The Sun.
FOR
1888.

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

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1888.

The Shame of It.

The examination of the Reading officials at Philadelphia is a disgrace to the Fiftieth Congress. Never was there a more shameless prostitution of the Federal power to the ends of dishonest traffic. We do not impugn the course of the Congressional investigating committee on the general ground of its being unconstitutional, inquisitorial, and oppressive, but we boldly and openly proclaim its dishonesty and its corruption.

The committee presents the aspect of a body of men who have secured to themselves a license from the Government to descend upon Wall street in conspiracy with the worst elements it contains. The sessions of the committee had not been an hour in progress when the mask was cast aside, and the stock speculation stood revealed. It was no longer a question of the strike in the mining regions, but of a strike in the stock market in New York.

And never were rogues more summarily dealt with or worse confounded than were these rogues from Washington. The unforeseen happened, and when their progress in smashing values was at its height, when the telegrams to sell Reading and the coalers short were flying to New York, when question after question of vile ingenuity and unblushing impudence was piled upon the chief witness, when his answers were distorted by the sophisticated inferences and implications of his questioner, then the disaster came like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. In answer to the Congressional baiter, the President of the Reading Company let fall the information that the strike was ended.

One hundred and forty-seven thousand shares of Reading stock changed hands before three o'clock on Friday. For the Washington contingent on Wall street it was a Black Friday. Not that their plans were laid with insufficient skill, not that their determination was unequal to any game, however desperate; but because, as we have said, the unexpected happened. The frail occasion and excuse of their raid, the strike of the Reading miners and train hands, was swept away, and they were undone.

The committee of Congress is disgraced, and it is a disgrace to the country. No self-respecting and honest-minded citizen can read the story of Friday's doings at Philadelphia and not blush for very shame.

Blaine for Senator.

There are grave objections to the oft-urged idea of providing ex-Presidents with seats for life in the United States Senate. No such objection applies to the case of a statesman and party leader like Mr. BLAINE, who, having thrice been a candidate for the Presidential nomination and once his party's candidate at the polls, has finally renounced the ambition to reach the White House.

Mr. BLAINE'S place henceforth is in the Senate. He should have a seat in that body for life, or for as long as his willingness and ability to serve the country and his party endure.

HENRY CLAY, to whose public career that of Mr. BLAINE bears in certain respects a striking resemblance, went back to the Senate after having served once as Secretary of State and having been three times defeated in his ambition to be President.

There is a vast deal of work left in Mr. BLAINE. He is not the sort of man to retire prematurely to a life of inactivity. His restless and original intellect will keep him busy while life and health last. We take it that Mr. BLAINE has sufficiently gratified his taste for historical research and composition, and likewise that he soon will have exhausted the interest of foreign travel. He will come home before long. He will not allow his distinguished abilities to rest, or his splendid vitality to burn itself gray for lack of fuel and oxygen. The logic of circumstances indicates that he will once again engage actively in politics, in the larger sense of the word; and there is no doubt that the United States Senate affords the proper field for his future activity.

Why, Mr. BLAINE is only fifty-eight years and a few days old this morning.

We do not affirm that any new office, such as that of Senator-at-large or Senator-for-life, should be created for Mr. BLAINE'S benefit. He ought to be sent back to the Senate in the regular way. The people of Maine should make it their duty to attend to this. As for the present Senators from Maine, Mr. HALE and Mr. FRYE, they both owe so much to their greater fellow citizen and party chieftain that we rather expect to find them in a sharp quarrel for the honor of resigning to make room for him. Mr. FRYE'S term ends first, but that fact should not be allowed to count to Mr. HALE'S disadvantage in the generous and loyal rivalry.

Mr. BLAINE, we say, is barely fifty-eight. He ought to serve at least three full terms in the Senate before he begins to feel old enough to retire from public life.

Foolish Amendments to the Tax Laws.

Ever since the existence of the State of New York we believe that real estate has been taxed in the city or county in which it was situated or located. That is to say that the situs of lands and tenements has determined the place of taxation. And personal property has always been taxed in the State of New York in the place deemed to be the legal residence of its owner or possessor.

It is alleged that under our present tax laws a large portion of personalty escapes taxation. This is probably true, but it is equally true of any other large city in the Federal Union, and capitalists doing business in the city of New York or having business relations with this city cannot in any legal or constitutional way be forced to reside here unless they see fit to do so. To meet the existing evil, if it be one, or for more adventurous purposes or from pure absurdity, various tax bills have already been introduced in the State Legislature.

One bill introduced by Mr. FULLER is characterized by extreme injustice and folly. He proposes that whenever it shall appear that a person is the owner of any property by law exempt from taxation, the assessor shall set off so much of this person's indebtedness as shall equal the amount of his non-taxable property, and the excess of the man's debt over and above his individual taxable property only shall be deducted from the amount of his taxable property. The practical operation of this would be to make a man pay a tax either on a portion of the money he owes or on some of his property which is already by law exempt from taxation, on the ground that the tax is paid on it either in some other place or by some corporation.

Several bills have been introduced for the obvious purpose of taxing personal property in the place wherever it may be found, or rather in a place where the evidence of the ownership of such personal property may be found. So a bill fathered by Mr. MORGAN provides that all personal property within this State, whether owned by individuals or corporations, resident or non-resident, shall be liable to taxation.

Another bill introduced in the Assembly by the same member provides that in case a person possessed of personal estate shall reside during any year in which the taxes may be levied in two or more counties, his residence shall be deemed to be in the county in which his principal business shall have been transacted; and this bill further provides that the personal estate of non-residents shall be assessed in the several counties and towns wherein such personal estate may be found or deposited.

Another bill introduced by Mr. ACKER in the Assembly contains the monstrous provision that the owner of real estate upon which there is a mortgage shall pay the tax levied on the mortgage, and that the tax collector's receipt for the tax so paid on the mortgage by the owner of the house or land shall be accepted by the mortgagee or the man who has loaned him the money as payment for interest or principal due on the mortgage. We believe that bills to the same effect have also been introduced by Mr. BRUNDAGE in the Assembly and by Mr. ERWIN in the Senate.

The scheme proposed in these bills is so outrageous that we presume there can be no danger of its passing in any Legislature. The practical effect of the passage of such an act would be at once to stop the loaning of any money on bond and mortgage in this city, for no man would care to lend ten or twenty thousand dollars on a house if the chances were against his ever receiving any interest on his loan. The objection to Mr. MORGAN'S bill making the place of deposit of personal property, or the place where it can be found, the test of taxation, is that it is wrong in principle. Personal taxation must depend on the legal residence of the owner of the personalty, and securities should not necessarily be taxed in the place where they may happen to be on deposit. The effect of passing any such measure would be to drive capital out of this city and to force it elsewhere where it would be safe against the inquisitorial efforts of the assessor and the tax gatherer.

The true remedy for all this sort of thing was indicated by Mayor HEWITT in his recent message: Abolish all taxation of personality and levy all the taxes on real estate and corporations. This will in the end be found more satisfactory to the community at large, and it will impose no serious burden upon the owners of the real estate.

Local Government for England.

The local government scheme, which is about to be laid before the House of Commons, is interesting not only from its possible effect on the fate of Ministries and parties, but also considered as a sign of violent reaction against local oligarchs on the one hand and the centralizing tendencies of recent legislation on the other. Twenty years ago Parliament would have denied that any grievance of the kind now aimed at existed, while ten years ago the grievance, if admitted, would have been remedied in another way. As it is, the country 'Squire is to be shorn of his traditional ascendency over his immediate neighborhood, but the power withdrawn from him is not to be relegated to a central board sitting in the metropolis.

It is expected that the bill will be submitted immediately after the debate on the address which is now drawing to a close. Incredible as such agreement may appear, all the details are said to have been agreed upon by the Cabinet and the leaders of the dissident Liberals. So far as the features of the measure have been made known, they include three innovations of capital importance. In the first place, the county boards are to be chosen by the same body of voters who now possess the parliamentary suffrage. This means that the agricultural laborer, enfranchised for the first time in 1885, as well as the artisan, factory hand, and petty trader, will hereafter designate the local authorities. It is in this provision that the new boards shall be elected not by a restricted but a popular constituency, that we recognize the concession made to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and other Radical members of the anti-GLADSTONE coalition. Lord SALISBURY'S influence must have been severely taxed to persuade some of his colleagues to assent to a change which from the point of view of landowners involves a social revolution. For let the democratic principle once be imbedded in the elective basis of county boards, and, no matter what limitations on their sphere of action may at the outset be attempted, their total absorption of control over local matters can only be a question of a very short time.

Of the functions to be delegated to these county boards only two have up to this time been indicated on trustworthy authority. They are, it seems, to have the entire management of the police forces within their jurisdictions. Evidently, then, the game laws will have to go, since they will never be enforced by men who owe their offices to constituencies largely made up of the social categories from which poachers are recruited. This is only one of many points in which the old system of English country life will be materially affected by the virtual transfer of police control from the landed to the landless class. But, however unwelcome to the squirarchy may be the knowledge that hereafter the interests and sympathies of the constabulary will be arrayed against them, there is no reason to apprehend an organized revolt on the part of country gentlemen against the Tory Government. If there be, as Mr. PARNELL has predicted, an element of danger in the Local Government bill, it must be sought for in another quarter, namely, in the clause authorizing the county boards not only to issue and annul publicans' licenses, but, in some counties, to suppress liquor selling altogether, by applying the principle of local option. It is true that an attempt is made to palliate the obnoxious aspect of this feature in the eyes of liquor dealers by providing compensation for the loss of licenses. But such an arrangement would at best only indemnity the retailer; it would leave the brewer and distiller without any amends for the loss of customers. Until, therefore, the wholesale dealers have made up their minds regarding the ultimate effect of the bill upon their business, no man can foretell what stand the British liquor interest may ultimately take. Unquestionably the publicans, who have in their day overthrown Ministries supposed to rest on a homogeneous and strong majority, can, if they choose, make short work of Lord SALISBURY.

Now that we know that, under the new scheme of local government, county boards, chosen by what is almost tantamount to universal suffrage, are to have absolute control over the constabulary, we can understand the Tory motive for excluding Ireland from privileges offered to all the rest of the United Kingdom. But the men now in office seem to overlook the fact that they are establishing a precedent which will estop them from complaining, if, when Mr. GLADSTONE returns to power, he subjects the Irish police to authority emanating directly from the people, as, for example, to an executive committee of a Dublin Parliament.

A Novel Trial of Colts.

An idea worthy of the great national interest which surrounds the cultivation of one of America's greatest triumphs, the trotting horse, is suggested by a recent challenge of a prominent breeder and by the reply of one of his colleagues.

Mr. C. J. HAMLIN, the owner of Village Farm, in Erie county, and of Belle F., the fastest mare on the strictly racing track, has special confidence in the produce of unraced stallions. He thinks that the extreme exertion of training and trots must unfit a horse as a sire compared with one that has never been required to stand the pressure of exhausting campaigns. And Mr. HAMLIN is ready to test his theory, and for that purpose he names Mambrino King, a well-known horse in his possession, of demonstrated speed, of great beauty, but of such a splurgy style that he has been known as the "dude" of the breeding stud, and offers to match four of his get foaled in 1885 against any four of the same age "bred, raised, developed, and owned by the owner of any stallion having a record of 2:22 or better, the said four to have been sired after the stallion had obtained his fastest record." This offer is particularly directed toward the owner of Phallas, with a record of 2:13¾, and the owner of Jerome Eddy, whose mark is 2:16¼.

It must be said that this theory regarding the particular qualities of untracked horses is not new. Many turfmen of experience and judgment would say that between the great and proved racer and his untried brother they would for breeding purposes take the brother.

So far the only gentleman to answer Mr. HAMLIN is Gen. B. F. TRACY of Brooklyn, proprietor of Marshland farm, Tioga county, and the owner of two stallions with records better than 2:22, Mambrino Dudley and Kentucky Wilkes, and he makes an interesting reply. He says regretfully that he has not four colts of 1885 by either of his horses, but that he will name seven of the get of Kentucky Wilkes, foals of 1886, which he is so fortunate as to possess, against an equal number of Mambrino Kings, to be trotted at the Breeders' meeting next fall. Gen. TRACY names seven because he has no more, and they are therefore not selected, but the collective product of a year. He stipulates that the colts in each case shall be paired according to the order of foaling. He also says that if this proposition is not agreeable, he will take five Kentucky Wilkes colts and five of Mambrino Dudley's yearlings, and trot them against ten of Mambrino King's in 1889 or 1890, as Mr. HAMLIN may prefer.

Here is a field marked out for a grand and instructive contest among the colts of raced and unraced horses. It should not be limited to the stock of Gen. TRACY and Mr. HAMLIN. The colts of many horses should be engaged in it. It would be a trotting tournament on a grander scale than has ever been inaugurated, and the result would go far to certify or discredit a very interesting theory. It would also provide a very interesting comparison between several of the prominent horses of the day, and add a novel stimulation to the industry of breeding trotters. And last, but by no means least, it would insure us a first-rate horse race.

The Voting Power of the Great Cities.

The Democracy of the State of New York, strengthened, animated, and sustained by the triumphs of 1887, solidified and kept harmonious by the administration of Governor HILL, and encouraged by cheering evidences of wiser counsels in Washington, has less reason this year than ever before to depend on a handful of Mugwump recruits or a fragment of free trade pretenders, for success in the State whose electoral vote decided the Presidential result in 1880 and 1884, and seems likely to prove similarly potent in 1888.

In 1876, when SAMUEL J. TILDEN made his memorable fight for good government on the lines of an unflinching and sterling Democracy, the vote which New York State cast for him and for his competitor, the forlorn HAYES, was 1,011,156. Of this the seven chief cities of the State—New York, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Albany, Rochester, Troy, and Syracuse—gave 345,569, or about 33 per cent. of the whole number; but such was Mr. TILDEN'S popularity with the farmers, and so strong his hold on the Democrats of the large cities, that he carried the State by 33,000.

In 1880 GARFIELD and HANCOCK had in New York a combined vote of 1,090,055, a gain of about 80,000 over the previous Presidential election. Of this gain 50,000 was in the vote of the cities, and but 30,000 in the vote of the country and township districts.

In 1884, in a most animated contest, the combined vote for CLEVELAND and BLAINE was 1,125,049, a gain over 1880 of 35,000. Of this gain 25,000 was made in the seven cities and only 10,000 outside.

In 1885, when DAVID BENNETT HILL, in a straight-out Democratic fight, and without Mugwump or special free trade support, got ten times CLEVELAND'S majority in New York, the total vote was 992,096, and of this the seven cities contributed 393,562.

Last November 993,254 votes—slightly more than in 1885—were cast for the three leading candidates for Secretary of State. Of these the seven cities gave 428,569, and the whole rest of the State 564,685. So that it may be said that these cities, from having 33 per cent. of the voting population of the State twelve years ago, are now very nearly in a majority, and are likely, at the present ratio of growth, to be soon in an absolute numerical majority. In this computation such thriving places as Elmira, Ogdensburgh, Utica, Lockport, Long Island City, Plattsburgh, Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Cohoes, Newburgh, Auburn, Watertown, Fishkill, and Oswego are included with the rural communities; but if allowance be made for them, then the voting population in the Republican stronghold of the interior will be seen to have absolutely decreased, while the Democratic city districts have marked a steady gain:

VOTE OF THE SEVEN CITIES.		REMAINDER OF THE STATE.	
1876	345,569	1876	665,587
1887	428,569	1887	464,685
Gain	82,000	Loss	201,902

Taking the probable vote of a Presidential year as the basis, the seven cities have gained 150,000, and the town and country districts have lost 75,000, a considerable amount of this decline being traceable to the Prohibition party, which was considered to have made a great spurt when it cast 10,000 votes for MYRON H. CLARK in 1874, but which gave 24,000 for ST. JOHN in 1884, and nearly 42,000 for HUNTINGTON, the Prohibition candidate, last November. The larger number of these came from rural constituencies where the Republican party has been particularly strong. Thus, a county like Allegheny, which is almost wholly agricultural, gave BLAINE just 71 votes less than HAYES, and CLEVELAND but 145 votes more than TILDEN in a total of 10,000. But ST. JOHN received in Alleghany 1,180 votes, and last November the Prohibitionists had 1,432.

So strong and so steady is the increase of Democratic strength in the large cities of the State that it is no longer necessary for the party to cater unreasonably to the prejudices of a few special voters. The withdrawal from the lists of candidates of JAMES G. BLAINE removes from the Republican side the one leader of that party who has ever developed any strength in the large cities, and it leaves free and clear the course of the Democracy to nominate a candidate of its choice without Mugwump dictation. A failure to utilize this natural political advantage in 1888 might restore stability to the Republican organization in the large cities of the State where now that party—notably in New York, Brooklyn, and Rochester—is utterly demoralized and disrupted. But with a strong and sterling Democratic candidate running on the lines drawn in the HILL-DAVENPORT canvass of 1885, and continued in the State contests of 1886 and of 1887, the cities now dominant will roll up such Democratic majorities as they have never given before.

Willing Wolverines.

A few weeks ago the Hon. RUSSELL A. ALGER of Michigan was having a small but an active boom for the Republican nomination to the Vice-Presidency. The boom was severely local, and is not known to have excited even the Wolverines themselves. Mr. ALGER is rich, not without ambition, and a patron of art by the acre. If he chooses to amuse himself and others by hunting after the Vice-Presidency, nobody will be the worse, even if the millionaire Michigander should be none the better. But since Mr. BLAINE scratched himself from the list, and all the dark horses have been entered by their hopeful backers, certain persons in Michigan, presumably not without the advice and consent of Candidate ALGER, have begun to boom him for the Presidency. This seems to be in the nature of a crowding of things, and in parts of the country remote from the land of the Sweet Singer may prompt the natural if ungenerous inquiry: Who in thunder is ALGER, any way? Horses may be so dark that you can't see them. Mr. ALGER presumes too much upon a country which is not yet acquainted with him.

Michigan has been getting to be a doubtful State, and under the able tuition of the Hon. DON DICKINSON her conversion to the Democratic faith is probably only a matter of time. If a Michigan candidate is desired by the Republicans, they can do better than take ALGER. Senator THOMAS W. PALMER is a popular man, better known than ALGER, rich, as all Michigan Republicans of prominence seem to be, a fair scholar and orator, and possessed of a philosophical and comfortable disposition. In the contingency that the Republicans should really succeed in persuading themselves that the temperance question must at least be treated seriously by them, and that the Prohibitionists must be soothed, coddled, and reclaimed, Senator PALMER would make an admirable candidate. He is in favor of prohibition, not for himself, as we understand it, but for the benefit of others, and especially of the Republican party. He believes that his party should take advanced ground on the temperance question—advanced enough to satisfy the forlorn hopes of the Prohibitionists and yet not advanced enough to invite the fire of the German Republicans. We will name without extra charge an excellent ticket and platform for both Dry and Wet Republicans: For President, THOMAS W. PALMER of Michigan; for Vice-President, SHERIDAN SHOOK of New York. Platform: Down with Beer!

One day last week Mayor HEWITT denied that he was a "stern" man, and now he will be forced to deny that he is a "venerable" man, so far as that word is applied to him in the sense of aged when he is spoken of as "our venerable Mayor." A man of Mr. HEWITT'S years, or of any other age, may be venerated, but it is not customary, in ordinary parlance, to speak of a man as venerable until he is somewhat time-worn, and, in this respect, the word cannot be said to be applicable to our potential and prolific Mayor. Besides, a man's political advancement is not apt to be promoted by fastening upon him the word venerable.

The revelations recently made of inefficiency and corruption in the Chicago police prove the necessity of the reorganization of the force which has been begun. The surprise over the facts that have been brought out is not confined to Chicago.

The evidence that Gen. PHILIP HENRY SHERIDAN was born in the United States, and that he is eligible to become a candidate for President, is satisfactory.

The British are encroaching on Venezuela. What is Secretary BAYARD going to do about it?—*Freeman's Journal.*

He will do just what the President directs. The Secretary of State has no right and no power to do anything but execute the orders of his superior officer.

But what ought the President to do? Should he protest, with an intimation of armed force behind the protest?

If it was Mexico, or Cuba, the traditional policy of this Government would require pretty plain speaking; but the South American countries have been supposed to lie rather outside of our bailiwick.

There is one disheartening thing about Cincinnati.—*Commercial Gazette.*

Oh, bother! Don't give way to despondency. Brace up, or else you will never elect JOHN SHERMAN, with the Empire State Republicans dead against him.

It is hardly worth while, it seems to us, to erect on the plaza at the junction of the Fifth avenue and Fifty-ninth street a monument to the soldiers and sailors of this State who died in the civil war. This Senator MURPHY, in a bill which he has presented in the State Senate, proposes to do at a cost of $100,000, to be paid out of the State Treasury. It is twenty-three years since the war ended. Many of the men who fought against us are high in the councils of the Federal Government and of various State Governments, and many have been eagerly welcomed by the two great parties as members. The traditions of the war, its great battles, and the achievements of its heroes have already been commemorated in many ways, and will long live in the hearts of the people. It surely is not now necessary to take a large sum out of the State Treasury for the erection of a wholesale memorial.

The Reading miners have paid the expenses of a strike and AUSTIN CORBIN has won a great battle. And yet we venture the opinion that when the question of the men's wages for the future is adjusted it will be found that they will be just and liberal, and that no miners in Pennsylvania will be better off than the Reading men. That is the way to do things, and that, we think, is AUSTIN CORBIN'S way.

Fair pay from the employer and fair play from the employed; and prosperity for all!

This city is now pretty well supplied with armories for the service of the National Guard, and when the First Brigade seeks an appropriation of three-quarters of a million of dollars for a new armory, the committee of the Legislature to which the matter has been referred should take time to consider it fully.

Good! Even the *New York Tribune's* heart is softening toward "LARRY" GODKIN of the Second ward. It will jeer at him no more. "We shall refrain from making any discouraging comments," is the noble announcement of this generous newspaper. We hope soon to have the entire American press ranged with us in the effort to save "LARRY" from his divvle of unveracity—and then won't the alethometer hum?

THE FISHERY AGREEMENT.

Could Rights in Canadian Waters be Acquired by License or Purchase?

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The comments thus far made upon the work of the Fishery Commissioners indicate that this work may be found to please the Commissioners themselves rather more than the fishing communities of the countries for which they are presumably acting. This, however, is a result almost inevitable from the fact that the American fishermen, at least, did not ask for a treaty or for a Commission. Congress, too, took ground against attempting to settle the difficulty in this way. This fact may nevertheless have given Americans a certain advantage with the Commission, since they were expected to be readier than the Canadians to find fault with its work; but if, as the result, our fishermen should be found to have got the better half of the bargain—a point as yet surmised rather than known—the outcries at Ottawa and Halifax will become greater than at Gloucester and Portland. It would be odd if the treaty should commend itself less to the Dominion Parliament than to Congress.

But while the variety of comment provoked thus far is undoubtedly due in part to the fact that the real provisions of the document have hitherto been largely a matter of conjecture, the question is suggested whether it would not have been simpler for the Commission to secure for American fishermen all rights of fishing in Dominion waters either by annual permit or by purchase outright.

Instead of taking up a multitude of details, and defining how far the American fishermen might go in their enjoyment of the privileges of Canadian harbors, a shorter method, it is suggested, might be to make them pay a license for fishing each season, or else to acquire the right in perpetuity. In the former case the burden would come upon those fishermen who desired the privilege; in the latter upon the country at large.

That Canada has a right to keep her fishing grounds to herself, when situated within her own marine domain, no one questions. She has also the right to sell privileges of using them; and as a matter of history, she did sell such privileges during the period which intervened between the expiration of the first reciprocity treaty and the signing of the second. The treaty of 1854 expired in 1865, and the treaty of Washington did not follow until 1871. In the half dozen years intervening Canada licensed many of our vessels to fish in her waters, as she could do again to-day. It is true that at last very few vessels availed themselves of the privilege; but that was apparently because the rates of license were sharply raised. The first year the Canadian Government charged Yankees a ton on an American vessel's tonnage for allowing it to fish in all waters; the second year this rate was raised to $1 a ton; the third and fourth years it was made $2. At this last charge a vessel of 75 tons had to pay $150; and vexation at the constant haggling of the price may have combined with hesitation to pay a considerable sum outright for advantages not quite certain, and with occasional changes in the habitat of the mackerel, to make most American vessels conclude to take their chances with fishing on the high seas. Still, some of them might think otherwise now, with the imposition of a fair license and the mackerel again, in some places, schooling well inshore, as during the last few seasons.

The other plan which has been suggested would be for the Government to buy outright and forever the privilege of fishing in Canadian waters, and have done with the whole trouble. Doubtless the memory of the Halifax award might cause apprehension that a heavy price would be set on this privilege. But the preposterous character of that award has since caused careful statistics to be made of the comparatively small value of the fishing really done by Americans in Canadian waters, so that there is less danger of overestimating the venality. Inasmuch as the maritime provinces of the Dominion are clamoring against its financial burdens, and since they would properly claim that the money thus received should be appropriated chiefly or wholly to them, as they furnish the privileges sold, they might be found, after all, as urgent as any other part of Canada in welcoming such a settlement.

One Will Pray and the Other Won't.

From the London Truth.

The Archbishop of York has issued a prayer asking God "to remove this great trial which Thou hast sent us"—*i. e.*, the small-pox epidemic. On this Dr. Dallinger of Sheffield, who is an eminent man of science as well as a divine, says:

"I will yield to no man in reverence for true prayer; but I will tell you without flinching that I cannot, and I will not, pray for the removal of the small-pox scourge. It would be a mockery of God. Let us do our best, and then in baffled agony cry to God for help. But here we have not helped ourselves, and how dare we ask the Almighty to help us? Let us do our duty, act up to our knowledge, and as surely as the small-pox curse came among us by physical laws broken, so it will depart from us if we see to it that physical laws are obeyed."

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Black satin corsets are being discussed. In Paul Bourget's last novel, "Les Mensonges," he dressed his heroine in a black corset, and thereupon received numerous notes, some caressed, saying that it was not fashionable. Bourget is now going about among the Parisian dressmakers to get data to establish his theory.

The applications for membership to the Marylebone Cricket Club are so numerous that a candidate proposed now would not come up under the existing regulations before 1930.

The export of African diamonds for 1887 was 5,589,036 carats, of the value of £4,251,837.

The Rev. Mr. Haweis, who lectured on music recently in this country, appeared lately in the police court on a charge of keeping a crowing cock which annoyed his neighbors. The rooster had to be sacrificed.

There is trouble over the special trains which Queen Victoria used last year on the Continent. The Queen won't pay and neither will the Treasury. Probably the railroad companies will get left.

The first time the 100-ton gun was fired at Gibraltar it knocked out its carriage.

The semi-annual earnings at the London Alhambra, where the ballet is the chief attraction, were £13,000.

The early closing bill is now in Parliament, and it may surprise some to learn that Mr. Charles Bradlaugh is its leading opponent.

The Russian Government has discovered an old law forbidding Jews from acting in certain provinces, and in consequence several actors have been compelled to cancel their engagements.

In the new periodical, *Baby*, Mme. Vaquelin says that French children keep very bad hours, feed irregularly, eat everything, and are washed but once a week.

The sole export of the Scilly Islands is blooming. During the month of January ten tons of narcissus were exported, against one ton in the corresponding month of last year. In 1887 about 15,000,000 stems were exported.

When Gen. Boulanger entered the Chatelet Theatre, accompanied by his wife and two daughters, on Feb. 7, the audience stood up, raised their hats, and shouted: "Vive Boulanger!" Another demonstration was made when his carriage drove away.

Julius Sachs, one of the most celebrated pianoforte teachers of Germany, has just died in Frankfort.

Southern Russia has taken to cultivating tobacco, for which the climate and soil are admirably adapted.

The Literary and Debating Society of Pekin are discussing whether "the influence of the Literati in China is for good or for evil." The question is still unsettled.

We were mistaken the other day in attributing to Judge Wallace some excellent remarks upon the foolish economy of the Department of Justice in refusing to pay for a stenographer for the King murder trial in Brooklyn. It is Judge Lacombe who presides in that trial, and the observations we referred to were made by him.

The worry of a constant cough, and the soreness of lungs which generally accompanies it, are both remedied by Dr. James's Expectorant.—Adv.

THE SPENCER COLLECTION.

Sixty-eight pictures belonging to Mr. Albert Spencer of this city are now on exhibition in the Ortgies Gallery, and will be sold at auction on the evening of Feb. 28.

Mr. Spencer's collection of modern French pictures has often been called the best in America. Certain examples of its treasures which have been loaned from time to time to various exhibitions, have seemed to make the verdict a just one; and a view of the whole collection now shows that in one sense at least it may well be endorsed. The collection is not by any means the largest in the country. It is not by any means the most representative in the sense of including the works of the largest number of famous painters. Nor does it contain so many very famous canvases as one or two others which might be named. If it is indeed the best, it acquires its rank by virtue of its high level of excellence, of the great and almost uniform beauty and value of all the works which it includes. It is almost impossible to decide which of Mr. Spencer's pictures are his very best; it is difficult to point out more than half a dozen or so which fall conspicuously lower than the best; and of really poor or wholly uninteresting work there is not an example on the wall. Knaus's flying cherubs and Hamon's weakly pretty fancies (there are two examples of each) do indeed seem out of place among their nobler companions. But they are good of their kind, and their kind, after all, is not inartistic. An excellent example of Schreyer—a second-rate painter of many charming qualities—may also, perhaps, be put on one side, and a remarkably satisfactory Gérôme—a "Snake Charmer," with a group of beautifully drawn but badly painted figures and a most superbly painted stretch of blue-tiled wall. These six pictures, which might themselves seem chief attractions in an average exhibition, are literally all which in this exhibition the severest critic would willingly dispense with.

To Millet the first place should, perhaps, be given. His most familiar phase is admirably shown in the "Shepherdess" standing knitting by a tree, which is known through his own etched reproduction, and by the smaller of his two "Gleaners," marvellously fine in composition and most attractive in its blond scale of color. But, in addition to these, we find a group of early works of a very different character—works which show Millet the colorist, Millet the dreamer of classic visions, Millet the artist pure and simple, before his Barbizon days of single-minded sympathy with peasant life and intense devotion to the task of painting its sad realities. It still lies, and always will lie, with individual tastes, one might almost say with individual consciences, to decide whether or no Millet did well for himself and well for the world in turning from the nymph to the laboror, in deciding to prefer moral, emotional meaning to external physical charm, in addressing himself consciously and deliberately to the observer's heart in the first place, to his æsthetic instinct only in the second place. But there is no question about the relative value of his earlier and his later works considered from the point of view of pure art. The lover of pure art—the man who demands first of all that his eye shall be enchanted with beautiful color, beautiful lines, beautiful textures, and beautiful handiwork—finds the true Millet, the great Millet, in those little early Arcadian canvases which his own later thought so heartily condemned. Look in this exhibition at the "Sleeping Woman" (seen from the back, nude, lying on white draperies), which is probably the masterpiece of his early period. Those who saw it at the Bartholdi Loan Exhibition of a few years since will not need to be told that no one who ever lived painted flesh just like this; that no one since Titian has painted it so beautifully, or that no one now alive could think of matching it. Look at the "Diana Reposing," with its almost equally lovely flesh, its admirable expression of utter languor, and its marvellously splendid, deep, rich greens; and at the "After Bathing," so eccentric yet fine in the pose of the figure, so idyllic, noble, and individual in its background—almost a Prud'hon for beauty, more than a Prud'hon for tender charm. Who else ever painted things just like these? Who since the greatest days of art ever painted things so beautiful? And what might not their painter have accomplished had he pursued beauty with his maturer powers, and mastered form as completely as he had already mastered poetic sentiment and color? The remaining example of Millet in this collection forms an interesting link between the two kinds of work thus noted. It shows the figure of a peasant woman seated on a bank with a little child beside her; the theme belongs to his later period, the treatment reminds us of his earlier, for beauty of type and of effect are conspicuously present. Were the picture not marred by the slovenly drawing of the woman's hand it would be hard to exaggerate its excellence.

Next after the Millets one should notice perhaps the Rousseaus. They include no canvas of absolutely first importance like the "Hoar Frost," which Mr. Walters owns, or the splendid large forest landscape in Mr. Schaus's private gallery. But there are several small masses, all, with perhaps one exception, very excellent, and so diverse that they give a good idea of the scope of the great master's power. It is merely an expression of personal taste to name first the "Ravines of Apremont" in which Rousseau does what Ruysdael so often did, and does it even better—paints a vast stretch of almost naked ground, and a background of heavy gray sky. It is a magnificent piece of work—as subtile as it is grand, and as beautiful as sober. In strong contrast is the "Cottage at Berri," with its rich luscious greens. Another very different note is struck in the "Sunset in a Wood," with its almost black foliage, shot with glints of fiery red; and still another in the "Autumn Evening," with its foreground of rough, dwarfish, brown shrubbery against a luminous sky, gray below, and growing pinkish toward the zenith.

The finest of the Dupréspand nothing could be finer in its way—is the "Fishing Boat in a Storm," a dramatic conception and a masterly harmony of blues. The landscapes by this master are also good, but there are better in existence. On the other hand, a finer landscape was never painted by Diaz than the large "Clearing in the Forest of Fontainebleau." It has almost the grandeur of a Rousseau with all the half-savage sentiment of its own maker. Nothing could be more instructive than to see how few and how homely are the elements with which its dignity and beauty have been achieved—merely a stretch of rough, bushy hillside ground with a little pool or two and a couple of small ragged trees, and a stretch of cloudy sky above—such elements as every New Englander sees every day in the outskirts of his own villages. Diaz and his brethren knew that the forest of Fontainebleau was enough for them—that they need not follow Claude to Italy. It is curious reasoning which makes the neophyte of to-day conclude that he must therefore follow them to the forest of Fontainebleau.

There are no less than sixteen examples of Diaz in this collection, showing him in every phase of his very varied art. There are small religious conceptions, interesting rather than satisfactory in sentiment, several fine landscapes smaller than the one just named, and delightful examples of his semi-fantastic, semi-ideal work with the figure. Chief among these last perhaps is the "Page and Hounds," a marvel of luscious color, though there are many who will prefer to it that "Siesta" which was painted in those earlier years when Diaz, too, reminds us a little of Prud'hon. Nor should the smaller of his two flower paintings be overlooked—a very gem of beautiful color and exquisite workmanship, which is injured by an over-gorgeous frame. There are but two Corots in the gallery, but both are good, and one, the "Morning—Ville d'Avray," is remarkably fine. A more delicious cloud-flecked auroral sky even Corot himself never painted. The two Daubigny's are also fine, especially the "Midsummer—Edge of a Pond." And the three Troyons are most interesting, two being early works, and one a work of his very best period, painted in 1851. This, of all others, is the picture of the collection which one can fancy pleasing an English amateur, for it is just such a scene as this, with its sheep and cattle, its broad, quiet landscape, and its sunny atmosphere, that countless English painters have tried to reproduce—seldom with a tithe of Troyon's supreme success.

The single Jules Bréton is a large one, "Le Soir," and beyond question a masterpiece—more beautiful in its lines than most of his recent pictures, and, although full of tender and personal sentiment, marred by no slightest touch of sentimentality. The three foreground figures of women tired with their potato digging—one lying on the ground, one sitting, and one standing and stretching her weary arms—are noble in effect and realistic in conception, while the background, with its evening mists and pink rising moon, is a wonder of atmosphere and light.

Every one will rejoice to see again the beautiful "Christ at the Tomb" of Delacroix, which, like the famous Millet, was shown at the Bartholdi Loan Exhibition. Contrast it with Meissonier's "Standard Bearer," which hangs near by, and we see how fundamental may be the divergence between pictures of the highest excellence, not only in conception, sentiment, and color, but in execution, too. A finer Meissonier has never been exhibited here than this one, with its admirably poised little figure, as vital and forceful as though it were six feet high, and its subtile scheme of color, in which cool grays and blacks and pale browns work wonderfully with warm yellows and a single accent of tender blue. Nor could the skill of the human hand go further than in its exquisite execution, at once admirably broad and incomparably detailed. To an artist Delacroix's bolder way of getting his effect will doubtless seem still more admirable; but it is difficult to say which would be the harder way for him to imitate, Delacroix's or Meissonier's. The other example of Meissonier is good, but not nearly as good: while the other Delacroix—a "Tiger Drinking"—is a wonder of force, movement, and sumptuous color.

Two water colors by Barye—animals, of course—should not be forgotten; nor Plassan's lovely little figure called "The Anniversary;" nor a very clever figure of a woman carrying a great bunch of lilies, by Alfred Stevens; nor Knaus's singularly artistic picture of a drove of swine on an evening hillside; nor the large Isabey, which is an unusually good example—more sober and more reposeful than many of his works; nor the tiny Domingo and the two tiny Boldinis—miniatures in their size, but pictures in their force, vitality, and charm; nor the five Fromentins, which are very varied, and all of them interesting.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

For the last three weeks people have been wondering how Mrs. Bradley Martin would carry out her enterprise of entertaining 100 guests at dinner under her own roof without striking on the rocks of splurge and pretension on one side, or stranding in the quicksands of confusion and fuss on the other. The result showed Mrs. Martin to possess the most perfect generalship in all social matters, for a more beautiful and symmetrical entertainment was never given in this city. If there had been a dozen guests instead of a hundred the machinery could not have worked more smoothly. In the dressing room each gentleman received a card, which not only gave the name of the lady whom he was to take in, but a diagram of the table at which the two