The Sun.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1888.

The Only War Tax.

"Down with the war taxes!" says a Western Democratic journal.

One would think that in this age of surplus it meant the internal revenue, which alone is described in the national Democratic platform of 1884 as a "war tax." But the next moment we read that "protection lives in darkness and feeds on falsehood," and then we realize that it is our old friend, the *Courier-Journal*, which speaks, and that in its opinion all tax reduction must be made through the tariff in the direction of free trade.

Certainly the national Democratic platform of 1884 was a protectionist document. Not a single free trader sticks to it. They have all thrown it overboard, GROVER CLEVELAND leading them in the work, and trying to knock it in the head as he threw.

Can There Be Another Refusal?

Now that the man who was sure of the Republican nomination has declined it, people will naturally wonder whether the same performance may not be expected from another quarter before the Democratic National Convention, or at it.

We should think not.

Mr. BLAINE withdrew from the field in order to relieve his party's deliberations from an element of passion, which, though it would have carried its point in his favor had he permitted it, would have done so at the risk of dividing and thus defeating the Republican party.

If Mr. CLEVELAND, after going so far as to constitute the Democratic Convention into a sure machine for his renomination, should refuse to accept the result of its appointed proceedings, the conclusion would be unavoidable that it was through dread of defeat.

Splendid as the dramatic effect of refusing a nomination for the Presidency might be, the merit of it in this case would be lost sight of in the feeling of disgust at the manipulation of a National Convention for the mere gratification of personal vanity. There would be no profit in it for anybody.

This makes it practically certain that for at least four years more, the men who have refused a Presidential nomination will remain three in number. These have been GEORGE WASHINGTON, SAMUEL JONES TILDEN, and JAMES GILLESPIE BLAINE.

For the Committee on Resolutions.

The following remarks of ANDREW JACKSON, in his first annual message to Congress in 1829, seem to be addressed directly to the St. Louis Convention of 1888:

"There are perhaps few men who can for any great length of time enjoy office and power without being more or less under the influence of feelings unfavorable to a faithful discharge of their public duties. Their integrity may be proof against improper considerations immediately addressed to themselves; but they are apt to acquire a habit of looking with indifference upon the public interests, and of tolerating conduct from which an unpractised man would revolt. Office is considered as a species of property, and government rather as a means of promoting individual interest than as an instrument created solely for the service of the people. Corruption in some, and in others a perversion of correct feelings and principles, diverts government from its legitimate ends, and makes it an engine for the support of the few at the expense of the many."

For these reasons, so distinctly stated, ANDREW JACKSON suggested to the Twenty-first Congress an amendment to the Constitution limiting the service of the Chief Magistrate to a single term.

In his second message, in 1830, the great Democratic President returned to the subject:

"I renew the recommendation with an increased confidence that this adoption will strengthen those checks by which the Constitution designed to secure the independence of each department of the Government, and promote the healthful and equitable administration of all the trusts which it has created. The agent most likely to contravene this design of the Constitution is the Chief Magistrate. In order, particularly, that this apprehension may, as far as possible, be placed beyond the reach of improper influences; in order that he may approach the solemn responsibilities of the highest office in the gift of a free people, uncommitted to any other course than the strict line of constitutional duty; and that the securities for this independence may be rendered as strong as the nature of power and the weakness of its possessor may admit, I cannot too earnestly invite your attention to the propriety of promoting such amendment of the Constitution as will render him ineligible after one term of service."

The recommendation was urgently repeated in the third annual message of ANDREW JACKSON to Congress; in the fourth, in the fifth, in the sixth, and in the seventh. As his political and personal experience of the dangers inherent in the second term increased, ANDREW JACKSON'S conviction grew stronger that the Constitution should be so amended as to render the President ineligible for reélection.

The same opinions were held by the greatest Democratic statesman who has lived since ANDREW JACKSON'S time. Although Mr. TILDEN was elected President, it never became his duty to send an annual message to Congress; but in his letter of July 31, 1876, accepting the nomination of the National Democratic Convention for the Presidency, he dwelt with great force and clearness upon the need of the constitutional amendment which JACKSON has so persistently recommended:

"The other evil is the organization of the official class into a body of political mercenaries, governing the caucuses and dictating the nominations of their own party, and attempting to carry the elections of the people by undue influence and by immense corruption funds systematically collected from the salaries or fees of officeholders. The official class in other countries, sometimes by its own weight and sometimes in alliance with the army, has been able to rule the unorganized masses, even under universal suffrage. Here it has already grown into a gigantic power, capable of stifling the inspirations of a sound public opinion and of resisting an easy change of administration, until misgovernment becomes intolerable and public spirit has been stung to the pitch of a civic revolution. The first step in the reform is the elevation of the standard by which the appointing power selects agents to execute official trusts. Next in importance is a conscientious fidelity in the exercise of the authority to hold to account and displace untrustworthy or incapable subordinates. The public interest in an honest, skilful performance of official trust must not be sacrificed to the usufruct of the incumbent.

"While much may be accomplished by these methods, it might encourage delusive expectations if I withheld here the expression of my conviction that no reform of the civil service in this country will be complete or permanent until its Chief Magistrate is constitutionally disqualified for reélection; experience having repeatedly exposed the futility of self-imposed restrictions by candidates or incumbents. Through this solemnity only can he be effectually delivered from his greatest temptation to misuse the power and patronage with which the Executive is necessarily charged."

This record of the earnest recommendations of the greatest and wisest of Democratic statesmen would be incomplete without the addition of the latest utterance upon the subject—that by the present Democratic President of the United States. In his letter of four years ago, accepting the Democratic nomination, Mr. CLEVELAND said:

"When an election to office shall be the selection by the voters of one of their number to assume for a time a public trust instead of his dedication to the profession of politics; when the holders of the ballot, quickened by a sense of duty, shall avenge truth betrayed and pledges broken, and when the suffrage shall be altogether free and uncorrupted, the full realization of a government by the people will be at hand. And of the means to this end, not one would, in my judgment, be more effective than an amendment to the Constitution disqualifying the President from reélection. When we consider the patronage of this great office, the allurements of power, the temptation to retain public place once gained, and, more than all, the availability a party finds in an incumbent whom a horde of officeholders, with a zeal born of benefits received, and fostered by the hope of favors yet to come, stand ready to aid with money and trained political service, we recognize in the eligibility of the President for reélection a most serious danger to that calm, deliberate, and intelligent political action which must characterize a government by the people."

If the platform of the National Democracy is to be written at St. Louis, and not at Washington; if it is to embody the disinterested conclusions of wise Democratic statesmanship; if it is to be formulated in the interest of good government and the public welfare, and not of selfish misgovernment for the sake of personal ambition—then the Democratic platform of 1888 might contain this plank or its equivalent in political value:

"Recognizing the unanswerable force of the arguments against a second term as presented by ANDREW JACKSON, SAMUEL J. TILDEN, and GROVER CLEVELAND, and perceiving clearly in the eligibility of the President for reélection a constant and most serious temptation to the misuse of the power and patronage of the Executive office, and thoroughly convinced of the futility of self-imposed restrictions by candidates and incumbents, the National Democracy declares in favor of the single-term principle, and pledges itself to secure, if possible, the submission and ratification of a Constitutional amendment disqualifying the President for reélection after one term in office."

Is there a Democrat among all those now commissioned to go to St. Louis to nominate candidates and formulate anew the Democratic principles who would oppose the radical reform so earnestly urged upon the party by ANDREW JACKSON and SAMUEL J. TILDEN—and by GROVER CLEVELAND?

What New York Has Come To.

Last Monday evening Mrs. JENNY WILSON went to Poole's Theatre with her young nephew and two girls, one of whom is her sister and the other her niece; but before they were fairly settled down to the enjoyment of the play two officers of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children made an uproar in the house by attempting to carry off the girls to the society's rooms.

An usher very properly came to the defence of Mrs. WILSON and her charges, and ejected the intruding officers from the theatre, but, after having obtained the assistance of a policeman, they returned and arrested her, the two girls, and the plucky usher. At the station house Mrs. WILSON was discharged, but the usher was not released until the next morning, and then on bail, while the girls were kept in the custody of the society until Thursday, when they were discharged by Justice O'REILLY, and restored to their parents.

The only excuse the officers could give the Justice for their high-handed proceeding in dragging the party from the theatre and practically kidnapping two little girls, was that they thought that the children entered the house unattended. But at the time Mrs. WILSON had explained to them their mistake, and the usher, who testified that the party came together to their seats, had vainly resisted the arrest for that reason.

It was also proved that the girls accompanied Mrs. WILSON with the knowledge and consent of their parents, and the stubs indicated that the tickets had been torn off together. The Justice therefore promptly released the children from their kidnappers, who had kept them from their homes for three days.

Yet this outrage took place in a civilized city, and was committed under the plea of charity, benevolence, and protection of the innocent! It is of a piece with some other performances of this same society, and shows the danger of intrusting the enforcement of special laws to a special organization of volunteers, that has secured the enactment of the laws to magnify its office.

The interference theory of government has been carried to the furthest extreme in this State, under the pressure of such voluntary organizations as Mr. GERRY'S society and of public departments like the Health Board, which also is supplemented by private sanitary enterprise and benevolence. The consequence is that the number of statutory crimes has been steadily increasing, until now the best-disposed citizen is always liable to stumble against them in the management of his private and household affairs.

A boarding-house keeper has recently been fined for furnishing oleomargarine to her boarders, although she had honestly bought it as butter. Policemen and agents of the Society for the Prevention of Vice go about as detectives to entrap saloon keepers into selling them beer on Sunday. Mr. COMSTOCK haunts the picture stores as a legal critic of French art on moral grounds. The inspectors of the Health Department travel around with a tape measure to determine whether the inhabitants of tenement and lodging houses are violating law by doubling up and saving money at the expense of the legal number of cubic feet of air. Mr. GERRY at last arrests a woman for taking her sister and her niece to the theatre, under the suspicion that there is something wrong about the matter; and there are hundreds of other rich and philanthropic people with nothing to do who would like to get more meddlesome laws passed, so that they also might find occupation in interfering with the business of their neighbors with the best possible intentions.

Good heavens! To what a pass have we come in New York, with cranks and pharisees, social quacks and religious fanatics, sanitary theorists and moral doctors as our tyrannical masters!

Give the Rural Districts a Chance.

The Democrats of New York, who have beaten their opponents in every State election for the past five years, vote under the disadvantage of a legislative apportionment which deprives thousands of them of honest and proper representation in Albany.

The Constitution of this State explicitly provides for an enumeration of its citizens to be made by the State authorities every tenth year. Since 1885, however, our successive Republican Legislatures, fearful of a new and just apportionment, have shirked this clear constitutional duty, and as a consequence we are still choosing Senators and Assemblymen on the basis of the population of 1875, thirteen years ago.

Since 1875 the population of the great cities of industrial activity and of Democratic strength, New York, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Rochester, and Albany, have grown rapidly, while the country districts have, relatively, fallen off. Notwithstanding this, no effort has been made to adjust the shameful and increasing inequality, nor is there a prospect of any. Governor HILL, having been confronted always by a Legislature controlled by the Republicans, has been unable to initiate, with any prospect of their acceptance, any of the measures demanded by the interests of the State, and his time has been largely taken in holding at bay an irresponsive body of Republican legislators owing their tenure to a defiance of lawful provisions, and holding it against the yearly repeated protest of the voters.

In the deliberations which naturally precede an important Presidential election, a disposition has been shown by the city Democrats to somewhat dominate and control the action of the State Convention by reason of the large majorities which this city ordinarily gives to Democratic nominees.

While this claim is unquestionably just, it may seriously be doubted whether Democratic success can be best promoted by a sole dependence on New York city votes and New York city counsels.

Our present State Assembly is composed of seventy-two Republicans and fifty-six Democrats, a Republican majority of sixteen. New York city sends twenty-four members to Albany, of whom this year twenty-one are Democrats. If, therefore, the most sanguine hopes should be realized, and that unprecedented state of things achieved of a solid Democratic delegation to Albany, nothing would be accomplished, for the Republicans would still have a majority of ten. Rochester has no Republican Assemblyman, Buffalo has but one, and Brooklyn but three out of twelve representatives. Thus, if not a solitary Republican should be sent from either of the four large cities of the State, and if the Democrats should elect the whole forty-two, they would still fall short of a majority.

On the other hand, there are throughout the State many doubtful districts which, if the voice and preference of influential Democrats could be heeded, would offer a fair field for contest. The Republican member who represents Schenectady county holds his place by a majority of six votes; the member from Fulton and Hamilton by fifty-one; the member from the Second district of Niagara by 110. Other Republican pluralities last year were these: First Ulster, 186; Second Wayne, 196; First Orange, 259; Second Oneida, 268; First Saratoga, 285; and Second Dutchess, 325. Here, then, are nine districts where additional Democratic effort, or a sufficient prohibition defection, might defeat the Republicans, and their gain, quite independent of what the large cities might do, would give the Democrats the Assembly, and with it the opportunity of shaping and formulating the legislation of the State.

The Democrats of the interior of the State should not be deprived of any of their rights in the counsels of the party. On them, and on them chiefly, depends the result of the State election and the control of the Legislature. The Democrats of this city will have a full range for their efforts this year in supporting their national and municipal tickets. It would perhaps be best for them to leave the direction of the State campaign to those in closer sympathy with the voters' views, and identified more nearly with the interests of localities upon the votes of which the result is likely to turn.

Col. Ingersoll's Popularity.

The great and widespread interest excited by the discussion of Christian theology between Col. INGERSOLL and Mr. GLADSTONE may fitly be called a sign of the times.

Religious discussion and theological controversy were formerly far away from the general public interest, though there is no other department of literature so voluminous; but when it became known that the *North American Review* for the present month would contain Col. INGERSOLL'S reply to the English statesman, there immediately sprang up an enormous advance demand for the publication.

This review was originally a quarterly of a highly respectable reputation and a very limited circulation, so that when it was purchased by Mr. THORNDIKE RICE ten years ago, and brought from Boston to New York, it was almost unknown to the great mass of readers. Now, because of his skilful editing, it has become one of the most extensively circulated monthly magazines in the world, the chief of the English magazines of the same general class being left far behind in that respect. But of all the many subjects of popular interest which have been discussed in its pages under the editorship of Mr. RICE, there is none that has approached this controversy between faith and infidelity in its attraction for the public.

That extraordinary interest manifested in a demand for Col. INGERSOLL'S views and arguments that will probably run up the sales of a relatively high-priced magazine to at least 100,000 copies, is, of course, explained in large part by the charm of the literary style of that opponent of revealed religion. If Col. INGERSOLL were as dry and dull a writer as the theological controversialist commonly is, the *North American Review* would not now be selling like a fresh novel by CLARK RUSSELL. But, no matter how alluring the style, there would not be the present eager demand for Col. INGERSOLL'S assault upon the religion of the Bible if the public interest in the subject were not deeply stirred at this particular time.

It is significant, too, that the demand for the words of the now famous infidel far exceeds the demand for the arguments in reply to him, whether they come from a clergyman like the Rev. Dr. FIELD or from a statesman of world-wide distinction like Mr. GLADSTONE. Five, perhaps ten times as many people read the iconoclastic arguments of Col. INGERSOLL as pay attention to what is written by the others in defence of Biblical story and theological dogma.

This profound and widespread interest in what he says on the subject is the more significant because it is exhibited in chief part by those who were brought up in religious faith, and by ordained teachers and ministers of religion themselves. Yet the attacks of the infidels of the past have been mild in comparison with INGERSOLL'S. He does not assail the mere form and ornamentation of the ecclesiastical edifice, but strikes at the very foundation of religious belief as a relic of childish superstition.

This great popularity of Col. INGERSOLL as a writer, and the enormous audience to which he appeals whenever he rises to make war upon the Christian faith, are facts of the day to which we call the undivided attention of churches and theologians now at variance within the citadel of religion, upon which this infidel leader is gathering his hosts for assault.

Gen. Sherman and Decoration Day.

Gen. SHERMAN, in a moment of irritation, asks his comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic "if it is not better that we should devote Decoration Day to the cemeteries which contain our honored dead, and the decoration of permanent monuments in their honor, for the teaching of patriotism to future generations, instead of swelling street parades and pageants for the glorification of the belligerent non-combatants who make use of us for their own purposes?"

These words involve a number of suggestions, none of which seems to us well founded.

There is no occasion for any slur upon street parades as associated with the observance of Decoration Day. These parades, in this city at least, have been made up largely of two elements—the State militia and the several posts of the Grand Army of the Republic. In turning out to escort the veterans of the late war, the National Guard only pays a fitting tribute to their services, and honors itself in honoring them. It is also simply the truth to say that the presence of our citizen soldiers, who are just the sort of men that made up the nucleus of the armies which fought under GRANT and SHERMAN and SHERIDAN, lend an attractiveness to the celebration of Decoration Day which it might not otherwise have for the people at large, and these serve not only to impress the lessons of the war upon those who were living at the time it was fought, but upon the younger generations, to whom it is now nothing but history.

It is true that the larger proportion of the State troops to-day are non-combatants in the sense that they took no part in the civil war. Most of them were too young to do so. But surely this is no reason why Gen. SHERMAN should reflect upon them.

We think Gen. SHERMAN errs in assuming that any "belligerent non-combatants," as a class, are striving, or have ever endeavored, to make use of the Grand Army "for their own purposes." The parades in this city on Decoration Day have always been genuine manifestations of good will toward the soldiers who fought in the war of the rebellion, on the part of all others who have participated in the procession.

Evidently the General was in rather a gloomy frame of mind.

The Thurman Ticket.

The last political proposition which has just eventuated, may not prove of much importance, but it may stimulate reflection. This, we take it, is about the whole size of it:

For President: GROVER CLEVELAND of Washington.
For Vice-President: ALLEN G. THURMAN of Ohio.

PLATFORM.

"Take the Boys in and warm their Toes."
The chilled Spirit of Democracy brought back to Life by the breath of a Genuine Disciple.

It must also be remembered that the middle names of Mr. CLEVELAND and Mr. THURMAN alike begin with G, GROVER being, in fact, the President's second Christian name, while G, in Mr. THURMAN'S name stands, we believe, for GRANBERY. But the name of THURMAN would call up a flood of inspiring memories of the days when Democracy meant a United Democratic party.

One of the most interesting political rumors of the day is the report that the THURMAN movement was started or instigated by the Hon. JOSEPH E. MCDONALD to get even with Governor GRAY. This cannot be true. Old Saddlebags, when he sadly warned the Democratic party against GRAY, announced that for his own part he was out of politics. So, too, is THURMAN. As he says, all he cares for "is a seat in heaven."

Though feeble in body, the veteran Gen. SPINOLA has lost none of his mental vigor. He recently reported a bill from the House Military Committee placing Gen. FREMONT on the retired list of the army. The *Tribune* correspondent took him to task for not demanding immediate consideration of the bill, and SPINOLA promptly arose to a personal explanation. He said that the truth was that the Republican members of the committee voted against the bill, and all the Democratic members in its favor. This explanation was saddled with characteristic comments on the ingratitude of the Republican party, and the conclusion brought down the House.

The New York nine is something like the Democracy. Every time it plays Cleveland it wins. Sun please copy.—*Star.*

The New York nine never plays Cleveland. The New York nine and Cleveland belong to different leagues. So do the real, old Democracy and CLEVELAND; but politics is not like base ball, and the Democracy may play CLEVELAND just the same.

The journeymen brewers of this city, who have feared that the success of the employers in the late strike would be disadvantageous to them, may feel reassured by the action of the United States Brewers' Association in its Convention at St. Paul. This body of employers, who control the trade of the country, voted that they would oppose any scheme for reducing wages or increasing the hours of labor, and that they would refrain from any attempt to interfere with the organization of their workmen into unions. Upon these questions the judgment of the employers in the National Convention was unanimous. In judicious language the President of the Brewers' Association, Mr. WILLIAM A. MILES of this city, urged its members to make a study of the labor question as employers and as American citizens. Here are a few of his words:

"I ask you to earnestly and carefully study this labor question in all its phases, and to devise and perfect such a policy regarding it as shall not only make permanent the results already gained, but shall testify to the fact that you are not so thoroughly absorbed in business as to be oblivious of the duties and responsibilities which rest upon you as members of the great brotherhood of man, nor forgetful of your duties as citizens under a system of government which affords the greatest protection to the individual, and under which, by perseverance, industry, and frugality, the humblest citizen may attain the highest and most honorable position."

These are sensible observations, which will, no doubt, be heeded by those to whom they were presented. They are for the advantage of all concerned.

The Great American Desert, which all the geographies used to depict in a condition of chronic drought, has been having its full share of the recent rains, and has arrayed itself in a dress of the most vivid green. We banished some time ago to the realm of myth the idea that any part of western America is absolutely rainless; and the large area where it was once supposed, the annual precipitation was less than five inches has almost disappeared. It is encouraging to hear that in the so-called arid region of the West a good deal of hay will be cut this year. A rather unfair opinion of the agricultural possibilities of the far West has perhaps been fostered by travellers on the Union and Central Pacific, whose builders, seeking low gradients, pushed the road through a part of the country where the precipitation is particularly small.

A pathetic sight: Old Barnum, once the king of the turf and the conqueror of Miss Woodford, now aged, worn, and an outcast, running at Clifton!

Now the Yale authorities threaten to abolish intercollegiate base ball games, if the boys do not reform. It appears that a recent victory over Harvard turned the heads of the sturdy athletes and their admirers so that the campus became the scene of a hilarious demonstration such as only college youths can originate. In deference to a long-suffering faculty, the Yale men will have to transfer these little festivities from the campus to some more secluded, if less appropriate, place.

Many distinguished warriors have received honorary degrees from the University of Cambridge, but never was more pugnacious Doctor of Laws than Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, who is shortly to be made a Cantabrigian LL.D. Dr. CHURCHILL is like the common mosquito, small, but a stinger from Stingville.

When the call for one-thousand-dollar subscriptions was made at the Prohibition Convention the other day, Mr. J. N. JOHNSON of Grand Rapids soon responded. His thousand-dollar contribution was especially interesting as coming from a hotel keeper who keeps no bar and has no wine list. Mr. JOHNSON has, perhaps, other sources of income than his hotel. Temperance taverns are usually, even Prohibitionists must confess, shabbier, less attractive, and less prosperous than their rum-selling rivals. Perhaps Mr. JOHNSON has found the art of keeping a good temperance hotel.

It is reported from Georgetown, Brown county, Indiana, that a vein of gold was discovered there last Sunday, whereupon the people who were at church when the news of the discovery arrived promptly left for the gold field, nobody but the minister remaining. The treasure in heaven is good to lay up, but there are few people who on its account could keep away from a promising mine of earthly gold, even on Sunday.

Mr. O'DONOVAN ROSSA is said to have forsaken dynamite for poetry—a change of questionable utility. But perhaps his verses will go off better than his dynamite.

THE INDIAN RESERVES.

Measures Putting to Good Use Lands Hitherto Shut Out from Improvement.

WASHINGTON, June 1.—The Fiftieth Congress, at the present rate, will surpass all its predecessors in legislation granting railroad rights across Indian reservations.

One of the reserves made the subject of such legislation is the Puyallup, in Washington Territory. The Northern Pacific Railroad Company applied for authority to construct a spur 1,225 feet long, with right of way of convenient width through the western part of this reservation, as part of a plan for furnishing, for the public convenience, such additional railroad facilities at the city of Tacoma as were required by the increase of business at that point arising from the completion of the Cascade branch of that road. Some correspondence ensued between the Indian Office, the resident Indian agent and the railroad company, and this year there has been no difficulty in carrying through a measure for opening the Puyallup Reserve.

In the last Congress bills were passed by the Senate granting to the Spokane and Palouse Railway Company and the Washington and Idaho Railroad Company, respectively, a right of way through the Cœur d'Alène reservation. Both bills as passed were favorably reported by the House committee, but failed of action in the House. This year the Washington and Idaho Company's bill was renewed, and has just become a law; and the same is true of the Fort Smith and El Paso Company's bill through the Indian Territory.

The great importance of this class of legislation was strongly brought out by Commissioner Atkins in a recent report giving instances in which the Interior Department, the Indian tribes, and the various railway companies had all agreed upon rights of way across reservations which were of high local and national importance, and yet Congress had neglected to pass the acts of confirmation, either through simple neglect or through a remnant of the old distrust as to the wisdom of this policy.

In some of these cases moneys paid by the railway companies, upon faith of the agreements, are lying idle in the Treasury, and the Indians cannot understand why it is that payment is withheld. This is doubtless the cause of the opposition of the Sioux to the construction of railroads on their reserves; a feeling that they have already sold a portion of their lands to two railroad companies for which they have not been paid causing them to be suspicious of any more enterprises of a similar character. It is to be hoped that Congress will take some action in these matters at an early date.

Within the past few years the work of this office has been largely increased by reason of the extension of the railroad system through Indian reservations. At the present writing there are between forty and fifty railroad cases in different stages of progress, before this office, involving a large amount of correspondence and incidental detail work.

It is now probable, judging from the large number of measures of this sort recently completed or in progress, that no further complaint will be made as to the delay of the necessary legislation.

The Senate has also passed and the House committee favorably reported the bill for the allotment of lands on the Round Valley reservation in California. This is the measure which called out a special message from the President, declaring that settlers had been intruding upon these lands until the Government was disgraced by their conduct. The Indian Commissioner in his last report gave this account of what had been done in regard to the reservation:

The bill providing for allotments of lands in severalty to the Indians residing upon this reservation, for the sale of the surplus lands, and for the extinguishment of the claims of settlers, not having been heeded by Congress, I determined to take such steps as were possible to secure to the Indians the use of some portion at least of the 84,000 acres of land reported to be in the possession of white men. On April 2 last I accordingly recommended that authority be granted for the removal from the reservation of all parties found to be unlawfully thereon, and for the employment of the necessary military force. Authority was granted, and on May 25 last the agent was instructed to notify all parties unlawfully upon the reservation to remove therefrom, with all of their stock and personal effects, on or before Aug. 1, 1887, and that, in the event of their failure to remove, their removal would be effected by a sufficient military force.

From this order there were excepted the persons and lands covered by the judgment of the United States Circuit Court, rendered May 31, 1886; all persons occupying lands under title to which has passed out of the United States, as shown by an abstract furnished by the General Land Office; and parties who had improvements within the reservation on March 3, 1875, to whom payment or tender of payment had not been made. All of these parties were to be confined to the lands actually covered by the exception, and the latter class will be confined to 160 acres each.

This effort at redress was, however, baffled by the intruders, who carried the case into the courts. But the neglect of the last Congress is not to be repeated, since, with the Round Valley bill already passed by one House, and in a forward condition in the other, it will doubtless become a law during the present session.

HARK TO THE DEPEW BOOM!

Its Rumbling Becomes a Roar Since Mr. Blaine is Out.

From the Albany Evening Journal.

If Chauncey M. Depew will accept, New York will be for him, and that will give him the nomination.

From the Albany Express.

We entertain no doubt that the votes of the entire delegation from the Empire State can be concentrated upon Mr. Depew. We know of no other way in which New York can exert an influence at Chicago that belongs to her. If it is exerted in the manner suggested, the action of the delegation will meet with the heartiest approval of the overwhelming majority of the Republicans of this State.

Mr. Depew can carry New York.

From the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Who is better fitted to wage the battle than that gifted son of New York, who has already been prominently mentioned as a candidate, Chauncey M. Depew?

The Noblest Roman of Them All.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your article in to-day's edition: "What! Only One Man Big Enough for President?" is very timely, as we are on the eve of the Democratic Convention. I would again, as in 1884, mention the name of Samuel Jackson Randall, an extreme protectionist, one who can carry New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, California, and Indiana; one who is the greatest leader of the Democratic party in the entire country. His name at the head of the ticket next Tuesday would cause the Republican party to hunt the country from its centre to its circumference to match it. W. H. W.

PATERSON, June 1.

We Do Not Dispute It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am a constant subscriber to THE WEEKLY SUN, and it is in my opinion the best newspaper in the world. The new book notices alone are worth far more than the subscription price for one year. The article lately published concerning the wonders and mysteries of the heavens as presented for the first time to the human eye by the great telescope at the Lick Observatory in California, was well worth a year's subscription to every paper published in New York. J. W. YOUNGSLOOP.

WARRINGTON, May 23.

Is Polygamy Lawful in New York?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is it true that the laws of New York permit polygamy under certain circumstances? Desertion for five years, without knowledge that the deserter is living, permits the one deserted to marry again; and the second marriage is valid, though the deserter returns. The second marriage may be declared void, but only from the date of the decree by a court of competent jurisdiction, upon proper petition; but if no such petition is made, and all parties are satisfied, one husband may live in lawful wedlock with two or more wives, or one wife with two or more husbands. The children will inherit, and the wives will be entitled to dower.

How is this for New York law? Have you no Edmundses among you? ANTI-POLYGAMY.

A Man of Letters.

From the Boston Post.

I know one man by sight whom I have taken these five years back for a writer on metaphysics, although he may be an author of children's story books. I see him frequently at a certain library, and his peculiarity is the extraordinarily short space of time in which he can utterly disarrange his clothes, his hair, and his papers. It was only the other day that I observed him sit down at his wonted table, a sleek, well-dressed, well-combed person, with a little bundle of nicely tied MS. at his elbow. In five minutes he had become almost a maniac in appearance, his hair bristling like the quills of the fretful porcupine, his cravat awry, his fingers black with ink, and all his papers tossed about in the utmost confusion.

Truly Solemn.

From the Tribune.

It is a solemn thing to be a reformer. When once a man has become thoroughly saturated with the idea that public office is a public trust, so that he is everywhere recognized as the very incarnation of the creed, he is liable at any moment to be snatched from the fireside where he is leading a simple, Christian life and compelled to face terrible temptations in the wilderness.

Delegates Can Get The Sun.

THE SUN can be had every day at 7:30 P. M. at the news stand in the Southern Hotel, St. Louis, during the Democratic Convention.

The handsome and intellectual face of Chauncey Mitchell Depew illuminates the first page of the first number of the *Illustrated American*, the new weekly pictorial newspaper. There is also a good supply of brightly colored pictures and interesting reading matter which should call many friends and admirers to the new paper.

THE MARRIAGES OF SLAVES.

An Illinois Court Decides that Children Born from Them are Illegitimate.

From the Globe-Democrat.

CHICAGO, May 31.—Judge Tuley has rendered a preliminary decision in a contested will case that is of considerable importance to all children born in slavery and to many of the descendants of such children. He, in fact, pronounces such children illegitimate, and holds that they cannot inherit property from the father. The will contested is that of Mrs. Elizabeth Bunch, and the story is as follows:

James Washington, a slave of Gen. Thomas Marshall of Mason county, Ky., married a slave named Liza, and from their union sprang two children, Liza and Elizabeth. In 1832 James escaped, going to Huron, O., and there he made arrangements to buy his wife and two children from their master. But while he was paying for them his wife and child Liza died, and their master, in consideration of the sum already paid gave him Elizabeth. Elizabeth, however soon left him, and, after wandering over Ohio and Indiana, came to Chicago, where she married in 1844. Her husband and children died, and in 1886 she, too, passed away, leaving property by will, it is claimed, to one Betty Kilvery, a white girl who had been her companion for some years. But it seems that James Washington, after the death of his wife Liza, married again and had several children. The eldest of these, a daughter, married William H. M. Bond, and had three children. These three children stepped in and contested the will, claiming it to be a forgery, and that they were the legal heirs of Elizabeth Bunch. But Judge Tuley decided that Elizabeth Bunch was an illegitimate child, and could have no heirs but those of her own body. The ground of the decision is that, slaves being chattels, no legal marriage was possible, any more than real estate can marry real estate.

This decision, which was made on a motion for a rehearing, was a surprise to both sides. The case will be appealed, however, and then the special point involved will be fully discussed. It is claimed by Mr. Fish, who represents the Bonds, that whatever may have been the status of a slave marriage prior to the war, the effect of the emancipation proclamation and the constitutional amendments was to restore to the slaves all those rights of which they had previously been deprived. When they became free all the rights of freemen attached to them retroactively, so that the children born to them in slavery became legitimate. This is said also to have been the nature of the decision made in the Southern States during what is called the carpetbag period. Of late, however, it is said Southern decisions have leaned the other way. It is stated that the matter has been brought to Congressman Mason's attention, and that he will introduce a bill in the House declaring that the effect of the emancipation proclamation and the constitutional amendments was to validate slave marriages and legitimatize the children.

To Pay a Vow to the Lord.

From the Baltimore American.

A vow to the Lord will be paid on Saturday, when Mr. Peter Rasmussen, who resides at 2,013 East Lombard street, sails, accompanied by his family, for Norway. Twenty-five years ago Mr. Rasmussen came to this country. Shortly after his arrival he was converted at a revival then being held at the First German Church, now located on Broadway. He says he then made a promise that if God would bless him in business and give him enough of this world's goods to enable him to preach the Gospel to his countrymen in Norway without receiving any salary he would do so. He has so prospered in business that he can now afford to devote his life to preaching without pay. He will go to Norway to become an evangelist among the Norwegians without any money compensation therefor. He is an earnest member of the German Methodist Church and about 55 years of age. He will work on his own hook.

Miss Rives to Visit Washington.

From the Washington Critic.

Miss Amelie Rives, who has been recently attracting so much attention in the literary world, will spend the early part of next season with friends in Washington. She will be accompanied by her younger sister, who is said to be even more beautiful than herself. Miss Rives, on her mother's side, is a granddaughter of James B. McMurdo, an old and most highly respected citizen of Richmond. Her great-grandfather was the Right Rev. Richard Channing Moore, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, whose immediate predecessor in the office was Bishop Madison, an elder brother of President Madison.

The President's Welcome in New York.

From the Washington Star.

His experience on recent short trips out of Washington shows that the people respect President Cleveland's horror of demonstrations. Inspector Byrnes was the only public functionary to greet him the other evening when he arrived in New York, and there was no popular gathering of any sort.

FOREIGN NOTES OF REAL INTEREST.

The income of Oxford University for 1887 was $826,000.

The British Order of Odd Fellows shows a member ship of 52,000.

A new case of migration is the appearance of the Tartary partridge in Germany.

The "Prince of Parisian *gourmets*, Charles Monselet, has just died at 63, from gout.

Kaiser Fritz has conferred upon Prof. Virchow the Red Eagle of the second class.

Long's Hotel on New Bond street, rebuilt and enlarged, was reopened on May 26.

The magnificent Vatican exhibition now being held must be closed "on account of the rats."

Troyon's "La Vallée de la Zonoques" has been sold in Paris to Bischofsheim, the banker, for $35,000.

One hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars has been spent on the new reredos in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The pilot boat Albion was run down and sunk, with six men, by a steamer off the Devonshire coast. It was not foggy or dark.

The price of diamonds has fallen. It was over 23 shillings per carat in October, 1887, and it is now less than 18 shillings.

Mr. Laurence Oliphant has published a new book dealing with "scientific religion." It is pronounced very daring and original.

The field of invention is still open for a perfect lifeboat. The Royal National Lifeboat Institute reports that "Medals were offered for a mechanically propelled lifeboat, but none of the various designs received fulfilled the requirements."

Our Minister to Brussels, Mr. Lambert Tree, has ordered a bronze statue of the explorer de la Salle as a present to the city of Chicago. It is the work of Jacques de Lalaing, and will be cast in Brussels, and will be placed in Lincoln Park.

The giant of all guns is in process of construction. Krupp's works are making a 188-ton gun for the Italian ironclad Sardegna. It will be 52½ feet long, with a bore of 15.7 inches. It will fire a steel shell of 1,630 pounds with an initial velocity of 2,411 feet per second, or one of 2,314 pounds at 2,099 feet per second.

The official report on Russia for 1885 shows that the population of the empire is 108,000,000. There were 46,264 deaths by violence, 52,000 fires, 2,377 distilleries, 132,000 wine and beer shops, 245 sugar refineries, 8 universities, 36,531 Orthodox churches, 1,287 Catholic, 708 Protestant, 840 synagogues, and 3,957 mosques.

A new State is about to be added to the sisterhood of nations. Letters patent have been granted to "The British East African Company," giving them full power to erect and maintain a government, with taxes and army. It lies north of the German East African Society near Zanzibar, and includes some of the finest land in Central Africa.

A native of Finland, named Runön, was sent two years ago by the Government to try to discover the art of Persian carpet weaving. He finally obtained employment in a small factory in Smyrna, where he acquired the desired information and made a design of the loom. A Persian carpet factory has now been established in Finland and great results are expected.

In 1848 Lieut. Techow was dismissed from the German army for surrendering the Berlin armory in the insurrection to the Civic Guard, and was condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment in a fortress. He escaped to Australia; and now, at the age of 73, he has returned hoping that he was included in the amnesty proclaimed by the new Emperor. The Minister of War decides that his offence was unpardonable, and he will be reimprisoned, probably for life.

A Mistake in the Diagnosis.

"I find, madam," said a young physician," "that your husband is suffering from overwork."

"And will he have to give up his place under the Government?" she asked anxiously.

"What's that? Is he a Government official?"

"Yes, sir."

"H—m! I'll diagnose his case again. He probably needs exercise."

Too Much for Him.

At the close of an amateur theatrical performance a gentleman was discovered in a fainting condition. Great beads of perspiration stood upon his brow, and his face was ashy white.

"Great heavens! what is the trouble?" was the excited inquiry.

"Ladies and gentlemen," gasped the unfortunate man, faintly, "I'm the author of the play."

Particular About the Make.

"One o' my hired men has got a notion he wants a fiddle," said an agriculturist to the dealer. "What might that secon'-hand one in the winder be with?"

"That's a Stradivarius; it's worth $3,000."

"I'll speak to the hired man about it," shouted the agriculturist as he backed out of the place; "he may not like that make."

Searching the Scriptures.

Teacher (infant Bible class)—Tommy Traddles may tell us where this passage is to be found: "In my Father's house there are many mansions. If it were