The Sun.

FOR

1888.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1888.

Proper Enough Any Way.

A great deal has been said, especially by the Mugwump organs, in denunciation of Governor HILL, Mr. RANDALL, and any other gentleman who is thought to prefer any other Democratic statesman than Mr. CLEVELAND as a candidate for the Presidency. It seems that such preference is very unbecoming and improper, and even in that able and high-toned journal, the *Boston Transcript*, we read that "an intrigue is on foot to prevent the renomination of President CLEVELAND!"

"The active promoters of this scheme," we are told, "include men who are prominent in Democratic politics;" and there is "a strong organization extending from New York to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Kansas, and in the East, including New Jersey and Pennsylvania, which is against the renomination of CLEVELAND and favors the nomination of HILL;" all of which may be true, and some of which we dare say is extremely probable.

But what we cannot understand is why this should be called an intrigue. An intrigue is something dishonorable, wrong, nocturnal, and blameworthy. But what can there be that is wicked in the facts reported by the writer of the *Boston Transcript*? If there is a strong organization including men prominent both in national and local politics, whose purpose is to support Governor HILL as their candidate for the Presidency, and who think the renomination of Mr. CLEVELAND would be imprudent, dangerous, and unwise on the part of the Democracy, why should they be condemned for holding such an opinion or for proceeding in consequence? Has Mr. CLEVELAND a monopoly of the right to be the Democratic candidate for President? Is it a sin to doubt his capacity to administer the affairs of the Government for the greatest possible public benefit? Is it an offence against good morals to support Mr. HILL, Mr. RANDALL, Mr. HEWITT, Mr. COLEMAN, or any other conspicuous Democrat in preference to Mr. CLEVELAND?

Of course there is a vast body of Democrats, and very earnest and efficient Democrats they are, who have not been satisfied with Mr. CLEVELAND as President, and who naturally look about, now that the time is approaching when a candidate must be selected, with a view to putting some other suitable man in his place. This is not a new thing by any means. There has not been a Presidential election for the last fifty years without such preliminary consultations and coöperations; and the men who engage in them are just as patriotic, just as high-minded, and just as worthy of respect as the men who do not.

Abolish the Tobacco Tax.

There are some facts about the taxation of American tobacco by the great free trade nation of Europe which may be of interest to the public. These facts have an important bearing in their relation to the repeal of the tobacco taxes, and furnish good reasons for their repeal.

The British Government levies customs duties on American tobacco ranging between three hundred and five hundred per cent., and upon some kinds the duties are even higher, and they are highest upon those kinds which are used chiefly by the poor. This is in pursuance of that peculiarity of the English free trade system which, as an authority of that country confesses, lays the burden of taxation upon the poverty and not upon the property of the kingdom.

In 1886 the import value of the American tobacco which paid customs duties to the British Government was £2,861,000, or about thirteen millions and three-quarters of dollars. The duty paid on this import value was, roundly, forty-five and a half millions of dollars. But in addition to this terrific rate of customs duties, the British tobacco manufacturers paid special taxes in the form of licenses, ranging from $25 to $150 each, depending on the quantity manufactured. The number of manufacturers paying these special taxes in 1884 was 561, and there were no less than 290,000 retailers who paid license fees of 5s. 3d. each, and over 15,000 occasional dealers who paid 4d. a day for the privilege of peddling by the day. The Prime Minister of England, the First Lord of the Treasury, the head of the financial administration of that great free trade nation, does not overlook the smallest sources of revenue when they lie in among the poor. A man can't be a servant in England without paying a license fee of 15s.! The effect of the combined customs and excise duties paid on American tobacco is to make the total of the revenue derived from its taxation forty-six millions of dollars a year, and to raise its average price to British consumers 550 per cent. above its import value; that is to say, the Briton who buys a shilling's worth of tobacco pays a shilling for tobacco and 5s. 8d. for tax! The tax on American tobacco is, indeed, the highest tax laid by the British Government upon any article taxed by it at all.

Nearly all the tobacco imported into Great Britain from foreign countries is from the United States, and more than nine-twentieths of all the import duties collected by that Government are derived from American tobacco. Thus, in 1886, out of $100,780,000 of customs duties collected upon eighteen different articles, $45,500,000 were paid upon that single article. The amount of duty collected upon American tobacco is within a fraction of 50 per cent. of the total sum of all the customs collected in 1886, and is 10 per cent. of the total of all the taxes of every kind collected by the British Government upon all its subjects of revenue in 1886, which total amounted, in round figures, to four hundred and sixty millions of dollars. It appears from these facts that upon American tobacco of the import value of $13,855,000, the British Government finds a basis for the collection of taxes sufficient to pay ten per cent. of the whole expenses of the government of the kingdom; ten per cent. of the expenses of its civil, military, naval, and police establishments, and ten per cent. of the interest on the national debt.

These are remarkable figures, and show that the American tobacco farmers constitute a mighty interesting and useful body of men to our English cousins, who, however, stand ready to take the whole world into kinship at a fair per cent. per head of the earnings of the population. About how much do our tobacco farmers get for their share of the product which is so important a matter of revenue to the imperial Government? Possibly five millions of dollars. But it is particularly to be observed that, in its treatment of the tobacco traffic, the British Government persistently puts out of view its professions of adherence to the free trade policy. The reason is very simple. In this particular instance at least, free trade will not pay. The free trade Briton is universally a free trader "for revenue only."

The existing rates of British customs duties on tobacco were laid in 1825. Prior to that date they were higher even than they are now. In 1838 some importers of Liverpool and Bristol made an application to Parliament for lower rates. President VAN BUREN, taking advantage of this circumstance, instructed the American Minister at London, Mr. STEVENSON, to give all proper support to the application made by the Liverpool and Bristol merchants. Mr. STEVENSON, accordingly, had repeated interviews with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord PALMERSTON, and the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. C. P. THOMPSON. He urged upon these members of her Majesty's Government the regulation free trade arguments. He delivered an extended homily on the proposition that low duties lead to increased consumption. He dwelt upon the temptations that high duties hold out to smugglers. He declared that low duties would greatly augment the carrying trade and commerce between the two countries; and, by way of illustration, as he said in his report to Mr. VAN BUREN, he compared the tariff system of the United States (which at the time was one of very low duties, approximating to absolute free trade) with that of Great Britain. "*At this very moment*," said Mr. STEVENSON, "*when the United States are admitting British goods almost free of duty, Great Britain is taxing one of the important staples of American industry with a duty of the most injurious and indefensible character.*" One would suppose that an appeal to free trade principles so pathetic as this would have found an immediate response in the free trade hearts of Lord PALMERSTON and of Mr. C. P. THOMPSON, but it did not. The answer they made to Mr. STEVENSON'S fine arguments was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the President of the Board of Trade of her Majesty's Government were strongly impressed with the advantages of preserving the friendly relations existing between the United States and Great Britain, and of placing their trade upon the most liberal footing; and they were considerate enough to add that they taxed American tobacco "for revenue only," and not for protection, a nice and fine distinction which the free trade mind comprehends. Thus the duties were not taken off; they are to-day what they were in 1838, although in the mean time the fiscal policy of the kingdom has been changed from one of high protection to free trade, or rather, to alleged free trade.

As a matter of fact, there was no tobacco grown in the kingdom in 1838, its cultivation being prohibited by law; but a tax of £14 on home-grown tobacco was collected in 1885! This industry, and that of the aristocracy for supplying the empire with officeholders, are the only "infant industries" protected in Great Britain at this time.

Fifteen-sixteenths of all the tobacco imported into Great Britain is unmanufactured; it is raw material, and therefore, according to the theory, ought to be admitted duty free. That the Britons are free traders in the abstract is no doubt true, but as they are free traders "for revenue only," as already observed, even a notable departure from the doctrine cannot be called an inconsistency.

What is certain is that the tobacco taxes imposed in this country ought to be repealed throughout.

The Pope's Presents.

According to a correspondent of the *Baltimore Sun*, the jubilee gifts received by Pope LEO XIII. up to Jan. 13 are valued by the Vatican inspectors at $10,000,000. These presents are exclusive of the donations in money which in the aggregate are said to form a larger sum. The figures are extremely interesting, when compared with the revenues which the present Pontiff and his predecessor have declined to accept from the Italian Government, lest they should seem to acquiesce in the occupation of the Papal territory. It will be found that the voluntary offerings of the Catholic faithful made on the single occasion of Pope LEO'S jubilee stand for an amount of money about twice as large as would be represented by all the subventions annually tendered to the Papacy since 1871, were these now paid in a joint sum.

By the fundamental guarantee law passed by the Italian Parliament in the year just named, the Pope was to receive a yearly revenue of $645,000. Had the Vatican consented to take this money, sixteen annual payments would by this time have been made, constituting a total contribution of $10,320,000. But this, as we have seen, is only a little more than half as much as non-Italian Catholics have given to the Pope, either in the form of money or its equivalent during the thirty days preceding the middle of this month. Indeed, the Spanish Catholics of South America alone have sent to Rome in gold and silver coin $800,000, or 30 per cent. more than the sum annually offered by the kingdom of Italy as compensation for the seizure of the States of the Church. From the Catholic citizens of the United States has gone a still larger aggregate of cash donations, the single archdiocese of New York being credited with nearly $50,000. We may add that, poor as are the masses of the Catholics in Ireland, they yet managed to collect for the Pope's jubilee $20,000 from the archdiocese of Dublin alone.

Let us take another object of comparison. The Established Church of England and Wales is generally supposed to be the richest ecclesiastical body in the world. Yet, according to *Whitaker's Almanac*, the net amount annually received by all the Anglican clergy is said by competent authority to fall short of $19,000,000. It appears, then, that the cash value of the presents made to LEO XIII. on the occasion of his jubilee—to say nothing of the regular contributions which have flowed into the exchequer of the Vatican during the last twelvemonth—exceeds the whole net annual revenue of the Church of England.

Also worthy of remark is the political effect of the extraordinary donations freely made by Catholics to the head of their Church. Evidently, Italian statesmen may as well abandon the hope of starving the Papacy into recognition of King HUMBERT'S right to govern PETER'S Patrimony now that the Catholic faithful have in a single month forwarded to the Vatican more money than the royal Government, had the subsidy it offered been accepted, could have furnished in sixteen years. But why, it may be asked by those who favor a *modus vivendi* on the basis of the guarantee laws, should not the Vatican receive from the Italian treasury the annual income of $645,000 as so much conscience money and a mere installment of its dues? Would it not thus greatly augment its resources, which at present are confined to voluntary offerings? Upon this point it may be observed that, waiving the question of principle, the Papacy would probably suffer from a pecuniary point of view, should it submit to be a pensioner on King HUMBERT'S Government. Even the rumors of agreement between the Vatican and Quirinal, that have from time to time gained currency, have been immediately followed by a grievous shrinkage in the inflow of free-will donations.

No; the impressive proofs of Catholic devotion and generosity called forth by Pope LEO'S jubilee attest the wisdom of the inflexible refusal to condone spoliation and compound with the violator of the rights solemnly guaranteed to the Papacy by the treaty of September, 1864. They emphasize the fact repeatedly brought out in Papal history, the fact, namely, that the Roman Pontiff is never more reverenced and zealously supported by trans-Alpine Catholics than when he is powerless in Italy.

About Newspapers.

The *Boston Globe* prints letters from certain Harvard professors and such a miscellany of celebrities as RUSSELL SAGE, Admiral PORTER, and ANTHONY COMSTOCK, giving their opinions as to contemporary journalism, how the tone of the modern press can be improved and the ideal newspaper created. Some few of these opinions are interesting from their authors, but the list has been rather curiously made, and does not seem to be especially calculated to elicit anything more than the average notions of intelligent men. There can be no objection to the dictum of the Hon. WILLIAM W. RICE of Worcester that a newspaper "may well devote a limited portion of its columns to literary matter for general reading—this should be carefully selected;" but there needs no interview of an ex-Congressman from Worcester to tell us that. Nor does wisdom end with the Hon. W. W. CHAPO's remark that "as men are constituted there must be many kinds of newspapers." A rather bumptious young story writer, Mr. BARRETT WENDELL of Cambridge, avers that the present tone of journalism is low, and can best be improved by "a persistent endeavor to impress upon newspaper men some sense of veracity." Mr. WENDELL evidently judges newspapers by the New York *World*. Real newspapers tell the truth and shame the Fakir. Admiral PORTER expresses a proper function of the public journal by saying that every editor should fearlessly speak the truth and shame the devil. Prof. JOSIAH ROYCE hits the nail on the head in this description of a good newspaper:

"A newspaper approaches the ideal, then, in proportion as it lets its community see, honestly and accurately, just what the real life of the moment is; that is, in proportion as it makes its readers actually conscious of the present world of passion, of suffering, of effort, and of joy, in which, as in an ocean, they pass their lives.

"The ideal newspaper, then, tells the whole significant truth about the daily life of its community, the honest and essential truth. But its truth is confessedly the truth of to-day. Its outlook is not eternity, but twenty-four hours; and it must needs be interested in many things that will hereafter appear trivial and empty. But the test is, whether the news reporter has told what for the moment is worth knowing, as an evidence of the actually significant human passion of the day."

Here is the Hon. RUSSELL SAGE'S idea. It will be seen that Brother SAGE doesn't want a newspaper to be a picture and transcript of life:

"My ideal of a good newspaper is one that shall be (1) clean, (2) able, (3) honest, (4) brilliant. One that shall devote as much space to literature as to 'sport' (of the dog-fighting, rat-baiting kind); one that shall give a dead 'plug ugly' a line (if it is in the way of news), and a dead man who has done something in the world, for the world, many lines; one that shall not wrong its readers to please its adversaries; one with some reverence, some respect for good and great men and things."

The Hon. S. S. COX'S ideal of a newspaper is what might be expected from so learned and luminous an authority: "One which adheres to the truth and which establishes a character for honest service to the public." We must beg Mr. COX'S pardon for collating him with that peculiar censor of morals, ANTHONY COMSTOCK, but the notions of the latter about newspapers are so absurd as to make them noteworthy:

"I have suffered very much from the gross misrepresentations of the press, and I cannot but believe that the news department of the majority of papers is conducted in such a manner as not to be reliable, and the class of men that are employed to gather the news is not of that high order that commends itself to the intelligent part of the community. Journalism at the present time seems to have run to the sensational, and devotes more space and time to parading the details of crime than it does to advancing those higher principles which are the safeguards of a free country."

We are inclined to think that in the struggle of Mr. COMSTOCK against the newspapers, it is the correct representations of the latter that make him angriest.

Our Faithful Mayor.

The remarkable series of papers on the needs of New York city which Mayor HEWITT is writing, was continued yesterday in a message addressed to the Board of Aldermen. The length of the document should not deter any citizen from reading it through. All New Yorkers proud of their town and solicitous about the town's welfare will find it so interesting that they will thank us for printing the whole of it.

In this message Mr. HEWITT gives his ideas on some of the most important questions of municipal concern. Indeed, the matters he discusses are vital to the continued commercial supremacy of New York, and its leadership among American cities.

It is a light mind and a flippant tongue that can think or speak disrespectfully of Mayor HEWITT'S tireless activity in behalf of the common interests. He loves words only because they convey thoughts. His wordiness is of the sort that cannot be too highly praised in a servant of the people. It represents a corresponding plenitude of information, suggestion, public spirit, and extraordinary devotion to a high ideal of the office which he fills, as perhaps no Mayor of New York ever filled it before.

More power, therefore, to Mr. HEWITT'S pen, and let him have all the white paper and black ink that he may think it advisable to use up. If he differs from other chief magistrates, it is because he is acting upon an exceptionally broad, disinterested, and true conception of his duty to the corporation and to his fellow citizens, individually and collectively. Furthermore, it is because his moral and intellectual qualities fit him to an exceptional degree for the work which he is performing with such thoroughness and such intelligence for the benefit of New York.

New York now has a really great Mayor. Mr. HEWITT is a great Mayor in the same sense that GRANT was a great General and ANDREW JACKSON a great President; and the fact should be recognized.

WARMOTH, Republican candidate for Governor of Louisiana, asserts that if he is fairly beaten he will not complain. Perhaps not; but the Northern Republicans will. They will howl about fraud in the South as long as the Southern States remain Democratic; and that is likely to be a good stretch of time. Fraud means an insufficiency of Republican voters.

All remarks relative to the gallant Col. DANIEL SCOTT LAMONT are interesting, and a peculiar freshness attaches to the suggestion of the *Pittsburgh Dispatch* that he may be the Democratic candidate for Governor of the Empire State in 1888. Our esteemed contemporary even goes so far as to say that the President's Secretary is "laying pipes" for this purpose.

There is no reason why Col. LAMONT shouldn't be a candidate for Governor of New York, but as for his laying pipes for it, that is nonsense, and we fancy he would rather stick to the service of his present chief, no matter what nomination might dangle o'er his head.

It is reported from the ragged edges of West Virginia and Pike county, Kentucky, that the HATFIELDS and the McCOYS, who have for some moons been debating with shotguns and other forcible arguments, have disbanded. We infer that they are dead. Their spirit is too contentious to permit them to permit anything but death to disband them. They do not fight for glory or for wage, but merely for the proud privilege of dying in their boots.

One of the Anti-Poverty apostles preached on Parasites last Sunday. It is naturally a subject of interest to persons engaged in abolishing poverty by taking up collections from the poor.

An incandescent bard in the *St. Paul Pioneer-Press* sings strenuously of the unsuccessful storming of the ice palace by "the Fire King's legions." We would suggest to this poet fire king that he exceeds the terms of his poetical high license in observing that "Deep murmurs are swelling upon the soft gale." The Minnesota blizzards don't murmur. They howl like twenty thousand tigers, and they are harder than a Mugwump cheek.

More earthquake in Massachusetts last Monday. We pointed out last week a fact up to that time unnoticed by seismologists, the fact that earthquakes in Massachusetts always come on Monday, the day when JO COOK fires off, or used to fire off, his lectures in the Tremont Temple. Massachusetts expects a quake on Mondays, and she gets it.

The proposed museum on the Niagara reservation ought to contain a few specimens of the old-style Niagara Falls village hackmen whenever the progress of civilization makes possible their elimination or reformation. Then the chestnut about their avaricious propensities can be sunk into the mould of time.

In a few States the farmers have experimented a little with the white poppy, but we have not regarded opium as ever likely to cut much of a figure among our products. Mr. PRATT, the United States Consul at Teheran, who has been studying opium culture in Persia, where a very fine article is produced, says he believes large regions in California and the Southern States are well adapted to the cultivation of the white poppy, and, in view of the superior quality of Persian opium, he details the methods of cultivation in vogue there as a guide for our poppy raisers. Though the abuse of opium has made it, in the opinion of many, a disreputable drug, it serves a large number of useful purposes, and if we could raise what we require for legitimate uses, opium culture would be a considerable addition to our wealth-producing resources.

It pains us to remark that there is a certain previousness, not to say unnecessariness, on the part of those young Cornell sophomores and freshmen, and all freshmen and sophomores who are continually or sporadically playing silly tricks. If these friskers are capable of meditation, they should meditate upon the solemn truth that young veal ought not to be exposed to the public.

Mr. JOSEPH J. SLOCUM, who is Secretary of the present Grand Jury in the Court of General Sessions, is a near relative and friend of Mr. RUSSELL SAGE.

Mr. BLAINE was fifty-eight yesterday, and the ground hog is due to-morrow. These are days of interesting appearances and anniversaries. Some of the Republican ground hogs don't see as warm weather for Mr. BLAINE as he has been used to. But about this mystery Time will soon become a witness.

THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION.

David Bennett Hill Would Probably Be Elected.

From the Boston Herald.

A candid view of the case by no means makes it clear that Governor Hill could not be elected to the Presidency. With a solid South secured to him by Chandler and his Bourbon backing, he needs only New York and Indiana to give him the election. Governor Hill has demonstrated that he can carry New York even against independent opposition, and if there were doubt on this point, Mr. Blaine would have to watch his own following to see that it was not enticed away by a smarter politician than himself or any in his service. Indiana would be more likely to go Democratic than Republican. It would be the most unscrupulous fight for the Presidency in those two States ever seen, and the chances are that Governor Hill would win it.

The United Democracy.

From the New York Star.

The knowledge that THE SUN will support the nominee of the Democratic Convention will give strength to the Democratic cause throughout the land, for it is a mighty engine of war, and it is always a grave misfortune to be compelled to encounter the fire of its batteries.

Should Not Cleveland and Hill Both Be Withdrawn?

From the Buffalo Times.

It is the duty, then, of the party managers to fix up this matter at once. From the fact that the vote in the State Committee was a tie vote, it is not hard to determine that the friends of Messrs. Cleveland and Hill are about evenly divided in this State. This would prove the opportunity of aspiring candidates in other States. With a fight for a Presidential nomination between rival candidates in New York, it would not be policy to select either, or to antagonize the following of either. There must be an amicable adjustment of this matter, and that at once. Either Mr. Hill must be taken out of the contest by his friends or Mr. Cleveland by his. There is no other way open, and it must be done quickly.

Mr. Gerry Contradicted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will you kindly contradict a statement made by Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry in THE SUN of Monday in relation to the age, musical and physical condition of Theodora Linda da Costa? My daughter is 13 years of age instead of 16. In regard to her voice, it was never better, being stronger than ever, and having greatly improved, instead of being "quite gone." As to her physical condition, and having been "worked to death when a mere child," I know Mr. Gerry has erred, and has added yet another to his many former misrepresentations. Very respectfully,

A. J. DA COSTA.

The First of All.

From the Jersey Herald and Gazette.

We think we speak considerately and intelligently when we say the first of all newspapers published in the English language is THE SUN. It is in every sense unapproachable.

Leap Year.

"Charley is coming to see me to-night," remarked Ella. "I don't know why I feel so nervous about it, but I have a presentiment that something's going to happen."

"Oh, there's no use feeling nervous about it if your's made up your mind to do it," answered Clara. "Very likely he'll say yes, he was always so!"

A Powerful Argument.

"So you believe in cheaper whiskey, do you?"

"Certainly I do. Get the price of whiskey down to a reasonable basis and a poor man like myself, with a family to support, would have more money left to buy bread with."

A NEW INAUGURATION DAY.

Shall the 30th of April Hereafter be the Date for Beginning Congresses and Administrations?

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—An effort will probably be made to carry through the proposed constitutional amendment extending to April 30, 1889, the existence of the Fiftieth Congress and of the present Administration. In order to do this, quick and perhaps ill-considered work might be resorted to; since the elections for the Fifty-first Congress come off in the autumn, and the amendment which has just been favorably reported from the Committee on Privileges and Elections would need to be passed by two-thirds of both Houses and ratified either by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States or by conventions in three-fourths of the States, according as the one or the other mode of ratification should be proposed by Congress. So much is required by Article V. of the Constitution. Such haste would be greater than is usual or advisable, and the only ground on which it could be urged would be that the amendment might apply to the present Congress and the present Administration.

The special reason assigned for having the amendment, which applies also by its terms to all future Congresses and Administrations, take effect on the present Congress, is that the career of the latter rounds out the first century of the American Union under our present form of government. But a reason quite as good could be adduced for making it first applicable to the Fifty-first Congress and to the next Administration. They will begin a new century; and a change of that character would be even more appropriate to the beginning of a new period of a hundred years than to the closing of an old one. Such a postponement would also allow more deliberation for proposing, discussing, and ratifying the amendment, which would certainly have too wide a hold on many governmental interests to be entered upon thoughtlessly or hurriedly.

It may be urged that making the amendment apply to the present Congress will give it an opportunity to take part in the centennial celebration of the inauguration of Washington as President, which occurs on the 30th of April, 1889. That, however, is a minor and temporary reason for making so great a change; and, besides, all practical advantages thus sought could be secured by providing for the attendance of both the old and the new Congress, the Fiftieth and the Fifty-first.

Back of all these considerations is the one as to whether any such change is really advisable, and, if so, whether the change proposed is the right one. The assumption that the 30th of April was the original day for beginning our present form of government, and hence that the present project is really only a restoration, is entirely erroneous. The 30th of April was an accidental date in the early proceedings of the Government, but the 4th of March was the one deliberately provided for. The former will be the true one for the centennial celebration, because not until that date, in 1789, did the full machinery of the Government go into operation. But proceedings under the Constitution certainly began on the 4th of March, that day having been selected by the Congress of the Confederation for the purpose by a resolution passed unanimously during the preceding September by the nine States then assembled:

"That the first Wednesday in March next be the time and the present seat of Congress (New York) the place for commencing proceedings under the said Constitution."

The First Congress did accordingly assemble on the 4th day of March, 1789. But no quorum was present in the House until April 1, when a Speaker and Clerk were elected, and the House proceeded to business. A quorum appeared in the Senate on April 6, on which day the votes for President of the United States were opened and counted. Vice-President John Adams assumed the Chair as President of the Senate on the 21st of April. Yet he did not take the oath of office as Vice-President until June 3, 1789. But with all these variations of date it is unquestionable that the first term of the Presidency began March 4, 1789, and that the second term began March 4, 1793.

So far, then, as historical considerations are concerned, the claim of the 4th of March to be the true day for the beginning and the end of a Congress and of an administration is incomparably superior to that of any other day in the calendar. The question whether some other day might not now be better, for one or another reason, introduces totally different considerations than those of present expediency. All that it is necessary at present to show is that the 30th of April possesses no important claims on historical grounds. Its selection for ceremonial purposes in 1789 was a matter of accident, and the considerations that prompted this selection were confined to that year. These points should be kept clearly in mind when argument is directed, during discussions of the present measure, to urging either hurried action in order to begin the change now proposed in 1889, or to selecting the 30th of April at all, unless this is shown to be the date of greatest present convenience and expediency.

A FALSE STATEMENT EXPOSED.

Bishop Garrett Contradicts a Fabrication of Pulitzer's.

From the Dallas Morning News.

In the *News* of yesterday this quotation from the New York *World* was published:

"Bishop Garrett of Texas has been telling the Women's Episcopal Missionary Society of Washington that they should quit spending so much money on South Sea Islanders and send a few missionaries to the Lone Star State. 'We want pioneers,' he says, 'men who know how to take care of themselves along the frontiers. Brave sturdy fellows, not afraid of the open mouth of a revolver nor of the yell of a drunken cowboy. Men with muscles of steel, who can, any one of them, throw a yearling steer over a wire fence as easily as he can lerk a lawless covote out of a religious meeting if he attempted to make a disturbance.'"

In order to ascertain whether the above extraordinary assertions would go unchallenged and stand for the truth, the *News* was moved, in defence of Texas, to make this comment:

"Does Bishop Garrett mean to say that the frontier of Texas is given over to lawlessness? If so, well-founded objection will be raised."

The reply of Bishop Garrett is given below. Considering his prominence as an educator and his influence as a leading pulpit orator, the *News* is glad to give place to his positive denial of the statements attributed to him:

"*To the News:*

"PLEASANTON, Dallas, Jan. 26.—I have just arrived home after an absence of three months' constant labor in the interests of Texas. My attention was immediately called to an extract in the *Dallas News*, quoted from the New York *World*, I believe. No such words were used by me as those quoted on the occasion referred to or any other. Respectfully,

"ALEX C. GARRETT."

Henry Clay on Pensions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Reading in to-day's SUN of the bills before Congress to pension the widows of deceased Generals, recalls the remarks of Henry Clay in the Senate, when it was proposed to pension Commodore Perry's mother.

In a speech of five minutes, Mr. Clay totally extinguished the proposition. Pointing to the vast rewards bestowed upon such successful soldiers as Marlborough and Wellington, he said with thrilling effect:

How different is the fate of the statesman! In his quiet and less brilliant career, after having advanced by the wisdom of his measures the national prosperity to the highest point of elevation, and after having sacrificed his fortune, his time, and perhaps his health, in the public service, what, too often, are the rewards that await him? Who thinks of his family, impoverished by the devotion of his attention to his country, instead of their advancement? Who proposes to pension him—much less his mother?

GEORGE BECKER.

NEW YORK, Jan. 31.

Don't Use It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is Messrs. Acme Silver Plate Co. grammatically correct?

18 MURRAY STREET. J. G. SCOTT.

It is not grammatical. "Messrs" implies and requires a plural noun, as "Messrs. Brown Brothers." "Messrs. Acme Silver Plate Co." may, perhaps, imply plurality—at least the "Co." may—but it doesn't express plurality—hence the expression is ungrammatical. It is also absurd and awkward.

In the Land of Nod.

Caller (to Mrs. Hendricks)—Where is Bobby, Mrs. Hendricks?

Mrs. Hendricks—In the Land of Nod, dear little fellow!

Caller—Visiting his aunt, I suppose?

Mrs. Hendricks—His aunt!

Caller—Yes, haven't you sister in Philadelphia?

PHILANTHROPY FOR COLORED MEN.

Generous Efforts to Induce Them to Give Up Their Property and Emigrate.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What means this fuming and fretting about the negroes in the South? Every now and then some philanthropic Cæsar bobs up with an emigration scheme in his head more gigantic than his ponderous brains. Several years ago a few tender-hearted friends of the Caucasian race offered to aid the oppressed negroes by shipping them bag and baggage back to Africa. They could bear to hear the negroes groan and see them sweat beneath the weary load of bondage for 200 years or more, during which time thousands of men, women, and children were cruelly whipped to death and even torn to fragments by bloodhounds. The poor negroes were helpless then and dared not defend themselves. These friends, tender-hearted friends, could witness that sort of barbarism without a word of protest; but now, since the "black chattels" have been transformed by the will of Providence and the aid of John Brown into human beings, with power to produce for themselves, environed with the safeguard of special legislation and fully capable of self-protection, these same friends cannot bear to see them, not even a precious few of them, so wantonly despatched with rifle balls and hemp rope. This civilized mode of modern barbarism has fired their zeal and prompted them to search night and day, in their minds, for Eldorados, that they may guide the downtrodden sons of Ethiopia to a haven of happiness where they could enjoy life and cast their ballots of gratitude. Africa was suggested but was not urged, for the reason that it could never be made one of these United States when in a sufficient state of development. Kansas was then deemed the desirable spot. Glorious was the praise of the "Fountain of Youth;" great was the inducement to go there, and many poor and misguided negroes went. What was the result? They had hardly landed when the Buffalo Bills of the Wild West opened fire upon them and drove them into the river. That ended the Kansas emigration scheme. Now, what have we here? Another "exoduster" in the form of one Colt A. A. Jones, who proposes to cut short the black Democratic votes in the South by shipping them to South America in May.

Now this sort of charity is too transparent. Why was not this business thought of when 3,000,000 of slaves were first made free and then turned into the street to starve to death? Not a foot of ground was given them to build a shelter upon; not a dollar was given them to buy a morsel of bread. They were ignorant, poor, hatless, coatless, and shoeless, and yet not a friend could be found to point out an Eldorado. They had a better use for the negroes; they were needed to amuse a few white men in the North, who used them to taunt the humiliated Southerners. They were sent to Congress to make laws to govern their ex-masters. More important still, their votes must be made solid, that their benefactors could firmly, safely, and defiantly stand upon them. To do this, a race prejudice more strong than traitors' arms must be created. This was done; the ignorant blacks were elevated above their former masters, and then the bloody strife began.

Thus, instead of solidifying the black votes, the South was made solid. The negroes were then left to their fate. They went to work, many of them for their former masters. They labored and waited, worked hard and saved, until at last they have became in part owners of the soil they till. From nothing they have accumulated $150,000,000 in property and cash. True, during the period of development they sustained loss of life, and it is equally true that the self-styled Joshuas of to-day were nowhere to be found. But now they are growing rich—intellectually, morally, and financially. Their intelligence has broadened their minds, and a few have learned that assimilation is the best policy, and they are assimilating. They are voting the Democratic ticket.

This being the case, our Joshuas have suddenly discovered that the negroes are being terribly abused, and they must get out. No matter what becomes of their possession. They must get what they can for it or give it away, and get out, and quickly, too. It took twenty-four years of hard labor to accumulate what they have; but no matter, they must get rid of it and get out; and perhaps, if they are living, twenty-four years more will find them in a new land with perhaps half as much as they have now.

Now, Sir, from first to last I am opposed to this emigration business. The negroes at present cannot be benefited by it. It will only tend to widen the gulf of race prejudice. What we want is assimilation and not isolation. If our Republican friends will permit the negroes in the South to exercise their own judgment in voting, the same as the negroes in the North do, there will be no more friction between the races. What if a number of them do vote with the Democrats from choice? I am a Republican, have always been one; I have never in my life cast a ballot for a Democrat; but I sincerely believe that the salvation of the negroes lies in the division of their vote. The negroes will never leave the South save to travel in search of work or pleasure. They have too much at stake. The vagrants, who are responsible for seven-tenths of the rows between the whites and the blacks, may benefit by going, but for those who are prosperous to entertain such an idea would be worse than madness.

J. A. ARNEAUX.

The Newest Electrical Curio.

From the Electrical World.

Mr. Volk, whose electric railway is known to all visitors to Brighton, England has constructed an electrically driven dogcart, which attracts a good deal of attention among the leisured crowds which throng the gay Sussex watering place. It is driven by a half horse-power Immisch motor and 16 small accumulators, which have a capacity equal to six hours' work. In the desire to keep the machinery light, scarcely sufficient power has been provided, so that, although the vehicle will make a speed of nine miles an hour on asphalt, it only makes a speed of four miles on a soft macadam road, while, with two passengers, an incline of 1 in 30 is the limit of its climbing power.

"Dress Improvers" in Court.

From the St. James's Gazette.

The Lord Chief Justice of England and Lords Justices Cotton and Bowen concluded yesterday the arguments of the celebrated "dress improver" case, which created so much amusement in Mr. Justice Kekewich's court some months ago. The action is brought by the plaintiffs against the defendants, alleging infringement of a patent in "dress improvers," and upon the appeal of the plaintiffs from the decision of Mr. Justice Kekewich against them. The main question for decision was whether there could be novelty in the application of braided wire to "dress improvers."

It was asserted that half a million of these articles had been sold and the inventor claimed that they were "cooler and more comfortable than any similar design, and able to support the heaviest dress." The court was littered with various kinds of dress improvers, the occupants of the bench being provided with specimens of the disputed invention, and counsel enforced their arguments by gesticulation with dress improvers in their hands, with white tapes flying.

Mr. Moulton, Q. C., addressed a long argument in the court urging that although braided wire had been used for cushions, its use for dress improvers was a novelty capable of being protected by a patent.

Lord Justice Bowen—Then you say that there is a difference between a pillow on which you put your head and a dress improver on which you put another part of your body. (Laughter.)

The Lord Chief Justice—Surely a dress improver is in the nature of a cushion. If one may say so, it is in the nature of padding. (Great laughter.)

Mr. Moulton contended that at any rate a dress improver was a cushion with a special object and purpose.

At the conclusion of the arguments the Lord Chief Justice intimated that the further hearing would be postponed for evidence on one point.

A Chinese Solomon.

From the St. James's Gazette.

Two women came before a mandarin in China, each of them protesting that she was the mother of a little child they had brought with them. They were so eager and so positive that the mandarin was sorely puzzled. He retired to consult with his wife, who was a wise and clever woman whose opinion was held in great repute in the neighborhood. She requested five minutes in which to deliberate. At the end of that time she spoke: "Let the servants catch me a large fish in the river, and let it be brought to me here alive." This was done. "Bring me new infant," she said. "but leave the women in the outer chamber." This was done too. Then the mandarin's wife caused the baby to be undressed and its clothes put on the large fish. "Carry the creature outside now, and throw it into the river in sight of the two women." The servant obeyed her orders, flinging the fish into the water, where it rolled about and struggled—disguised, no doubt, by the wrapping in which it was swaddled. Without a moment's pause, one of the mothers threw herself into the river with a shriek. "She must save her drowning child." "Without doubt she is the true mother," the mandarin's wife declared, and commanded that she should be rescued and the child given to her, and the mandarin nodded his head and thought his wife the wisest woman in the flowery kingdom. Meantime the false mother crept away. She was found out in the imposture, and the mandarin's wife forgot all about her in the occupation of donning the little baby in the best silk she could find in her wardrobe.

A Byronic—To the Hon. W. E. C.

From the Hatchet.

The Solid South! the Solid South!
Where once the carpet-baggers reigned,
Where scalawags shout of the mouth
With blockhead well not allayed—
Its rebel yell now shrieks the air,
Where soak's soft the Yankee hair.

But far and near is heard the shout
Of Chandler, that whose gracious soul
Is whirled in frenzy round about,
Lest "these here states" become a whole
And put out Europe's thrones to shame—
One souled as well as one in name.

The rebel yell has passed away,
And yet we have the bloody shirt.
Alas, that decades since the ray
But thus should with the voters flirt!
But never mind; the votes once more
Will snow the drift of '84.

Fill high the brazen bowl of gall,
Fill high the bowl of venom late;
Yet floats the flag high over all,
And Bill's banjo is blown too late.
With bitterness the Northern mouth
No more berates the vanquished South.

A sore throat is soon relieved by Dr. Jayne's Expectorant, an old remedy for bronchial and pulmonary disorders.—Adv.

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

The Hebrew clubmen of this city are as distinct in their club life