LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

MR. BLAND FIGHTING THE PUBLIC BUILDING BILLS IN THE HOUSE.

He Expresses His Determination to Put Members on Record on Each and Every Measure—Senator Stockbridge Sells a Three-year-old Stallion for $35,000—A Virginia Newspaper Congressman Makes a Hit in the House—The Fight Between Indiana's Republican Presidential Candidates Getting Hot and Bitter.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Mr. Bland of Missouri made a savage attack on the public building bills in the House to-day. The House was in Committee of the Whole, and the floor was accorded to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. The first bill called up was one appropriating $75,000 additional for the public building in Chattanooga. Mr. Bland opposed the bill, and spoke especially in opposition to the manner in which the House acted upon such measures. He said that it was a matter of ambition for a member to show his constituents his influence and power by securing a building for his district. As a member who had a bill for such a purpose pending could not antagonize a similar bill championed by a brother member, one-half of the House was involved in log-rolling.

Mr. Dibble of South Carolina defended the committee, and described the manner in which it secured the information as to the needs of the Government upon which it based its report.

Mr. Browne of Indiana expressed the hope that the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds would report favorably every bill that asked the construction of a public building in every city, town, or village where the needs of the public service demanded it. He knew of no better way to use the surplus in the Treasury than by sending it into the sovereign States for buildings for Post Offices and Federal courts. He would welcome Post Offices into his sovereign State as he would welcome a national bank and Bland silver dollars, which were illustrative, the one of the glory and the other of the power of the Government, for it took considerable power to make seventy cents worth of silver equal to one dollar.

Mr. Bland said he was glad that this speech had come from the other side of the House. It was the expression of the opinion that the House was here to dispose of the surplus in wasteful extravagance, instead of to reduce taxation. That was the issue in this House and would be the issue in the next campaign. The hundred million surplus in the Treasury came from the taxes paid by the laboring men. Every dollar paid into the Treasury had cost the taxpayer at least $5. The $100,000,000 in the Treasury represented $400,000,000 which had gone into the hands of capitalists and monopolists and trusts under the infamous system of a protective tariff. The Government had a debt upon which the money should be paid, and he was sorry that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Mills) had not brought forward his bill which authorized such payment. He did not wonder that gentlemen on the other side had voted solidly for all the public building measures. They desired to take the money from the Treasury to perpetuate a system of taxation which was onerous and burdensome. [Applause.] He had been attempting in vain to secure a yea and nay vote on the passage of these measures, for he did not desire that the gentlemen on the other side should go into the next campaign charging the Democratic party with extravagance without themselves going upon record.

Mr. Bland then offered an amendment providing that no public buildings shall hereafter be constructed unless some one of the Executive Department shall first certify to Congress that no suitable accommodation for the service of the Government can be obtained in the city or towns specified at a less rental than $5,000 a year. The amendment was ruled out of order and the bill was agreed to.

Upon the next bill, appropriating $250,000 for the purchase of a site for a public building at Buffalo, Mr. Bland renewed his attack upon the tariff, and advocated the reduction of the surplus by the payment of the bonded debt. He appealed to the House to cease its waste of money on these public buildings, and to come down to the Democratic doctrine of economy and reduction of taxation. He referred to the President's message (a reference which was received with applause on the Democratic side), and as a Democrat denounced every attempt to take the people's money from the Treasury by the Blair Educational bill, public building measures, and other misguiding propositions. He would not permit a handful of men to sweep these bills through in shame and scandal, but he would avail himself of his constitutional right to require a quorum to vote on every proposition.

The next bill was the Senate bill appropriating $1,200,000 for a building at Omaha, with a proposed substitute appropriating $500,000 for the purchase of a site, but making no appropriation for the building. Mr. Bland, however, by offering numerous amendments, prevented a vote being taken on the bill.

Senator Stockbridge is the owner of a very fine farm, just one mile outside the city of Kalamazoo, in which historic town he has his home. On this farm he has some valuable horses, most of them being fast stock. Senator Stockbridge purchased a colt one year ago from Senator Stanford for $5,000. A week ago the Michigan Senator received a telegram making him an offer of $29,000 for his colt. He took the offer into consideration, and when he was in Michigan a few days ago attending the Republican love feast, he closed the bargain for his colt for the sum of $35,000. The name of this fancy-priced colt is Bell Boy. He was sired by Electioneer, dam Beautiful Bells. During the season of 1887 he won $6,500 in stake races, and made a record of 2 26¾ as a two-year-old. This record has never been beaten by a colt of Bell Boy's age, and the figure for which he was sold is the largest sum ever paid for a three-year-old stallion in America. He was purchased from Senator Stockbridge by horsemen in Frankfort, Ky. Senator Stockbridge's colleague, Senator Palmer, who is also a lover of fine stock, sent an agent recently to Arabia to purchase five full-blooded Arabian mares which he desired to cross with Percheron horses in order to get a new breed. The agent, who has reached Damascus, notified Senator Palmer that he has received information that the Sultan has just issued a firman that no more horses shall be taken out of the country. The agent will not give up yet, however, as he still hopes for success by means of American gold. Senator Palmer thinks that if any such firman was issued by the Sultan, it was brought out in anticipation of war.

The youngest looking man in the House, and one of the very smallest physically, is Mr. Yost, a Republican member from Virginia. He jumped into the arena of debate for the first time to-day, and showed that he was capable of making a good fight to carry a point. He had a bill to pay a pension of $30 per month, with arrears from 1878, to the widow of Major Ralph Kirby, a hero of the Florida and other wars, who died more than forty years ago. Some of the members attacked the bill, and many of them crowded down into the area in front of the Speaker's desk, and began a cross-fire debate. Mr. Yost took a hand in it, and made a lively little five-minute speech. It made many friends for his bill, which he carried by a good majority. Mr. Yost claimed that the Government is indebted to Mrs. Kirby in the sum of $40,000, but that, as she was 78 years of age, and nearing her grave, he was willing that the pension should be allowed in lieu of what was rightfully due her. As the small, slender, sallow-faced Virginian stood among the groups of members talking fearlessly and well, he received hearty applause, and when the vote was taken, it was found that he had won. Yost is one of the bright newspaper men of the House, being the editor and owner of one of the best dailies in Virginia. He was brought up in a newspaper office, and is said to be one of the brightest young men in the State. He is short, wiry and nervous, with thick dark brown hair, sallow face, small features and bright eyes. He looks so little like a Congressman that he is often taken for one of the numerous employees about the chamber.

The fight between the adherents of Indiana's two Presidential candidates, Gresham and Harrison, is being waged with great bitterness. An Indiana Republican who has served several years in Congress, and who is known throughout his State, was the centre of a group of Hoosier Republicans at the Capitol to-day, who were discussing the attack recently made on ex-Senator Ben Harrison's Chinese record, and during the course of the conversation he said: "This question has been dug up by the friends of Gresham. It bears on its face his ear marks. But it will do Gresham no good to try to work up a Presidential boom. He could not carry Indiana, or any of the close States where there is organized labor, and it would be difficult to find a State that does not have strong labor organizations. The first thing that would be done by the Democrats, if Gresham was the candidate of the Republicans, would be to take up his record on the strikes in 1877. Gresham was on the bench at Indianapolis then, and the railroad strikers were charged with impeding public business by persuading every one to quit the employ of the railroads and leave transportation at a standstill. In some instances the strikers resorted to force, and upon an order of Judge Gresham a large number of the strikers were thrown in jail and kept there until taken out on bail or by habeas corpus. It was then that Gov. Porter made himself solid with the people of Indiana and Governor in 1880. Porter saw the injustice of Gresham's order and went to the relief of the strikers by offering to gratuitously defend them. His proposition was accepted, and he had all of the strikers under arrest acquitted. Porter was three years later supported by the solid labor vote for the work he did in overthrowing Gresham, and rendering justice to the strikers. Then that driven-well decision would drive thousands of votes from Gresham in Indiana and Ohio and Michigan and several other States. Gresham confirmed the validity of the patents, by which every farmer who had secured a driven well was compelled to pay a royalty and costs. The validity of the patents was subsequently overthrown by the Supreme Court of the United States, and the ruling of Gresham became an open injustice to the men who had been squeezed; but the decision of the higher court came so many years after they had paid their money that there was no recourse, and they lost it. All of this talk about Gresham in Indiana, and there is very little of it, is from a small crowd of men who do not like Harrison. It is not that they love Gresham more, that they are trying to get up a dissension. I will venture the assertion that there is not five per cent. of the Republicans in Indiana who would prefer Gresham to Harrison for the Presidential nomination, and I know that Harrison would carry at least 10,000 more votes in the State than Gresham.

"While Gresham was on the bench ordering the strikers thrown into jail," continued the distinguished Hoosier Republican, "Harrison was assisting the strikers to get relief from their predicament, and to secure arbitration of their troubles. He went to the railroad officials for the strikers, and did everything he could to arbitrate the differences, and they were finally settled, largely through his mediation. At the time the strikers were arrested, or rather the leaders, Gov. "Blue Jeans" Williams requested Harrison, who was connected with the State militia, to command the troops and suppress what threatened to be a riot. Harrison promptly refused to comply with the request, and announced that he was on the side of the strikers and was befriending them. He was not subject to the order of the State Executive, and could therefore act as he wished. Besides the indignation which would spring up throughout the country on account of Gresham's attitude toward laborers, there would be bitter opposition to his candidacy among all the attorneys who have practised before him. The lawyers in Indiana especially would be up in arms, for they all declare they never practised before a Judge who was more impatient and tyrannical and generally unreasonable than Walter Q. Gresham. But, referring to the record of Harrison on the Chinese problem, which came before the Senate when he was a member of it, I find by an examination of the *Congressional Record*, that he voted on the main proposition, and especially the Miller bill, just the same as did Senators Hawley, Allison, and others in the Senate who are mentioned for the Presidential nomination."

Arrangements were perfected at the Treasury Department to-day for the transfer on March 1 of the office of Assistant Treasurer at New York from Mr. C. J. Canda to Judge Alexander McCue. The official bond of Judge McCue was received at the department this morning. It is for $400,000, and contains the following names as sureties, each in the sum of $20,000: Ripley Ropes, Edmund W. Corlies, John T. Martin, Edwin F. Knowiton, Henry K. Sheldon, William H. Male, Alexander M. White, S. W. Boocock, John Jay Knox, Alexander D. Napier, Charles R. Flint, Horace K. Thurber, Elihu Spicer, J. S. T. Stranahan, Samuel McLean, Alexander P. Orr, Henry W. Johns, John H. Morrow, Samuel Thomas, and Peter Bentley. The bond was approved.

The condition of the work on the naval vessels being built at Cramp's shipyard is stated as follows: Ways are being put under the gunboat Yorktown preparatory to her launching; the dynamite cruiser (unnamed) is ready for the ways, and will be launched a few days later than the Yorktown. Both these vessels will be launched inside of a month. The cruiser Baltimore is in frame and all plated up, and her deck beams are crossed for all decks. Everything is in readiness for work on the cruisers Newark and Philadelphia. The blocking is all down for laying the keel of the former, and the keel of the latter will be laid inside of six weeks.

It is rumored that Gen. John Newton, Superintendent of Public Works at New York, is to be appointed Superintendent of the Coast Survey, but in the absence of the President it is impossible to obtain any authentic information on the subject.

POLITICS HOT IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Democratic Supremacy Threatened, but they will Probably Pull Through.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—"A combination of concurrent circumstances," as an old friend of mine used to say, has rendered the ascendancy of the dominant Democracy in North Carolina anything but sure and steadfast.

When the Republicans were in power, twenty years ago, they reversed the old order of things, respecting the county Governments, by a change in the Constitution, which made it necessary to elect the Justices of the Peace by the people. From the organization of the Republican State Constitution, in 1776, until the year 1868, the practice had been to appoint the Justices by the Governor, on the recommendation of the members of the General Assembly from the several counties. These Justices had the complete control of county affairs.

They decided how much revenue would be necessary for county purposes, the rate of taxation, and the assessments; they ordered and supervised the building of bridges, the making and repair of roads, and the erection of court houses, jails, and other public buildings; they had the care of the destitute poor; they appointed the poll keepers, and the places for holding the elections. The Justices were also invested with the high prerogative of holding four quarterly "Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions." These courts had jurisdiction of civil suits and of crimes, or offences, below the grade of capital felonies.

The Governments of counties are those which come nearest to people; and, indeed, an honest administration of county affairs is of more essential importance to the citizen than that of Federal affairs. It must be owned, therefore, that the extensive powers conferred upon the Justices were well calculated to arouse a spirit of jealousy. Yet in a purely agricultural country like North Carolina, where everybody knows everybody for miles around, where money is scarce, and where the officials are closely watched, the system worked well enough.

The Justices were paid nothing for their ordinary services of issuing warrants and hearing and determining complaints and causes involving a few dollars. It was only when they held the quarterly courts that they were paid a small per diem, and these courts were usually confided to five members of the quorum. But there were immunities attached to the office of Justice. These were exemptions from mustering under the old militia laws, six times a year, with a fowling piece or a corn stalk; working on the roads as many times in the year, and serving on juries. These exemptions induced many men to seek the office of Justice who had no qualification for the discharge of the duties, but who possessed sufficient influence with the county representative to secure the place. There was no limit to the number of Justices to which a county was entitled, and there were instances of counties mustering 1,000 militiamen, which were blessed with 150 conservators of the peace.

The Republican carpet-baggers, in 1868, broke up this system by making the Justices elective by the people and stripping them of their high administrative and judicial functions. The administrative duties were imposed by the new Constitution upon five County Commissioners, elected biennally by the people. The Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions were abolished, but the jurisdiction of single Justices was enlarged, and the whole jurisdiction of crimes and of important civil suits was devolved upon the Circuit Courts.

The new order of government failed to work well. There was any amount of stealing and jobbery; but the failure of the system was rather due to the men who had it in charge than to the system itself, and there was some improvement as time wore on, and the gorged carpet-baggers were thrown out like bloated drones from the hive.

When the Democrats came into power, they soon found the way to the restoration of the old system in some of its essential features. The seventh article of the Constitution of 1868 provided by its third, fourth and fifth sections for the division of the counties into townships by the County Commissioners. The qualified voters in each township were authorized to elect a clerk and two Justices of the Peace; and the Justices and clerk were constituted a Board of Trustees, whose duty it was to assess taxes for the support of schools and for other township purposes. But the report of the Commissioners upon their division of the counties into townships, before going into effect, must first be approved by the General Assembly; and section 11 of the same article provides that "the Governor shall appoint a sufficient number of Justices of the Peace in each county, who shall hold their places until sections 4, 5, and 6 of this article shall have been carried into effect."

This last-named section left it discretionary with the Republican majority in the Legislature to defeat the clauses providing for the election of Justices by the people. But by approving the action of the Commissioners they carry those provisions into effect. And yet it may be doubted whether their opponents, when they came into power, would have defeated the system by ordering a redistricting of the State into townships, and then withholding the legislative sanction from the reports of the Commissioners.

However, the Democrats when they came into power took a surer course. A convention was called to remodel the Constitution. This body met in Raleigh in September, 1875, and among the changes made in the organic law was the following section added to Article VII.:

Section 14. The General Assembly shall have full power by statute to modify, change, or abrogate any and all of the provisions of this article, and substitute others in their place, except sections 7, 9, and 13.

These excepted sections impose restraints upon the financial authority of the county officers.

The first section (it should have been stated above) of Article VII. provides also for the election, by the qualified voters, of certain county officers, namely, a Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Surveyor, and five Commissioners.

The Democratic Legislature, in 1877, passed an act, in conformity with section 14, by which the provisions of Article VII., for the election of County Commissioners and Justices of the Peace, were set aside, and the right taken from the people and conferred upon the Legislature. And this is now the great bone of contention between the Republicans and the Democracy. The seventh may be styled the India rubber article of the Constitution, which may be pulled into any shape that pleases the fancy of the party dominant for the time being. It presents a highly popular issue for the Republicans. The Western Democrats are not so strongly in favor of preserving the present system, of conferring upon the Legislature the choice of County Commissioners and Justices, as their eastern friends desire. Indeed, in western Democratic counties, where there is no fear of electing negro, or even Republican county officers, the feeling is decidedly in favor of popular elections, and the draft upon their partisan loyalty is heavy, which asks of them the sacrifice of the "inalienable right" of choosing their own officers.

In the east, where the negro vote is heavy, a change of the system means a return to negro Justices and County Commissioners, and the feeling there on the subject is one of far greater intensity than that involved in the question of Presidential and Congressional ascendancy.

Another matter is one of great concern to the Democracy. It is the question of a repeal of the Federal internal taxes. It cannot be called an issue, since both parties are equally in favor of the repeal. But the Democrats have had responsible, and it is freely admitted by intelligent men among them that unless the taxes on tobacco and on brandy distilled from fruit, at least, are repealed or modified, they will have great fears for the result of the November elections. Those elections will embrace the Legislature and State officials, as well as the President and Congressmen.

Another disturbing element in North Carolina politics is the young and vigorous organization of the Knights of Labor. These Knights are by no means of the Henry George school. They are protectionists and Republicans for the greater part. At any rate, they run with the Republican machine, and in 1886 they were strong enough to send two Republican Knights to Congress in place of two Democrats. These successful Knights were John Nichols of the Fourth, or Raleigh district, who comes in the place of William R. Cox, and who defeated John W. Graham, Democrat, a son of the late Gov. Graham; and John W. Brower of the Fifth district, who defeated and succeeds James W. Reid, Democrat. The defeat of Mr. Reid was mainly, if not entirely, due to local and personal considerations; but in the case of Mr. Graham no such explanation can be given. Mr. Cox was elected in 1884 by a majority of 5,000 votes over his Republican opponent, while Mr. Nichols, the Republican Knight of Labor, defeated Mr. Graham, the regular nominee of the Democracy, a gentleman of ability and character, by a majority of 1,386 in a vote of more than 6,000 votes in the metropolitan district. It is significant, and may well excite uneasiness in the Democratic party.

The great advantage in the contest enjoyed by the Democracy consists in their greatly superior wealth and intelligence. But to their honor be it said, there is no bulldozing practised by them; and I doubt if, on the whole, there is a State in the Union where elections are more fairly conducted than in North Carolina. It may be said, also, that the laboring people in North Carolina are perhaps less influenced in their elections by employers than elsewhere, North or South. This is shown by the votes, from year to year, in the Second district, where, until the last Congressional election, the Republicans have uniformly polled some eight or ten thousand majority. In 1886, O'Hara, the colored representative, had forfeited the confidence of his race and was defeated by Mr. Simmons, the Democratic candidate, who received thousands of colored votes.

In spite of the untoward circumstances above stated, the Democracy cherish an abiding faith in their success. I think the chances are in their favor, but it will be by the skin of their teeth.

Mr. Ransom has been a good deal exercised about his return to the Senate; but his friends are now confident that if the party succeeds he will be safe. A constitutional limitation will exclude Gov. Scales from reflection to that office, and there is a good deal of speculation as to his successor. If Jarvis, the Minister to Brazil, wants it, he can have the nomination; but it is feared by Ransom's friends that Jarvis only wants to be elected Governor as a stepping stone to the United States Senate.

If the Democracy of the South were wise, they would everywhere appeal to the negroes on the tariff question, for no people in America have so little interest in protection as they have. It is only in Louisiana that negroes are employed in the production of protected articles, and it seems to be conceded that the duties on sugar are to be repealed or greatly reduced.

Negroes are rarely if ever employed in the cotton factories, while the tobacco manufacture, instead of being protected, is heavily taxed. But the average Southern Democratic politician shuts his eyes to such facts as these, and clamors for "the white man's party."

A BREEZE IN WASHINGTON.

Tammany Hall Said to Be in High Favor at the Executive Mansion.

From the Evening Sun.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—"That was a great session of the National Committee," said Marcus Aurelius Smith, the delegate from Arizona, this morning. "It was the first session in which the States, Territories, and Tammany Hall were all represented."

Mr. Smith referred to the executive session of the committee. Among the crowd who were in the hall when the committee met were most of the Congressmen from New York, ex-Register John Reilly, Order of Arrest Clerk James Martin, and Fire Commissioner Richard Croker. Martin, Reilly, and the Congressmen were ushered into the hotel corridors. The Tammany chief, however, remained, at the urgent solicitation of Chairman Barnum, William L. Scott, Patrick H. Walsh, and others. He was frequently consulted by members of the committee during the session.

The cordiality with which Mr. Croker has been received by the President and others has attracted attention. It is considered indicative of a desire on the part of the President to cultivate closer relations with Tammany Hall. Mr. Croker spent two hours in private conversation with President Cleveland at the White House. It is averred that it was at his suggestion that the President telegraphed to Mr. Steinway to come on from New York and represent the State in the National Committee.

When the President went to the Baltimore and Potomac depot to take the special train for Florida, the Tammany chief happened to be in the building to see some friends off to the city. The special train had been waiting some time when the President entered the depot. His wife was with him. He carried her wrap upon his arm as he entered the depot. On seeing Mr. Croker there he started in pleasant surprise. Mrs. Cleveland greeted the Commissioner with much suavity, and the President took him aside and had a whispered conference, lasting fully five minutes. The train was kept waiting until the conversation closed. The President then shook hands very warmly with the Tammany chief, and was soon spinning on his way to the orange groves of Florida.

Mr. Croker has been overwhelmed with attention during his sojourn in Washington. While the County Democracy were entertaining Judge Power in New York, he was enjoying the hospitality of Secretary Whitney in the Secretary's charming residence on the heights overlooking Washington. The dinner was magnificent and the wines were exquisite. The President's country home, Oak View, is within rifle shot of the mansion. The Tammany chief also called upon Postmaster-General Don Dickinson, and was received with the utmost warmth. Both leaders exchanged chunks of Democratic wisdom, and separated apparently imbued with the greatest affection for each other.

In all places and at all times during his stay here Mr. Croker seems to have been a welcome guest. How far he is responsible for the selection of St. Louis and of the date, June 5, for the place and time of holding the Convention is not precisely known, but there are good grounds for believing that without his aid Bill Scott would have been unable to perfect and carry out his plans.

Mr. Croker left for New York last night. Congressmen Felix Campbell, Timothy J. Campbell, Lloyd Bryce, Ashbel P. Fitch, Amos J. Cummings, Stephen V. White, Robert J. Vance, and Carlos French, and Gov. Abbett of New Jersey, Judge Joachimsen, ex-Register Reilly, James Martin, and others accompanied him.

The weather in Washington while Mr. Croker was here was very fair and bright.

The weather in New York to-day is very stormy and disagreeable.

A Fourth Pleasure Tour to Florida via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged a fourth pleasure tour to Florida for March 6, 1888. Special train of Pullman sleeping cars will leave New York about 12:25 P. M. and running via Shenandoah Valley and East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia lines, reach Jacksonville in the afternoon of the second day.

Round-trip tickets, limited to two weeks in Florida, including Pullman accommodations and meals en route in both directions and one day's board at Hotel Everett, Jacksonville, will be sold from New York at $67. The party will be limited to 150 persons.

For tickets, itineraries, and detailed information apply to ticket agents, or address T. K. Draper, tourist agent, 849 Broadway, New York.—Adv.

Royal Baking Powder, Absolutely Pure. For twenty-five years the standard.—Adv.

FELIX BUHOT'S ETCHINGS.

Hundreds of persons etch in our day and generation, but the real etchers are few, and very few, indeed, are those who, while working in the true spirit of the art, reveal a truly individual personality. Among these very few Félix Buhot deserves a place, and a very high place. His individuality as an artist is as marked as his accomplishment as an etcher, and his work is so varied that almost every plate prompts to fresh examination of his methods, and excites to fresh interest in himself. It may easily be imagined, therefore, that Mr. Keppel's gallery, filled with some 250 prints and drawings of Buhot's, is an attractive place just now.

The collection represents the etcher as completely as the most curious amateur could ask. His most private and precious portfolios were freely opened to Mr. Keppel, and some ninety impressions, of which he himself possessed no duplicates, have been loaned by New York amateurs. In consequence we are shown not only the different recognized states of his chief productions, but a quantity of the most interesting experiments in the production of unique effects by complicated and original methods of execution and of printing. In some examples we find the pure etched line very purely used; in others the dry point has been conspicuously brought to bear; in others aquatint, in others again mezzotint, has been employed as an accessory; while in not a few even the trained eye of an experimental etcher is puzzled to know how the result has been arrived at. Beautiful and curious papers also bring their quota toward the general variety, and singular methods of preparing the paper too—as by the use of turpentine. Nothing could be more fascinating to the connoisseur than the study of all these technical niceties; and nothing could be more interesting to the lover of art in general than a study of the conceptions which they embody. M. Buhot is as far from being a mannerist in thought or vision as from being a mannerist in execution. A surprising versatility of sentiment, an astounding freshness of perception, reveal themselves as we pass his plates in review. It would be easy to believe them the work of half a dozen artists, instead of the work of one, did not a singular refinement, delicacy, and charm of sentiment bind them all together, showing as clearly when he is fantastic, when he is morbid, or when he is grim of idea, as when he is in a gently humorous or a purely idyllic mood. Whatever he is, he is always a poet, and a poet with the hand of a true artist at command. Nothing could be more purely idyllic, more full of true painter's poetry, than the "Geese," for instance, with its delicious early spring-time feeling, or than the strong yet incomparably tender dry point called "The Little Cottages," or than the forceful yet delicate work in line called "The Larger Cottages." The "Chapel of St. Michel," on the other hand, is serious and almost solemn in effect, and the "Angelus" is elegiac and mournful; but both are again poetic in sentiment, while it is wonderful to note how the needle varies its processes to suit the changing mood. With this group of landscapes a long series of Parisian street views stands in striking contrast—brilliant, audacious things in which effects of nightfall, of snow or of driving rain, are most often introduced. Some of them are a little grim in mood, others almost farcical, others more simply realistic; but all are realistic in the best sense of the word—surpassingly true to the true Paris of to-day; all are thoroughly artistic in conception, arrangement, and treatment; and all, despite their realism, show the underlying originality of sentiment and vision which proves the poet's thought guiding the artist's hand. And the same is true of that allied series of works which shows wharves and steamboats and their hurrying crowds. Then, making another striking contrast, we find a number of reproductive works—etchings of Japanese objects, for example—which rival Jules Jacquemart's in virile delicacy of touch and surpass them in the feeling which they show for the varied qualities of the substances portrayed. Then again there are a number of fantastic reveries, wild dreams, extraordinary visions, sometimes one with a plate all to itself, more often many fantasies blendled together in a composition which is as illogical as dreams themselves are, yet as charming or as amusing or as gruesome as dreams may be. In certain of these enigmatical plates the quality of the artist's imagination hardly rises above fancy, but in others it well deserves the nobler name. And how truly impressively imaginative, how dramatic he can be is also shown by the long series of tiny book illustrations which are loaned from Mr. Avery's collection.

The longer one stays in the room, the more one pores over its contents—ranging thus from the most simple to the most mysterious in idea, and from the most cheerful to the most lugubrious in feeling—the more interested one becomes in Buhot and his art. The pleasure to be had from the mere contemplation of so delightfully clever a hand at work would alone be absorbing. But to this is added the pleasure of seeing a strongly marked, yet very versatile personality revealing itself on all its sides, and, as each side is shown, throwing a new spell around us. We gradually make acquaintance not only with Buhot's hand but with himself, and we find him as charming as the workman. At last we cease to criticise at all; we cease even to object to the fact that the artist's tireless fancy has encircled some of his finest plates with a band of disconnected little visions, often exquisite in themselves but for many eyes detrimental to the effect of the dignified main composition. We cease to object even to this, for we are under the glamor of an artist who is genuinely such, and who is unlike any other artist that has ever lived, and everything he does seems right because everything is characteristic.

But the time to assign Buhot his real rank as an etcher pure and simple is the time of sober after-judgments. When we remember those works of his which have satisfied us best, and contrast them in our minds with the best products of other hands, or when we place them side by side with these and study them for their more recondite technical qualities, where does the artist stand? Tried by such a test, he loses no whit of his charm or his impressiveness while his extraordinary versatility comes into even higher relief. The more we weigh and reflect, the more convincing we are that he stands with the Whistlers and Hadens, with the Méryons and Jacquemarts—with the very first and foremost pennon bearers of his art. And it is as curious as enchanting to see how he now approaches the one in that kind of excellence which is peculiarly associated with his name, and now another, while never losing a particle of his individuality, while always being Buhot and not even suggesting the influence of any one else. If his reproductive work rivals or surpasses Jacquemart's, if he can use the dry-point almost as richly as Haden, and the delicately delicate line almost as magisterially as Whistler, and if he can be as firm in touch and as elegiac in sentiment as Méryon, there is never a hint that he had the work of the one or the other in mind as he drew. And he has still other plates to show us which can be compared with those of no one else, neither for their quality of feeling nor for the character of their execution. Who else ever showed us anything like the half-comical, half-tragic "Marine Painter," trudging along by a wind-blown twilit sea? Or who ever worked as he has worked in "Les Voisins de Campagne?" Who, indeed, can understand how Buhot worked when he produced this plate and many of the others? Yet who, working in the most simple and straightforward way, could be less affected, more artistic, more wholly absorbed in the desired result, more free from any wish to astound or puzzle the observer? It would be easy to fill many paragraphs with references to one work or another in the collection, so diverse is each from each in its attractions, so nearly equal are they all in interest. But after those many paragraphs had been written one might still feel that unjust partiality had been shown, for it would take more than many to name each individual print among two hundred. As a painter M. Buhot is not revealed to us in this exhibition; but as an aquarellist and a draughtsman we are given some insight into his power. We leave the room with but a single regret. Why has not M. Buhot used his needle upon some such theme as engaged his brush when he painted the "Reading of *Le Petit Journal?*" With such a power of characterization as this figure shows, and with such a command of all the resources of the needle as a hundred neighboring etchings show, why does he not contest Whistler's laurels as an etcher of the human face?

Old Long Islanders Dropping Off.

RIVERHEAD, Feb. 25.—There has been unusual mortality among the old folks of Suffolk county during the last ten days, as will be seen by the following list of deaths within that time: Julia A. Cleaves of Greenport, 84 years; Lewis Edwards, Amityville, 81; Sylvester Cooper, Mattituck, 86; Maria Topping, Middle Island, 80; Matilda Darling, Port Jefferson, 81; Maria M. Manley, Fresh Ponds, 82; Hosea Valentine, Dix Hills, 83; Phœbe Scudder, East Neck, 86; Hannah M. Cartwright, Shelter Island, 74; Sarah Magee, Aquebogue, 70; Charity A. Eldridge, Sag Harbor, 72; the Rev. John Nash Parker, Sag Harbor, 76; Phœbe Ann Conking, Amagansett, 70; Egbert V. Roman, East Hampton, 75; Isaac C. Halsey, West Hampton, 70; Lucretia Bickford, Setauket, 67; Remsen Hegeman, Melville, 70; Fowler Merritt, Huntington, 77.

EHRICHS', 8th Av., 24th and 25th Sts.

Genuine Bargains IN CHINA, SILVER, AND UPHOLSTERY.

TEA SET, 50 pieces, fine porcelain, handsome, square shape, neat floral decorations, in assorted colors, regular price $9.00, at $2.98

Our own new combination DINNER and TEA SETS, made of the finest quality thin porcelain ware, the most artistic, complete, and lowest price set ever offered, comprising everything required for a table, handsomely decorated with hand-painted flowers and gold bands in the newest square shape. We will sell these sets for this sale at $16.75, regular price $25.00.

Large TEA SETS, 50 pieces, new Venus shape, made of the finest quality thin porcelain and beautifully decorated with hand-painted flowers, gold band on each piece, at $3.95

French china CUP and SAUCERS, large size, first quality, handsomely decorated with hand-painted flowers and gold bands; regular price 35c., at ..... 17c.

Large majolica CUSPADORES, new shape, neatly decorated in assorted colors, each ..... 29c.

Majolica JUGS, holding two quarts, nicely decorated with flowers in assorted colors, at ..... 14c.

Square FRUIT SAUCERS, nicely decorated with flowers and gold bands, each ..... 6c.

BONE PLATES, made of fine porcelain, nicely decorated with hand painted flowers and gold bands, each ..... 9c.

Special lot of square SOAP DISHES, large size, with drainer, each ..... 9c.

Special lot of PUG DOGS for parlor ornaments, made of composition terra-cotta, with lifelike appearance, each ..... 24c.

Real China EGG CUPS, finest quality, large size, with gold bands, each ..... 3c.

SILVERWARE.

Extra Silver-plated CASTER, nicely engraved, with fine, large glass bottles, regular price $2, at ..... 98c.

Large BUTTER DISH, Triple-plated, on hard white metal, nicely engraved, with knife rest, at $1 24

PICKLE CASTER, with Triple-plated frame, cover and tongs, and crystal glass jar, each ..... 86c.

SUGAR BOWL, with extra Silver-plated stand and assorted colored bowls, each ..... 97c.

Rogers's Triple-plated TEASPOONS, warranted, set of six, at ..... 78c.

Rogers's Triple-plated TABLESPOONS, warranted, set of six, at $1 58

Rogers's Triple-plated TABLE FORKS, warranted, set of six $1 58

Rogers's Triple-plated TABLE KNIVES, warranted, 12 oz., per dozen $2 95

NAPKIN RINGS, engraved ..... 8c.

Silver-plated SOUP LADLE, in satin-lined box, regular price $3.50, at $1 38

Silver-plated OYSTER LADLE, in satin-lined box, regular price $2.00, at ..... 98c.

UPHOLSTERY.

French Gauze Smyrna CURTAINS, full width and length, beautiful decorative window drapery, cannot be duplicated for double the money asked, per pair ..... 80c.

75 pairs rich Vienna PORTIERES, beautiful combination of colorings, advertised by others as a great bargain at $11; our price per pair $6 98

150 pairs silk Moil fringed PORTIERE CURTAINS, Chenille Dado, worth $4.50, our price per pair $2 88

100 pairs fine Guipure tape edged LACE CURTAINS, 3¼ yards long by 58 inches wide, real value $2.98; our price per pair $1.57

195 pairs English Brussels NET LACE CURTAINS, 3¼ yards long, 58 inches wide, worth $5; our price per pair $2.75

Immense assortment of all the newest fabrics in TAPESTRY, FURNITURE, and COVERINGS at remarkably low prices.

50-inch wide Nubian and Mandalay cross-stripe DRAPERY, per yard ..... 45c.

Fine grade MOHAIR and SILK PLUSH, per yard $1 47

Fine CRETONNES, beautiful designs and colorings, per yard ..... 75c.

150 pieces MADRAS DRAPERY, worth 15c.; our price, per yard ..... 7½c.

Cocoa DOOR MATS, each ..... 21c.

Reversible Smyrna MATS, each ..... 58c.

Smyrna RUGS, 28x54 inches each ..... 98c.

Fringed Tapestry TABLE COVERS to close, each at 39c.

A large assortment of Fancy FRINGES, UPHOLSTERY TRIMMINGS, &c., at lower prices than quoted by any other house in the trade.

River Striped CURTAIN SCRIM, 40 inches wide, worth 12½c. yard, our price ..... 3½c.

WOOD CURTAIN POLES, with finely polished brass trimmings, each ..... 29c.

WINDOW SHADES, a special feature, and Opaque SHADE, with elegant gilt dado, worth 65c.; our price ..... 24c.

One lot of SHADES, consisting of different qualities, beautiful patterns and desirable shades, some worth 75c., we will close out at the uniform price for each of ..... 24c.

EHRICH BROS., 8th Av., 24th and 25th Sts.

Business Notices.

All true lovers of the delicacies and refinements of the table, in order to keep their digestive organs in good order, should use ANGOSTURA BITTERS.

Blair's Pills.—Great English Gout and Rheumatic Remedy. Oval box, 24; round, 14 Pills. At all druggists.

Men's Hand-Sewed Shoes of French calf, $4.47; worth $6. KENNEDY, 20 Cortlandt st., up stairs.

DIED.

BAILEY.—On Thursday, Feb. 23, at her late residence, 150 Madison st., Catherine Bailey, aged 24 years.
Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend her funeral to-day at 2 P. M.

BRADY.—On Saturday, Feb. 25, Susie Brady.
Funeral from her late residence, 205 West 38th st., on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 9:30 A. M.; thence to the Church of the Holy Innocents, where a solemn requiem mass will be offered for the repose of her soul; thence to Calvary Cemetery.

CAMPBELL.—At his residence, 69 Hester st., on Thursday at 10 P. M., of pneumonia, Wm. Campbell, in the 53d year of his age.
Friends and relatives are requested to attend the funeral Sunday, Feb. 26, 1888, at 2 o'clock.

CURRAN.—Suddenly, Feb. 23, T. J. Curran.
Will be buried from his late residence, 500 Grand st., on Monday at 2 P. M.

FRENCH.—At her residence, 145 East 32d st., Miss Bridget Rose French, aged 36 years, native of Galway, Ireland.
Interment in Calvary Cemetery on Monday, 27th inst., at 2 o'clock.

HARRISON.—At Hoboken, N. J., Feb. 25, 1888, Capt. George W. Harrison, formerly U. S. N., aged 71 years.
Notice of funeral hereafter.

KERRIGAN.—On Thursday, Feb. 23, at his late residence, 346 East 36th st., Michael Kerrigan.
The friends of the family and of his brother, John H., are respectfully invited to attend the funeral at 2 P. M. Sunday, Feb. 26.

LAMB.—On Friday, Feb. 24, 1888, Bridget Maria, wife of Joseph W. Lamb.
Funeral will take place on Monday, the 27th inst., at 10:30 A. M., from her late residence, 213 West 25th st.