point of difference between a Senator and an Assemblyman is that the Senatorial chairs have two cushions, while an Assemblyman is furnished with only one.

But more than all else is the existence of a cloak room, where Senators can rest, while Assemblymen must go across the street.

Carroll E. Smith, the Republican caucus nominee to be Regent of the University, will be the fifth editor in that body. Mr. Smith, who will, of course, be elected, is editor of the Syracuse *Journal*, and the regular writer of the resolutions that are adopted at Republican State Conventions. He is a good-looking, benevolent man, over middle age, with a placid brow, clear eyes, hid by spectacles, and a patriarchal beard.

The other editors are George William Curtis of Harper's, Charles E. Fitch of Rochester, Whitelaw Reid, and St. Clair McKelway of the Brooklyn *Eagle*. Mr. Curtis is now the senior Regent since the death of Mr. Leavenworth. The date of Mr. Curtis's appointment is 1864. Francis Kernan is next in seniority, though there are six years between. It may not be generally known that in addition to the many other things that he is, Dr. Chauncey Mitchell Depew is a Regent. Of the nineteen Regents, he and Mr. Reid are the only ones from New York city. Mr. Depew's appointment came in 1877, and antedates Mr. Reid's one year. Not a quarter of the Regents are Democrats. Vacancies on the Board are filled by election by the Legislature, and owing to the ancient apportionment, the Legislature is usually Republican.

This body, the full title of which is "The Regents of the University," is the most aristocratic of all the State departments. Henry R. Pierson of Albany, who has been a Regent for sixteen years, is Chancellor, and George William Curtis is Vice-Chancellor. The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, and Superintendent of Public Instruction are Regents ex officio. The Regents have stated meetings, and formal receptions and dinners. They have thirteen committees, most of which never do anything, and they are by virtue o' their office trustees of the State Library, the State Museum of Natural History, and several other institutions. They supervise the education and examinations of teachers in a higher sort of way, and are in general great men.

One of the scarcest county offices in the State of New York is Register of Deeds; only three counties have them. The one for Kings is William H. Murtha; for New York, James J. Slevin, and for Westchester, Joseph Miller. They are all handsome men and good Democrats.

There are more Coroners than anything else, as almost every county has four of them.

## INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

Few people outside the Calvinistic denominations realize how far their recognized leaders are from accepting the old-time doctrine of election and predestination in all its rigidity. The Rev. A. E. Kittridge, who, though he is pastor of the Madison Avenue Reformed Church, at Fifty-seventh street, calls himself a Presbyterian, said in last Sunday evening's sermon that he did not believe there was a single soul now in heaven because he was one of the favored few, or a single soul in hell because he was left out of the favored few. He could not and would not believe such a thing.

The fact that the northern sidewalks of the cross-town streets are much freer from ice than the southern sidewalks shows that many people still depend on the sun.

The Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford as good as told his immense congregation at St. George's last Sun