The Sun.

FOR

1888.

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Blotting Out Native Names.

The tendency among many recent explorers, especially in the Pacific, has been to disregard the native names for the regions they have discovered or surveyed, and to replace them with names that are wholly inappropriate and unmeaning. The British Admiralty has just instructed its Surveying Department to restore on the charts the native names of many islands, places, and rivers in the western Pacific, especially around the southern coasts of New Guinea. The Geographical Society of Australasia has adopted a vehement protest against the wholesale destruction of native names of places, and has asked all geographical societies to discourage this growing tendency.

The Germans have been the greatest recent offenders in this respect. They have signalized their appearance as a colonial power in the western Pacific by attaching German names to many of the bays, rivers, islands, and coasts they have appropriated. The native names they have discarded are almost invariably euphonious, and in the case of many of them there are valid reasons, based upon considerations of history and sentiment, why they should be retained.

Many of the islands and groups in the Pacific are now known rather by their native names than by the appellations that COOK applied to them. We speak of the Hawaii and Tonga groups more frequently than of the Sandwich and Friendly Islands. The people of New Zealand and New South Wales think they have a genuine grievance against the great discoverer who gave these names to the fairest lands in the western Pacific. The world did not fall in with STANLEY'S suggestion to call the great river he descended the Livingstone River, and neither has the Kowak River of Alaska appeared on the maps as the Putnam, by which name its explorer sought to rechristen it.

It is to be hoped that the present opposition to the blotting out of native geographical names may go far to reform this unjustifiable practice.

Manifest Destiny in Asia.

About three hundred years ago the Russian family of STROGANOFF, to which the Tsar had granted lands on both sides of the Ural Mountains, called the Cossack chieftain YERMIAK TIMOFEYEFF to his assistance, and began the conquest of northern Asia. In the short space of eighty years they and their successors had swept over the whole of the vast region extending from the Ural Mountains to Behring's Sea, and from the plateau of Pamir to the Arctic Ocean.

Prior to the beginning of that conquest, far back in the past, central Asia had been the home and breeding ground of the hordes which so frequently overran eastern and northern Europe, and at times threatened to stamp out the last vestige of their civilization. It was in that almost illimitable region that ATTILA, GHENGIS, TAMERLANE, AMURATH, and BAJAZET gathered their savage followers, and, driving their flocks and herds before them, beat with a fury born of poverty and hunger against the borders of Christendom. But now the human tide sets strongly in the other direction, as if to overflow and subjugate the whole of Asia. The humanity of Europe has by its rapid increase, and by the development of a marvellous civilization, become the dominant power of the earth, while Asia has stood still or gone backward in all that constitutes aggressive strength.

The population of central Asia is perhaps as great now as ever, but as our knowledge of the tribes and nations increases, we are amazed to find that they comprise relatively such a small part of the human race. That of Siberia is increasing rapidly from immigration as well as from natural causes. In 1870 it amounted to three millions and a half, but just what it is at present cannot be accurately stated. The recent discovery of placer gold mines on the Amour River, and the deportation of a large number of political prisoners, many of whom are followed by their families from Russia, have greatly increased the population, but it can hardly exceed six millions at the present time. As the area of that country is 4,800,000 square miles, it will be seen that the average is only a little more than one to the square mile.

But Siberia must not be confounded with Turkestan, the region lying south of it, between the Caspian Sea and Thibet, and comprising the khanates of Khiva, Bokhara, Khokan, Badakhshan, Balkh, Merv, Samarcand, Tashkend, and Kashgar, besides a number of smaller provinces, containing altogether about 900,000 square miles of territory, and a population variously estimated at from three to eight millions, but probably not exceeding five, all of which have been brought under Russian sway within the last twenty-five years.

The conquest of these khanates, like that of the tribes north of them, was made with great rapidity, but with much more difficulty, and at a vastly greater expense of men and money. The military operations have been carried on with great vigor and ability, and have afforded a most excellent school of practice for both the Generals and the rank and file of the Russian army.

So far, however, as can be discovered by outsiders, neither the conquest of Siberia nor that of Turkestan was made in pursuance of any preconceived plan or policy on the part of the Russian Tsars for territorial acquisition, but rather for the purpose of securing from time to time a more peaceful and easily defended frontier. The Turkomans have always been bold and aggressive defenders of their own territory, and anything but agreeable neighbors to the Russians. Consequently a state of constant war has existed for years on the frontier, and the Russian Generals have been compelled, without reference to orders from St. Petersburg, to go forward with the work of conquest as the only possible means of maintaining their advanced positions. They have at last made a clean job of it. Khanate after khanate has fallen, till now the boundaries of Russia in Asia are coterminous with those of Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan, British India, and the Chinese empire. They extend in an unbroken line from the Black Sea to the Sea of Japan, and include an area of 5,700,000 square miles and a population roughly estimated at eleven million souls. And notwithstanding the diversity of language, race, and religion, this population is everywhere agreed in the opinion that Russian rule, however arbitrary, is a great improvement upon that which it has superseded. Trade has followed rapidly in the rear of the Russian advance, the chiefs have been conciliated, their sons have been sent to Russia to be educated and returned as Russian officers and exemplars of Russian civilization, stable Governments have been established, the people have been protected, and justice is everywhere impartially though, of course, rudely administered.

This wonderful conquest of half a continent, although made without design, is becoming consolidated with the Russian empire thus in the most rapid and complete manner, and must perforce beget a far-reaching and comprehensive policy on the part of the Tsar's Government, not only for its defence, but for its further extension.

A railroad has been already opened from Ekaterinburg toward Tobolsk and Tomsk, and is fast reaching out toward Lake Balkal and the far East, while another is being pushed out from the Caspian Sea, through khanates and deserts, and across the Oxus or Syr-Darya. It has already been opened 600 miles to Merv, and before the close of the present year will probably reach Bokhara and Samarcand. Sweeping northeastward from the latter place, it is destined in a few years to reach Kuldja with one branch, while another, joining with the road from Ekaterinburg, will continue around the Chinese border to Kiachta, and ultimately to Peking, or down the valley of the Yellow River to the sea.

The completed portion of this railroad approaches so closely to the Afghan frontier as to cause the gravest apprehensions in the English mind that the Russians mean to use it for the purpose of taking Herat and making it the base of operations against British India. It is of course possible that this fear may be well founded, but a brief consideration of the facts already recited, and of the present situation of India and China, will justify a far different conclusion.

British India contains a dense population of 250,000,000 souls, ruled over by a vigorous English Viceroy controlling a large and increasing revenue, and supported by a well-organized and ably commanded army of 75,000 Europeans and as many natives, both of which are capable of indefinite expansion. It has an extensive system of railways especially located for military uses, and a natural boundary which it would be difficult if not impossible for any hostile power to break through. While it cannot be claimed that the conquerers have conciliated the native population, or consolidated the various castes and classes in support of British rule, it is almost certain that they will, in the hour of need, be able to control the population and resources of the country with a fair degree of efficiency, if not of unanimity, for the defence of the empire.

If Russia, advancing from the north, thinks she will find it an easy task to wrest India from British rule, she makes a grave mistake, and will surely meet with disappointment, if not with an overwhelming disaster.

It does not yet seem possible for the Russians to draw the troops and supplies by rail from Europe to the Afghan frontier for a successful campaign against India; and it will necessarily be many years before they can organize, move, and supply a sufficient reënforcement of Turkomans to seriously venture upon such an undertaking. Considering the aridity of Turkestan, the thinness of its population, and the vast distances to be overcome, all of which is better known to the Russian Generals who command in that region than to any one else, the suggestion of a serious design for the conquest of India may fairly be dismissed as based upon fear rather than upon real danger. It appears to be very much more likely, as suggested by Gen. WILSON in his recent work upon China, that the conquest of the last-mentioned country, or of an important part of it, will be the object at which Russia will aim, or toward which she will be irresistibly and perhaps unconsciously impelled by her paramount and permanent interests.

It will be remembered that the Russian and Chinese empires are contiguous for over three thousand miles, and that in many places they are only separated by an imaginary line; that Russia has already taken possession of vast regions of central Asia and in the valley of the Amour, which were once under the undisputed control of the Chinese Emperor; that she has no seaports which remain open during winter; that the Amour is navigable half the year for many hundred miles by steamboats; that, by all accounts, its valley is capable of supporting a very large population, such as is now rapidly pouring in from Siberia and Russia; that the completion of the railroads now under construction will greatly facilitate the movement of population as well as of troops and supplies from Europe; and, finally, that through all these agencies it is certain that before the end of many years the Russians will have created on the Amour River a prosperous and powerful outlying dependency admirably adapted as a base for the invasion and conquest of China. It is also evident that the very greatness of this dependency and its need for ocean commerce, will impel it to seek an outlet by rail to the Pacific Ocean, since the severity of winter will shut up the river and all of the Siberian ports for five or six months yearly.

And now as to the capacity of China to resist such an invasion. In considering this question it is proper to call attention to the fact that China has been conquered and held, twice within the historic period, for several hundred years by people from central and northern Asia, first by the Mongol Tartars under KUBLAI Khan, and secondly by the Manchu Tartars under TIEN-MING. The descendants of the latter have been on the throne of China for something more than 200 years. Their Government is now, as it has always been, a Government of conquest, and yet, so far as history shows, there has never been a time when there were over two millions of either Mongols or Manchus. When it is considered that they have, independently and at different times, held absolute and unlimited sway over the entire Chinese race, which is now estimated at from three hundred to five hundred million souls, the possibility of the subjugation of the latter by the Russian empire becomes evident.

But this is not all. China was practically conquered by the English and French allied army of 18,000 men in 1860, and, while it claims to have repelled the French in 1882, it is an incontestable fact that the latter have made good their hold upon Tonquin, and regard themselves as having gained the fruits of a substantial victory. It is true that the Chinese have bought a few iron-clad ships and are organizing a navy. It is also true that they have employed a few European drill masters, and are making desultory efforts to organize an army on the modern basis, but so far they have neither administration, staff, nor instructed Generals, and, according to the opinion of travellers competent to judge, they are utterly unprepared for war with even the smallest European power, and must fall before the first one which seriously attempts their subjugation. They have, to be sure, an inexhaustible supply of men, but the more of them they place in battle array, the more of them there will be for a foreign army well organized and armed to kill. The country being poverty stricken beyond any European example, without means of transport, and its Government without vigor, successful resistance to a power like Russia, advancing from both land and sea, must be simply impossible, so long as the present condition of affairs continues. And the present condition of affairs cannot change till the reigning dynasty gives way to one sufficiently enlightened and strong to inaugurate reform and introduce the appliances of modern civilization, which are the only means of saving the country from ruin and dismemberment.

Russia has shown herself to be thoroughly organized for Asiatic conquest, and conquest has become a habit of her rulers. They know how to deal with the questions that arise, and how to govern those whom they subjugate. They are not over nice in questions of policy, and make but little scruple in taking what they want, or what they think will be useful in connection with what they already have. They thoroughly understand the Chinese, and the value of China and its undeveloped resources. They know perfectly well that they must go to the south side of the Shantung promontory for the purpose of reaching a port which is open all the year through, and that in order to do this, they must occupy the valley of the Hoang-ho or Yellow River.

Of course they cannot well carry out such a policy without the concurrence of England, the other great Asiatic power, but it is hardly to be doubted that England will give her consent if she is treated fairly about it, and at the same time encouraged to occupy the valley of the Yang-tse-Kiang and the provinces south of it.

According to all precedent, she will be glad enough to be relieved at such a price and with such a substantial reward from the perpetual menace to her Indian possessions. Those who have read the story of her conquests and of her aggressive policy toward Oriental countries, will regard it as extremely improbable that she will long hesitate, with proper invitation and as opportunity offers, to extend her "beneficent sway" over southern China, step by step, as her great rival extends hers over northern China.

The more the facts are studied the more clearly they indicate that the manifest destiny of Asia is to be divided and dominated by Russia and England.

The Prevailing Waltz.

Here is a question of great contemporary interest which vividly suggests that famous aphorism of "first catch your hare." It is contained in this letter:

"Kindly inform me which is the prevailing waltz in good society at present, the glide or the hop? I have a dispute with a friend. I say the hop is correct; he says the glide is."

If this interested critic on dancing had but left out the limitation about good society, what a simple mathematical problem his question would have proposed! The most unfledged reporter on the press could have answered it without risk of headache. He would only have had the simple task of putting the question to dancing professors and dancing amateurs and of giving the result. Our correspondent, however, seeks for the state of dancing in "good society," and here lies the difficulty.

Where is good society? To learn its dancing it must itself be found. There are various dancing halls in town in different localities, where bands of friends or associates repair to dance. Beginning at Delmonico's and the Brunswick, which are the most expensive and luxurious, they lie all over the city from Grand street to Harlem. But into which or how many of these goes what our correspondent would esteem good society? Does it enter all of them or a few only, and if not all, which? And are the doors of one hall open for society which this critic would call good, and shut for that which technically is not good; or do both divisions obtain entrance to the same place? Take Delmonico's, for instance. More than one dancing association, permanent or temporary, makes use of the rooms there. None of them is made up of precisely the same social material as the others. Some of them have more or less in common, and others are wholly unconnected with the rest; but which of them are good to the exclusion of their colleagues? And if they are all good, is the line of goodness drawn at Twenty-sixth street and the Worth monument, or does it cross the street to the Brunswick and to the Hoffman House, and does it then extend in other directions, and where does it stop?

We have dwelt at some length upon this feature of our correspondent's request for information, since, as a matter of fact, the styles of dancing vary, and in a manner that may be surprising. For example, the floor of Delmonico's is generally glided over rather than hopped upon, though the term glide would probably be used with rarity. Waltzing answers all the purpose of description. In the greatest of all of the year's dancing reunions, the Charity ball, an institution under the management of the most fashionable and cultivated people in New York, the dancing methods are rather mixed. There may be seen the glide, the hop, the dip, the shuffle, even the racquet, and other curious exercises possibly not catalogued by dancing masters, and with little resemblance to the standard of those professors except in being gyratory and rhythmical. In among the fantastic steppers skim some of the best dancers that the metropolis affords. The Charity ball being open to the public, the participants know each other to but a limited extent, and are apt to be pretty constant in their attendance upon their partners, with the result of long and steady turns with the same person and a reposeful, quiet, dignified, precise, and facile style of dancing in consequence. But how is it possible to pick out here the members of good and not good society? If the distinction were made on the line of difference in dancing, it would be a decision of our correspondent's question on a preconceived idea instead of an impartial examination of all available facts. Then who can say that there are anywhere dancers of greater personal beauty and terpsichorean skill than the Grand street girls? Yet variations of style can be observed in their parties similar to those seen in the great public balls. We fear that good society is too intangible a thing, the creature of too arbitrary and whimsical a division from the great body of mankind, to justify a categorical decision of the point on which our correspondent and his friend disagree.

There is one fact, however, that may reconcile them to failure in getting an answer. Dancing is like other things. It is subject to the inexplicable but inevitable force of fashion. What is from time to time called the prevailing waltz is as transitory as the modes of dress. It is, we believe, arrived at by a convention of teachers of dancing, and the step of this year, so far as they are concerned, may be obsolete next year. Thus the pupils of yesterday do not dance like the pupils of to-day, and therefore in any social gathering not composed entirely of dancers of the same time of graduation, the styles of waltzing vary. The dancing man who, if the future has anything of interest in store, should have learned about ten years earlier than his partner, may glide while his companion may hop, and in years to come we don't know what she'll do; but still, in the majority of cases, their action is harmonious. The synchronic beating of hearts often begins with the rhythm of the feet, and that blissful concert can come even from a combination of differentiated schools of dancing such as the inexperienced onlooker would think it impossible that they could ever be reconciled in action. So it will be seen that, while it is impossible to say what sort of waltz is most generally practised in "good society," variety does not make so much difference after all.

The Voices of American Women.

At about the beginning of this century Paris for a time affected the manners and dress of London, Anglomania succeeding the license of the period of the Directory, when the fashions of women's dress were carried to the extreme of immodesty that had never before and has never since been reached. But the Anglomania of that day was mild in form and greatly limited in its manifestations in comparison with the Anglomania of the present time.

The whole civilized world at this period is, to a greater or less extent, following the manners and customs of England, and the rapid spread of the use of the English language, which now carries a man further than any other, will probably be influential in fixing and strengthening the tendency. England began by giving to all continental Europe its sporting phraseology, the English terms having been transported into the various languages with little or no variation; and of recent years Paris has not only adopted English fashions in men's dress, but has also begun to affect the Englishman's general bearing, and more particularly his composure in speech and manner.

Therefore the affectation of English ways, which is so much ridiculed here and by writers who themselves exhibit it more or less markedly, is now a world-wide manifestation, though with us it is of course carried further than elsewhere; for, speaking the same language, some Americans go to the extreme of attempting to imitate English peculiarities of speech, in the vain hope of palming themselves off for veritable Englishmen. But there is one direction in which Anglomania might well be carried far.

The average of feminine beauty is undoubtedly much higher here than in any European country, and it has improved very decidedly within the last few generations, the physical proportions of American women being more beautiful than they were formerly. The average stature of women is greater, they are better rounded—a result due to more healthful habits of life after the period of hardship inevitable to the settlement of a new country, to more nourishing diet, and to the infusion of foreign blood brought over by the immigration of the last forty years, an immigration so vast that it has essentially modified our society. But in one respect the average American woman is far behind her English sister. Her voice is not so melodious, and her intonation is less agreeable. Try as they may, our feminine Anglomaniacs have not yet succeeded in imitating what is most attractive and most worthy of imitation in English women. They may acquire tricks of pronunciation and catch expressions that are peculiarly English, but they miss the English voice.

No matter how enchanting their beauty may be, a crowd of American women, it must be confessed, will make a din with their voices which distresses the ear, and the individual American woman whose speech is altogether soft and melodious is unfortunately somewhat exceptional. Yet in England the run of women, no less in the lower than in the higher classes, speak with voices of charming sweetness, and with a modulation very agreeable. Here the voice is high and harsh, there it is low and soft, soothing and gratifying the ear like sweet music or the rippling of a stream.

What are the causes of this difference we shall not undertake to determine, whether they are climatic or other, but the fact is indisputable, and it is worth inquiring whether there might not be found an educational remedy for a defect so deplorable. In that direction Anglomania would serve a good purpose.

The National Reform Association.

Bishop F. D. HUNTINGTON, the Rev. Dr. WILBUR F. CRAFTS, the Rev. Dr. TAYLOR, and others have issued a circular calling for the meeting in this city in April of a national convention of the National Reform Association. The purpose of this association is sufficiently declared in this extract from the circular:

"The object of this society shall be to maintain the existing Christian features in the American Government, to promote needed reform in the action of the Government touching the Sabbath, the institutions of the family, the religious element in education, the oath, and public morality as affected by the liquor traffic and kindred evils, and secure such an amendment to the Constitution of the United States as will declare the nation's allegiance to JESUS CHRIST."

It would probably puzzle the signers of this call, and we do not fail to recognize their high character or to do justice to the worthy motives which actuate them, to point out exactly what are the "existing Christian features in the American Government," or what business it has to act in regard to the observance of the Sabbath or "the religious element of education." Out of deference to our friends, the Prohibitionists, we will not here scrutinize into the power of the Government to regulate the liquor traffic "and kindred evils." What the Government is expected to do about the oath we do not exactly understand. Is it to prevent affirmations or testimony by atheists and agnostics, or simply to exclude from the courts of justice all persons whose habits or opinions are not agreeable to the members of the National Reform Association?

As to the remarkable proposition to secure such an amendment to the Constitution of the United States as will declare the nation's allegiance to JESUS CHRIST, we wish to speak in entire reverence, and ask the members of the National Reform Association and the worthy clergymen who are said to be engaged in circulating petitions and circulars for it, what benefit to religion or morality they expect to gain by its adoption, could the country ever become so barren of common sense as to adopt it? Leaving out of consideration the question of grave import to Hebrews and to smaller bodies of nonbelievers in Christianity, involved in it, what aid would it be to the National Reformers? Do they want to reëstablish the New England theocracy, or what do they want? There are associations already for the purpose of "recognizing God in the Constitution." How soon will it be before societies are formed to incorporate the Nicene Creed or the Cambridge Platform into the Constitution?

Frankly speaking, we do not imagine that the National Reform Association will ever amount to anything. We pay it thus much of attention because it is only one of the almost innumerable crankeries now springing up from people who seem to be as ignorant of the Constitution and the essential characteristics of democratic-republican free government as they are of human nature and experience. The belief that men are to be made virtuous by legislation, and that the fundamental law should be tampered with by any half dozen well-meaning fanatics who want to make mankind live after their fashion, seems to be gaining ground.

We advise all persons bent on tinkering the Constitution so that it shall fit in with their little parochial notions, to read over carefully the list of things which by article 8 of the first section of the Constitution "the Congress shall have power to do." The National Reform Association will probably never have power to do anything.

Bangs Again!

One of the most distinguished characters of this city is Police Justice PATRICK GAVAN DUFFY, and yet from him come such restricted sentiments as these, addressed to four girl culprits who stood at his bar on Wednesday last:

"Yes, you look so. Look at your hair down on your foreheads. What makes you wear it that way like a goat? It gives you away. You will go to the Island for a month."

The style of hair with which Justice DUFFY found fault is known historically as a bang. It is made by taking the hair immediately over the temples and chopping it off short, so that it will hang, curtain-like, straight across the forehead. But why should anybody object to it?

The glory of woman is her hair. When it is well brushed it is the admiration of man. Yet to the possessor its arrangement must be a perpetual bore, and here is one virtue of the bang. It relieves its feminine wearer of matutinal and nocturnal worry over a considerable part of the hair, a very important part, the front part, and enables her to devote so much increased attention to the charming arrangement of the locks left still unshorn.

Another most important consideration which Justice DUFFY seemed to leave entirely out of account is that in the judgment of many persons bangs are becoming. That alone is their sufficient justification. And they are not confined, either, to the visitors of Justice DUFFY'S court. They dwell upon every avenue in the city, and no district, rich or poor, is without a representative. To set bangs down, therefore, as objectionable or as a cause of increased penance in jail is unworthy of the impartial critic, and inadmissible and paradoxical in the case of so broad-minded a jurisconsult.

A palpable reason for such antipathy, though, can be found in the fact that PATRICK GAVAN DUFFY will never again be able to wear a bang.

Let the City Clean the Sidewalks Too.

For a week or more half the sidewalks in the city have been slippery and nearly impassable, owing to the accumulations upon them of snow and ice. An ancient and venerable corporation ordinance requires the owners or occupants of houses to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their premises within four hours after a storm, under a penalty of $3, but there is no provision for enforcing the ordinance nor for doing the work in case it is not complied with. Whether the penalty is collected or not, the sidewalk remains encumbered, and every one who travels over it is inconvenienced. It would be much better, it seems to us, to tax each house to the necessary amount, and with the money hire men to do thoroughly the cleaning which is now only half done or not done at all.

The sidewalk, it must be remembered, is as much a part of the public highway as is the middle of the street. Mayor HEWITT has lately had frequent occasion to remind us that the street extends from house to house, and that the owner of a house has no more right to the sidewalk than any other citizen has. He may walk over it to get to and from his house, and so may they, but his ownership of it is no greater and no less than theirs. Why, then, is he required to expend money and labor upon it for their benefit? The only reason that we can imagine is that when New York was a village and had no police, no paid fire department, and no street cleaning system, it was convenient to impose upon each householder the task of keeping in order that part of the street—pavement as well as sidewalk—which lay in front of his property. We have relieved him from cleaning the pavement; it is high time that we relieved him from cleaning the sidewalk too.

Will Mayor HEWITT direct for a moment his eagle intellect to this small but important reform, and recommend the measures needed to secure it?

We are sorry to observe in a recent publication of General LLOYD BRYCE, the distinguished member of Congress for the Seventh district of this city, the expression of a harsh and unjust opinion—at least such is our judgment—of a most valuable and even indispensable mercantile profession. General BRYCE says that the book publisher is the arch enemy of the struggling writer; and why a successful novelist like General BRYCE—his charming story of "Paradise" must have had a very extensive sale—should speak in such a manner is a problem that we shall not undertake to solve. But we cannot refrain from putting in a protest against General BRYCE'S expression. Our own experience—and it is not so very limited—leads to a conclusion entirely different. Instead of being the enemies of writers, the publishers are their friends; and instead of sharp dealing, we say they are just, fair, and generous.

An eleven-year-old girl complainant against her drunken father in Brooklyn, on Friday, testified that she had never heard of GOD, nor ever known her mother to speak of Him. Yet Brooklyn is the City of Churches, and the A. B. C. F. M. people are still wrangling about the question whether in attempting to "save" the heathen it is necessary to tell them that their parents are forever immured in the utter darkness. To some petty spirits it may seem that there are heathen enough in every great city of America to demand the instant efforts of philanthropists and missionaries.

The widow of a Chicago dentist testifies that he used to speculate at the Board of Trade "by the advice of the spirits." This would open new possibilities to the people who buck the Stock Exchange, were it not for the widow's sorrowful admission that, on the pointers given by "the spirits," the deceased lost every time.

Mr. G. W. SMALLEY, the accomplished London correspondent of our neighbor the *Tribune*, doesn't seem to know exactly what a "scrapper" is. Mr. SMALLEY has lived in England for many years, and his ignorance of contemporary American neologisms is excusable. But by application to Mr. LAWRENCE SULLIVAN and other distinguished Americans he will learn that a "scrap" is a fight or slugging or boxing match, and a "scrapper" a fighter or slugger. The origin of the terms is not clear, but their significance is unmistakable. Perhaps it is a derived sense of "scrap, a shred," and refers to the small pieces into which scrappers of ferocity conceive themselves able to fracture their opponents.

Some Cornell sophomores have been suspended for "kidnapping" that grandiose dignitary, the "freshman president." We would now strongly recommend the infantile minds of the obstreperous freshmen and sophomores at Ithaca to suspend further hostilities and horse play. The great and already famous and beneficently expanding university at Ithaca was founded on new lines, and with broad innovations upon the old boy's-school style of "college." Its youngest undergraduates should be ashamed to copy the traditional vitilinities now given up in the more advanced of the old-school colleges.

Cornell is a great university. It is disgraceful that any of its students should act like a delegation of unruly bull calves.

The Hon. IGNISFATUUS DONNELLY, the Gopher Cryptogramist, has been snowed up under seven feet of snow at his farm during the late atmospheric unpleasantness in the Northwest, and all the blizzards have cracked their cheeks at him. It is understood that IGNISFATUUS "perfected" his "cipher" of The Winter's Tale during the blow.

The work of forming Republican clubs in that very doubtful State, Vermont, goes on apace. Twenty have started already, and still the work is busily pursued. While Enosburg and Island Pond are kept in the Republican column there is hope that the Green Mountain State may remain solid and sure to the banned old party. But how will Mr. EDMUNDS look upon this solidification, provided it crystallizes into BLAINE?

Dr. MCGLYNN has asked the disaffected parishioners of St. Stephen's to give up their Friday night meetings. Now Dr. MCGLYNN'S former parishioners may ask him to give up his Sunday night Anti-Poverties.

It is unnecessary to revere that tender New England conscience which has just remitted to the conscience fund of the Treasury twenty-five cents, being principal and accrued interest of a cancelled five-cent postage stamp fraudulently uttered by an again bitten Yankee a generation ago. Had he choused the Government out of five or fifty thousand dollars, however, the effort to make restitution might have been hedged with invincible difficulty. Inwit must be easy at twenty-five cents a penalty.

WHERE SHALL WE CELEBRATE?

Washington and New York Planning Separate Centennial Shows for 1889.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The Senate "Select Committee on the Centennial of the Constitution and the Discovery of America," as this body queerly calls itself, has just been hearing the Executive Committee of the Board of Promotion of sundry proposed festivities and expositions to be held in Washington in 1889 and 1892. The Secretary of this Board of Promotion suggests a preliminary appropriation by Congress of $300,000 "for the entertainment of official representatives of American sister republics," next year, while Frederick Douglass has testified before the committee the value of world's fairs for various purposes. Since Messrs. Sherman, Hoar, and Eustis of the committee have been prominent in urging upon Congress these commemorations in the city of Washington, it is hardly necessary for others to expend energy in forwarding them.

Probably the greatest boom yet received for the Washington scheme is the action just taken in New York on the centennial celebration proposed for that city on the 30th of April, 1889. The projectors of the Washington enterprise have been anxious to combine in it the alleged celebration of events as little related in time and nature as those of Oct. 12, 1492, and April 30, 1789. That Congress would vote all the money required for a fair to be held in Washington in 1892 was thought probable, since no other city has competed for the purpose. But the appropriate place for observing the centenary of the inauguration of the first President was obviously New York, where the original event took place. The resulting difficulty is now largely removed by the decision of the New York managers not to encroach in any way on the Washington project. It is even made the duty, it appears, of the New York "Committee on General Government" to find out what Washington proposes to do for the celebration of 1889, and then "to act with those interested in that project, so that there will be no conflict."

This is thought to practically give Washington the right of way, at least as to obtaining what she may more particularly want. When the New York Chamber of Commerce initiated the movement for a centennial celebration long ago, it proposed to have the grand national celebration in Wall street, on the spot where Washington took the oath of office; to bring there the President of the United States, whoever he might be, and both branches of Congress, with other eminent men of the Federal and State Governments; to conduct specially appropriate exercises there, which should be simultaneously reported by telegraph in every great city, where also some form of celebration should go on.

The present plan, besides the usual military, naval, and trades parade, as in the Philadelphia celebration last September, also admits, it appears, "some formal exercises on the steps of the Sub-Treasury and in St. Paul's Church, and some further literary exercises at the Metropolitan Opera House," but Congress is to be represented by a committee, "if it will appoint one. The Washington managers note the promise that the New York celebration "shall be confined, if possible, to one day," and under these circumstances Congress may, perhaps, refrain from wholly eclipsing the modest New York show by the national celebration proposed for Washington.

It is a pity that an event so exceptional as the hundredth anniversary of the formation of the Government should not be celebrated by the combined resources of the Government and the people at a single place, the city where that Government went into operation. If Washington, which did not exist in 1789, must have a show of its own, it might give one on the 4th of March, leaving the 30th of April clear for the national celebration in New York.

As the matter now stands, a bill before Congress, introduced into the Senate by Mr. Eustis and into the House by Mr. Hooker, appropriates $300,000 for "a joint celebration at the national capital in 1889 by the sixteen American republics in honor of the centennial of the parent republic, the United States." Under this bill the "Presidents, Chief Justices, and Ministers of the fifteen Spanish-American republics" are to be invited to Washington, with the Governors and other officials of our forty-six States and Territories, to be entertained at the expense of the Government. Perhaps the New York committee may be able, should this bill pass, to obtain the loan for a day of some of these invited guests, under agreement that its own local celebration shall not conflict with the national one at Washington. What the New York Senators have done or are doing for the New York celebration does not appear, but Mr. Evarts is said to be much interested in remembering Columbus in 1892.

The New Tariff Bill by Way of England.

From the London Times.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23.—The new Tariff bill which the Democratic leaders in America are preparing extends the free list by adding to it metal ores, salt, timber, coarse or carpet wools, jute, fibres, grasses, chemicals, and colors used in dyeing. The wool schedule is readjusted to secure uniformity, but little change is made in the present woollen duties in the aggregate. The cotton schedule is reduced throughout, and there is also a considerable reduction in window glass, glassware, and earthenware. The sugar duties are reduced by 25 per cent. The metal schedule is reduced sufficiently to lessen the annual revenue by £300,000. The duty on steel rails is reduced from $17 to $12 a ton.

They Take The Sun.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On my way from Scranton Friday I stopped over at Wilkesbarre for dinner. While standing in the office of the hotel a newsboy came in crying New York and Philadelphia papers. I asked for a SUN. After a hard search he discovered just one. After receiving his pay, he turned to one of the hotel porters and remarked to him that the New York *World* was a nuisance, as it was almost impossible for him to sell one. I asked him how the sales of THE SUN and *World* would compare. He said, "I cannot get enough SUNS, and no one wants the *World*." Remember, Mr. Editor, this happened at Wilkesbarre, the county seat of old Luzerne, a county that might be called the cradle of Pennsylvania Democracy. Straws indicate which way the wind blows. It looks very much like move on, Pulitzer. More power to THE SUN. May it continue to shine for all! Yours, DRUMMER.

WHITE HAVEN, Pa., Feb. 2.

A Just Honor to Mr. Allen Thorndike Rice.

From the Toronto Week.

The *North American Review* has of late years come to wield a good deal of influence in all departments of public and national life.

When the liver fails to act, and you are bilious and out of sorts, use Dr. Jayne's Sanative Pills to bring about a healthy action of the liver, and remove all distressing symptoms.—Adv.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

The gay season is drawing to its close, and the entertainments to come can now be counted on one's fingers. They begin with the last cotillion to-morrow night and end with Mrs. Bradley Martin's centennial dinner, as the youngsters call it, on Shrove Tuesday. The interval will be filled in with a dance almost every night, and for the moderate requirements of society this winter there will be enough and to spare between now and Ash Wednesday. It is, however, but a poor provision for what is known in Europe as the last week of the carnival, and a society for the prevention of cruelty to young men and maidens, did any such exist, could hardly interfere on the score of nerves and health, notwithstanding the persistent continuance of late hours. A man or woman accustomed to the rush and whirl of the London and Paris seasons would smile at what we call society work in this part of the world, as two entertainments in the same set on one night have not once occurred this winter, while during the London season three or four are accounted moderate.

In point of fact, when, on Ash Wednesday, this season's débutantes reckon up the number of their opportunities for enjoyment and display, only ten Delmonico balls and about the same number of private dances, even including such small affairs as Mrs. James M. Waterbury's unusually pretty cotillion on Friday evening, will clamor to be remembered, making an average of about two a week. Of these Mrs. Vanderbilt's and Mrs. Ogden Mills's balls have been the most remarkable of those in gentlemen's houses, and the New Year's ball was far and away the most beautiful of the subscription dances at Delmonico's. The deaths among society people, including those of two ladies who have for nearly all their married lives been prominent and much esteemed leaders in all social matters, have undoubtedly thrown the gay world into shadow, and interfered with more than one pleasant entertainment. As for the débutantes, they have probably had a fairly good time, but their complaints now and then of the "stickiness" of certain festivities have been loud and prolonged. A well-known Englishman, by the way, but recently arrived, who was at one of the dances stigmatized as "sticky," replied in the most naïve manner, "Ah, now, really, I fancied the floor was rather too slippery."

The honored guest of the last week at various teas and dinners has been the Duke of Newcastle, who, during the illness of his brother, Lord Francis Pelham-Clinton, has been "doing" New York under the direction of relatives and friends. Like many Englishmen of the highest rank, this young Duke is a perfectly simple and unpretentious person, and must have been somewhat surprised, if not disturbed, at the homage that has been paid to him on one or two occasions. At an afternoon tea given by a young and very beautiful woman, the Duke was placed at the head of one of the drawing rooms, and ladies were taken the whole length of the rooms to be presented to him. Such a thing probably never occurred to him in his own country; and if a Boston expert could be found to sound the depths of his innermost consciousness, a smile and a sneer would probably reveal themselves at this display of republican toadyism.

Union Club men, by the way, and more especially the Governing Committee, will hardly feel flattered at the published opinion of one of their number who holds that there are only two men among them entitled by their wealth and position to pass sentence upon a delinquent member whose moral obliquities have been quite open and undisguised. "A club man," says this society moralist, "should only be judged by his peers, and if they are not to be found in the club of which he is a member, recourse must be had to a younger and more aristocratic organization."

The Nibelungen Trilogy filled the Metropolitan Opera House at every representation last week, not only with fashionable, but with most attentive and appreciative audiences. On Friday, when the "Götterdämmerung" was given for the second time, even the youngest and most thoughtless forgot themselves for a while, and the silence during the finer passages was as profound as the applause was tumultuous and pronounced when they were finished.

With the coming of Lent will come also the usual flood of amateur performances for sweet charity's sake, and the customary assembling of themselves together by old and young at sewing societies, at "charitable (?) luncheons," and at Badminton and bowling clubs. The play of "Contrast," to be given by a company of amateurs at the Lyceum Theatre on the 23d and 24th of February, will probably be the most notable entertainment of the winter, as nothing like it has been attempted since the plays that were acted at the Madison Square Theatre five years ago for the benefit of the Bartholdi pedestal fund. Mrs. James Brown Potter was then an amateur star, and $5 a ticket was readily given for the opportunity of seeing her. The attractions at the Lyceum will probably be even greater than they were on that occasion, as Miss De Wolfe and Miss Fellowes Morgan will have the support of two professionals in the male parts as well as of Mr. Coward, who is as good as a professional at any time. The skilful and well-trained ladies' orchestra which Miss Hewitt has been forming will also draw a large number who do not rate amateur theatricals at all that they are probably worth, and the fact that the play is also an original and an amateur production will give added interest to the occasion. The pet hospital of that most popular and enterprising of benevolent women, Mrs. Richard Irvin, Jr., ought to benefit largely by the performance. The costumes which are now in course of preparation, and which are of the picturesque Louis Seize period, are said to be marvellously rich and beautiful.

There will probably be a crowd at St. Stephen's Church on Wednesday next to witness the marriage of Miss Emmet and Mr. Harris, which is to be solemnized with a full nuptial mass, and all the usual accessories of the Roman Catholic ceremonial. Eight bridesmaids, nearly all of whom are pretty girls, will accompany the bride to the altar, and, according to the requirements of the Catholic Church, will wear bonnets and g