The Sun.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1888.

The Two Candidates on Trusts.

Both Mr. CLEVELAND and Gen. HARRISON have put into their letters of acceptance about an equal amount of regular flapdoodle on the subject of trusts. Let us look at their words side by side:

CLEVELAND.	HARRISON.
Such combinations have always been condemned by the Democratic party. The declaration of its National Convention is sincerely made, and no member of our party will be found excusing the existence or belittling the pernicious results of these devices to wrong the people. Under various names they have been punished by the common law for hundreds of years; and they have lost none of their hateful features because they have assumed the name of trusts instead of conspiracies.	Ordinarily capital shares the losses of idleness with labor; but under the operation of the trust, in some of its forms, the wage worker alone suffers loss, while idle capital receives its dividends from a trust fund. Producers who refuse to join the combination are destroyed, and competition as an element of prices is eliminated. It cannot be doubted that the legislative authority should and will find a method of dealing fairly and effectively with these and other abuses connected with this subject.

While in respect of sense these two declarations are about equal, Gen. HARRISON perceptibly excels his competitor in commonplace.

The Democratic candidate is bold, vigorous, and aggressive in style, while the Republican is argumentative, weak, and twaddling. They both fall entirely to comprehend that these great partnerships form a new and natural departure in the development of modern civilization, and that the business of a philosopher and a statesman should be first to examine and understand, leaving the denunciation and repression, if it should finally be found necessary, to be considered afterward.

Of the two, however, Mr. CLEVELAND, while equally ignorant with Gen. HARRISON, is more dogmatic and positive, and, finally, he makes a great blunder, from which HARRISON is saved. He refers to the law against conspiracies without reflecting that, with the progress of society, this law has of necessity undergone changes of the most profound and far-reaching character, especially in regard to the enormous combinations of workingmen which distinguish the present day and the unprecedented Labor Trusts which they have so widely established.

However, the difference between Mr. CLEVELAND and Gen. HARRISON in this regard is rather in detail than in principle, and they enjoy alike the advantage of being in the fashion, and of speaking for the purposes of the campaign the familiar cant of those whose words sound loudly, but are not illuminated by intelligence.

The Truth Comes from Maine.

The cheerful despatch which Col. BRICE sent from headquarters to ARTHUR SEWALL, in Maine, after the returns had come in from that State, bubbles with the carbonic acid gas of aerated campaign politics:

"You made a good fight and held your ground. If the Republican party, with all the advantages they had in Maine, could make no gains over 1884, when we carried the country, our success in November would seem to be assured, especially if our friends elsewhere make as good a fight as you made in Maine. *We can now see that if our National Committee had aided you and undertaken to make a fight in your State*, we could have made a substantial reduction in the Republican majority."

We hope this philosophical conclusion will not lead Col. BRICE to turn his attention away from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Indiana, and to "undertake to make a fight" with a view to carrying Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Massachusetts.

There is reason to imagine that Col. BRICE has been contemplating some such Quixotic enterprise. If the lesson in Maine does not convince him of its utter futility, nothing under THE SUN can accomplish that desirable result. In the sincerest loyalty to the Democratic cause, and speaking in the interest of permanent and essential success in November, rather than with the ephemeral enthusiasm of the blowhards, we therefore address ourselves to the task.

The plain truth about the Maine election is that ingenuity can devise no formula of comparison with past results which exhibits the event as a Democratic victory, as an indication of a drift of voters away from HARRISON to CLEVELAND and THURMAN, or as encouragement to the notion that any one of the traditionally Republican States of the North can be transferred this year to the Democratic column.

Maine has gone Republican at the September election in Presidential years ever since the war, with the single exception of the year 1880, when the fusion between the Democrats and Republican Greenbackers gave Gen. PLAISTED a plurality of 189 votes. As a rule the total vote at the September election has been very much larger than at the November election succeeding, and yet the Republican majority in September has invariably been increased in November. Even in the exceptional fusion year, the State went for GARFIELD in November by a majority of about 9,000.

The exact size of the Republican pluralities for Governor in past Presidential years is shown in the subjoined table, together with the total votes in September and the Republican pluralities on the Presidential vote in November:

	1868.	1872.	1876.	1880.	1884.
R. pl'ty Sept..	20,403	17,216	15,444	.....	19,651
Total vote....	131,265	126,618	198,823	147,845	142,413
R. pl'ty Nov..	28,030	32,335	16,477	8,868	20,069

For the past twenty years, the Republican plurality in the September election, leaving out of consideration the year of the Greenback craze, has been remarkably steady, not varying 5,000 votes in its extremes. The average Republican plurality during that time is 18,228.

This year the Republican plurality will certainly be over this average, and will probably come up to the highest figures ever reached in a September election. Whether it does so or not is of no practical importance. The truth is that the Democratic canvass has made no inroads upon the solid Republican vote of Maine. There are no signs of a drift to Mr. CLEVELAND. If there is any drift, it is the other way.

But those excellent Democrats who, like Col. BRICE, think it is the indispensable duty of loyal partisanship to extract sunbeams from cucumbers, say that it is a glorious victory for the Democracy of Maine to hold its own this year when Mr. BLAINE has been upon the stump, when the fishery treaty was having a bad effect, and when the interests of the protected lumbermen have been threatened. To get even that amount of consolation, they compare the returns with the figures of 1884. That is a fair basis of comparison—fairer, on the whole, than the Republican method of figuring large gains over 1886, which was not a Presidential year. But it is not quite so reasonable to hold that the Republicans have had exceptional advantage in position in the canvass just ended. It is true that Mr. BLAINE has been on the stump, but in 1884 he was the Republican candidate for President, and not only the BLAINE machine but every BLAINE Republican in Maine had stimulus to do the utmost. It is true that the lumber interest was threatened, but where is the manufacturing State which has not some important interest which a free trade movement threatens? The Democracy's candidate for Governor this year is a man of larger calibre and of wider reputation and popularity than the Republican candidate, who is a somewhat obscure politician and apparently a rather commonplace individual. So far as the personal and social element counted, it counted for the Democrats, and up to election day the Democratic managers believed and predicted that Mr. PUTNAM would capture many Republican votes. The nomination of Mr. BURLEIGH left some hard feelings on the part of the Republican bosses in at least a part of the State, and his candidacy at no time inspired enthusiasm. More than all, the whole power of the Federal offices in Maine, in past Presidential years turned with tremendous effect against the Democratic organization, has worked this year with it and for its ticket. This reversal of former conditions counted double as a Democratic advantage.

We present these facts about the Maine election, first, because they are the truth of the matter, and it is our business as a newspaper to tell the truth; and, secondly, because a right understanding of their significance will serve as a wholesome corrective to the scatter-brain policy that has seemed to meet with favor in West Twenty-ninth street, judging by some official expressions that come from that quarter.

Maine does not say to the National Democracy, "I lead the way to certain and glorious victory in November!" What she does say is this: "You have hard work before you; put it in where it will do the most good! Waste no time, money, or nerve tissue in the hopeless endeavor to wrest Republican States from the Republican column. Devote every remaining hour of time, every dollar of President CLEVELAND'S $10,000 contribution, every ohm of electrical energy incorporate in your Campaign Committee, to the canvass in the doubtful States where victory is possible, and which, if carried, will elect CLEVELAND and THURMAN!"

The Bonaparte Marriage.

What is known to writers for European newspapers as the silly season usually touches its acme in the month of September, and that is doubtless the main reason why so much space is given in the cabled despatches to the marriage of the Duke of AOSTA and his niece, the Princess LETITIA. The bridegroom, as we scarcely need remind any reader, is a brother of the King of Italy, and was himself for a short time King of Spain. The bride is the daughter of King HUMBERT's sister, Princess CLOTILDE, who was unhappily married in 1859 to Prince NAPOLEON, himself a son of King JEROME NAPOLEON by a Princess of Wurtemberg.

The marriage of an uncle to his niece will strike the majority of Americans as scandalous, whether they regard it from the point of view of physiology or of canonical prescription. But it must be remembered that, since the days of the SELEUKIDS and the PTOLEMIES, members of royal families in the Mediterranean world have not held themselves bound by the regulations prohibiting matrimony in the case of private persons standing within certain limits of consanguineous relationship. Christianity found this disregard of normal usages and instinctive prejudices planted among the traditions of the Roman Emperors, and could not or did not venture to repress it. If the indulgence first conceded to the CÆSARS was afterward extended by the Church of Rome to many European sovereigns, the fact will hardly be made a reproach to Catholicism by those Protestants who remember that LUTHER condoned the perpetration of bigamy by the Landgrave of HESSE.

The political significance of Tuesday's marriage at Turin is absolutely *nil*. Even the union of the Princess LETITIA'S parents, Prince NAPOLEON and Princess CLOTILDE, had none of the international results which were at the time anticipated. Indeed, it is doubtful whether, notwithstanding the services which VICTOR EMANUEL received from the Second Empire, a daughter of the house of Savoy would have been given to a BONAPARTE, had not Prince NAPOLEON belonged, on his mother's side, as we have already said, to the royal family of Wurtemberg. At all events, VICTOR EMANUEL did not consider that his daughter's marriage to a cousin of NAPOLEON III. bound him to succor the latter during the Franco-German war. Much less will the present alliance lead King HUMBERT to offer the slightest substantial aid to a restoration of the Bonapartist dynasty in France.

A Wise and Generous Man.

There are many guesses as to who was the giver of the $12,000 for the sufferers at Jacksonville, and as to what were his reasons for not making himself known to the public. If he had gone to Mayor HEWITT and left a much smaller sum for the purpose, without mentioning his name, there would have been no such curiosity; but the assumption seems to be that when a man gives away any considerable amount, he is a very eccentric sort of person if he does not take pains to get credit with the public for his generosity.

Yet if his purpose was merely to help the yellow fever victims at Jacksonville, of what importance was it that his identity should be revealed? The only question with him was as to how best to get the $12,000 to the people he would benefit, and that was settled by his full and reasonable confidence in Mr. HEWITT. Therefore, when he went to the Mayor he simply handed over the money, indicating the object it was for, and left. The transaction was completed. There was nothing more to do, for it was the money, and not the name of the giver, that was the essential matter.

If the gentleman had wanted to help himself by helping the Jacksonville sufferers, he might have done differently. He might have written a public letter to Mayor HEWITT, enclosing his check for $12,000, and taken pains to see that it was printed in the newspapers. The yellow fever victims would then have had the pecuniary aid, and he would have had fame as a philanthropist; or if he had had business interests in Jacksonville they might have been promoted by the publicity, for this yellow fever infliction will be of short duration, and the town will speedily recover its activity and prosperity. But he evidently wanted nothing of the sort; merely to do some good with his money; and, therefore, he saw no more propriety in publishing his charity than a man does of publishing the alms he puts into the offertory plate at church on Sunday.

But even on prudential grounds his course was wise. To publish his deed would merely have been to gratify his vanity at the expense of almost endless importunity. His name would have been advertised all over the world as a liberal benefactor, and he would have been bored to death by applications for money from all sorts of persons, and from every quarter of the globe. So far from inviting publicity to their benefactions, rich men of a charitable disposition are often anxious rather to escape it, even at the risk of winning a reputation for niggardliness. Nothing terrifies them more than public applause of their generosity, for they know that it brings with it a procession of dead beats and no end of begging letters, whose importunities even the Treasury surplus would be unable to satisfy.

There are families of wealth and men of wealth in this city whose benefactions are many and great and continuous, and yet they are commonly reported to be tightfisted. So far from avoiding opportunities for benefiting individuals and the public, they are rather on the lookout for them. But the problem of how to dispense charity wisely is full of difficulty, and the larger the scale the more difficult it becomes. Giving may be worse than withholding, for free and careless bounty debauches and enervates, and nowhere is there more wastefulness than in the injudicious charity so greatly stimulated by professional philanthropists.

The gentleman who gave the $12,000 for the yellow fever sufferers at Jacksonville without any ostentatious parade did not pursue an extraordinary course. Very many thousands of dollars for charitable purposes are contributed in the same way every year by rich men and women of New York. They come from those in whom benevolence is stronger than the vanity which courts approbation.

No Menace At All.

An esteemed correspondent favors us with his comments upon the report that Father FLATLY of St. Mary's Church, Malden, announced on Sunday last that instructions had been issued "that all Catholic parents having children must send them to the parochial schools under pain of sin." Our correspondent declares that if this be a correct interpretation of the opinion held by the authorities of the Catholic Church in this country, in regard to the public schools, "Roman Catholicism is a serious menace to the stability of American institutions."

This is hard to understand. Where is the menace? The law gives to everybody the right to send his children to such schools as he deems proper; and every church may establish its own schools. We have long had the church schools of various denominations without any perceptible effect to the injury of American institutions.

Besides, the great difference between a Roman Catholic school, or a Presbyterian school, and a common public school, is that in the one the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church are impressed upon the minds of the pupils, in the other the doctrines of the Presbyterian faith, and in the third no religious doctrines at all; but as for matters of arithmetic, grammar, and geography, they must be substantially the same in all three. Neither the Catholic Church nor the Presbyterian Church teaches anything that is hostile to the republican institutions of this country. On the contrary, it is safe to believe that the more religious the education of a child, and the more religious the educated man, the more conscientious, scrupulous, and patriotic he will be in regard to all his duties. Are not the Catholic citizens of this country perfectly faithful and upright? If any of them are bad, is it not because they are bad Catholics, and not good ones? Why should any one object to having more like them?

We think our correspondent talks rather wildly upon this subject. And we think also that it is time to be rid of some of these old-time religious animosities.

More Humbug.

Senator JOHN SHERMAN has brought in a bill against trusts. He wants to prevent and extirpate them by penal legislation.

Mr. SHERMAN should not stop with a measure so superficial. He should abolish the right of men to associate with each other and impose a penalty on every partnership.

But perhaps Mr. SHERMAN is not quite sincere in his proposition. Perish the thought!

There is a funny crank of an old newspaper at the State capital called the *Albany Evening Post*, and it mixes into the discussion respecting the situation which would occur in case Mr. CLEVELAND and Mr. THURMAN should both die after being elected, and before the meeting of the Electoral Colleges:

"We would state the 'caprice of the electors' cannot be tied up in any manner.

"The people choose electors, while the electors choose the President and Vice-President. The electors are not tied down in their choice in any manner.

"The electors chosen by the Republican party will of course vote for HARRISON and MORTON. They have a legal right, however, to vote for JOHN SMITH and THOMAS JONES. The Democratic electors will cast their votes for CLEVELAND and THURMAN, and yet they have a legal right to cast their votes for Judge FECKHAM and Senator VOORHEES. That THE SUN is not aware of this is something to wonder at."

This is all gammon. While every donkey knows that there is no statute which compels any set of electors to vote for the candidates they have been nominated to vote for, the reason is that no statute is needed. If any elector of any State should undertake to try it on, he would find that there is a higher law which would punish his offence so effectually that its repetition would be impossible.

We congratulate the Hon. LEVI P. MORTON upon the victories he has scored as a stock breeder. He has won eight prizes for his eight exhibits at the Buffalo International Fair, four first-class prizes and as many second class. Emulation in this line of business is always meritorious and laudable. It elevates both man and animal. It gives us choicer stock. It promotes the interests of breeders and farmers. It enriches the country. Yet, though Mr. MORTON has won in this honorable rivalry, he may fail to carry off the prize of the Vice-Presidency.

The Congressward ambitions of Free Trader JAMES P. PIGOTT of Connecticut have been swamped beneath the protection sentiments of the farmers of his district. Gone to join ERMENTROUT *et al.* Has any one noticed how merrily proceeds of late the work of driving the RANDALL men out of the party?

Yellow fever has appeared in New York, that is, there has been one case of it here. It is a good time to remember that one case doesn't make an epidemic, and that yellow fever in this latitude at this season of the year kills few except by scaring to death. Don't be scared.

A recent magazine article asserts that our negro citizens are changing in appearance, and that many of them, in fact, are losing the flat nose, kinky hair, and other birth marks peculiar to the African race. The writer attributes this change in large part to the alleged fact that for years our colored people have shown a tendency to choose for husbands and wives individuals in whom these characteristics of their race have been least conspicuous. We are also told that for years a great many colored people have tried to do away with kinky hair by investing in various hair tonics and invigorators, and that the results of this solicitude and care on their part are shown to their great delight in their descendants.

However this may be, it is certain that some of our colored people have inherited qualities which they are not losing and which distinguish them from the mass of their fellows. Among the inferior and down-trodden tribes who were the easy prey of slave stealers, and who formed the bulk of negro immigration to this country, was here and there an unfortunate member of a superior and dominant tribe, very likely a chief or a man of some importance. A large part of the negroes of pure or nearly pure blood who have become more or less conspicuous in this country might be found, if their lineage could be traced back, to be the descendants of these superior men. This was the case with the late Rev. H. H. GARNET, whose great-grandfather was a chief in the country now known as Liberia, with the Rev. Dr. BLYDEN, who is probably the best known colored man of letters, and with others to whom knowledge of their ancestors has been accessible.

Somehow the name of a free trader is not so popular among Democrats as it is believed to have been in some former ages; and the notion of a tariff for revenue only fills them with aversion. Even FRANK HURD and ROGER QUARLES MILLS are now protectionists, and the grim and uncompromising old WILLIAM RUFUS MORRISON is about the only avowed free trader left alive.

Mr. RICHARD A. PROCTOR, who died in this city yesterday, was one of those rare men who combine the capacity for scientific attainment with an extraordinary power of expression. Both as a lecturer and a writer, Mr. PROCTOR exhibited an unusual command of his mother tongue, and great skill in seizing and holding the attention of his readers and hearers. No man in our time has done more than he did to popularize astronomy. There are, no doubt, many who will gratefully remember him for having led them up into the Delectable Mountains of that noble science, and shown them, as from a height apart, the broad prospect of the starry universe. In fact, so much did he devote himself to the popular exposition of science, that he failed to obtain that rank as a practical astronomer which his earlier work showed was within his grasp. Yet astronomy owes him no small debt, for he did much to clear the way for some of the later and most interesting conclusions of the science. In his celebrated book, "Other Worlds than Ours," which brought him at a bound into fame and popularity, he treated the old topic of the plurality of worlds in a novel manner, and suggested the lines along which speculation on that fascinating subject has extended ever since. He was a powerful advocate of the opinion that the coronal streamers seen during an eclipse of the sun are really solar appendages, at a time when that opinion still needed advocacy, and his views of the structure of the stellar and nebular universe were most original and fruitful.

But the present generation will remember him best for his delightful lectures and his entertaining treatises and articles on scientific topics which met one at every turn in the current literature of the day. As a scientific lecturer he made, perhaps, the greatest hit of this generation, and in the number of his publications on astronomy he had only one rival, the Frenchman FLAMMARION.

Mr. PROCTOR died in his prime, his age being only 51, and he was engaged at the time of his death in the publication of a historical and descriptive book on astronomy, which he intended should be the crowning work of his life.

If Chairman CULBERSON of the House Judiciary Committee, who has introduced his bill for the prevention of trusts, will furnish authentic statistics in proof of the statement that trusts always increase the market price of the commodities in which they deal, he will thus aid in enlightening Congress upon a novel subject that is of interest to the American people at this time, and about which accurate information ought to be circulated for the benefit of all concerned. He will not encounter any insurmountable difficulty in his efforts to procure the facts, if he prosecutes his researches in the proper way.

It wouldn't be surprising if the man who sent the $12,000 to Mayor HEWITT, for the Jacksonville sufferers, was JAY GOULD. It was doing good by stealth; and Mr. GOULD is one who would blush to find it fame.

The *Allentown Democrat* inquires what the Hon. WILLIAM H. SOWDEN ought to do at the November election. Mr. SOWDEN has gained a well-merited distinction in Congress by the firmness with which he resisted the passage of the MILLS bill and the undisguised manner in which he gave his vote against it. The *Democrat* thinks that he cannot vote for CLEVELAND and THURMAN, and apparently wishes to drive him out of the Democratic party. If he votes for CLEVELAND, that paper argues, the vote will sanction the MILLS bill, and will recant his opposition. But that is all bosh. He may support CLEVELAND as the regularly and unanimously nominated candidate of the Democracy, and he can still hold to his own opinion regarding protection and free trade, and express himself without reserve on these subjects. Perhaps the *Allentown Democrat* thinks that, owing to the immense Republican predominance in Pennsylvania, it is just as well to throw away some Democratic votes; but that is not the view elsewhere. In the critical States every vote must be saved, and, instead of turning such men as ARCHIE BLISS and TRUEMAN A. MERRIMAN out of the Democratic party because they went with SOWDEN and voted against the MILLS bill, it is recognized here as wise and proper that they should be retained, and reflected to Congress as faithful representatives of the United Democracy.

The Dancers' Trust, otherwise known as the American Society of Professors of Dancing, which seeks to secure the control of the market in which the trust operates, has been holding its sessions here for the past two days. The members are as secretive as are those of some other trusts, and their important proceedings have been carried on behind locked doors, through which even reporters were not allowed to pass. The facts that have leaked out lead to the idea that the dancing masters hold possession of several new wrinkles, and will turn them to their own profit in the combination they have formed against outsiders. The Dancers' Trust will be heard from during the coming winter.

EWING, having proved his remarkable abilities as a catcher, is now showing Chicago what he can do as a kicker. If it were football, ANSON'S club would be driven into the lake.

Miss HULDA BAKER, a young and, being from Syracuse, undoubtedly fair American girl, listening to Sir JOHN MACDONALD'S speech at Kingston Tuesday, was so impressed that at its conclusion she stepped to his side, grasped his hand, and assured him that this country would never shut the door against Canada, whereat Sir JOHN, mightily pleased, took the fair HULDA'S arm, escorted her about the place, and sent her off, doubtless an ardent advocate of the annexation of this country to Canada. Sir JOHN is a great man in some respects. Were statecraft but a woman's heart, what great feats of diplomacy might he not accomplish!

If a big sea serpent really stopped the voyage of the Dark Secret, the fact is far more interesting than if Capt. ANDREWS had succeeded in going across the Atlantic in her. Except perhaps for crazy sharks and ugly sea serpints a trip from Boston to Queenstown in a dory, uncomfortable as it may be, is by no means such a dangerous affair as most people imagine. Dories intended for ocean travel—we have only had a few of them so far—have two mighty good points about them, well calculated to keep off all undue nervousness in any kind of weather. They won't capsize, and they can't sink; and just what they can do is as clearly shown by a trip half way across the Atlantic as it could be by one the whole distance. Capt. ANDREWS says he will renew the attempt next year. Very well, we hope he will enjoy himself, and that no sea monster will interfere with his pleasure.

The scattered fragments of the big log raft that went to pieces in the Atlantic last year still attract the attention of passing vessels. At last accounts the more enterprising logs were at least five hundred miles east of many of their fellows, which were still circling around in the western Atlantic in a bewildered sort of a way. A large bunch of the derelicts was last seen north of the Azores, and it is not improbable that they will get into the south branch of the Gulf Stream, and go to Africa to eke out the timber resources of that continent. These runaway Canadian products have been quite inoffensive, and have not brought any ocean craft to grief. It will be a wonder, however, if isolated specimens, seen at a distance by credulous sailors, do not give rise to fresh sea serpent stories.

It has become evident that the renomination of Governor HILL will unite the Democracy of the State of New York, and lead to a grand effort, as wide as our borders, to give him a majority worthy of the party which he represents. He is needed for another term of service in Albany, and his second term will be as advantageous to the people as his first has been. There is no doubt that he will draw voters from the Republican party next November.

DISTINGUISHED FISHERMEN AT ODDS.

Senator Hampton's Reasons for Doubting the Stories of President Cleveland's Luck.

From the Courier-Journal.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—Senator Hampton of South Carolina is in a very doubtful, not to say suspicious, frame of mind. He is one of the most expert fly fishermen in the country. Many of his friends say that he is the most expert of them all. Where the President, who is also a fly fisherman of great attainments, has been whipping the waters of the James River for big and beautiful black bass, is old stamping ground for Gen. Hampton. He and Representative Singleton of Mississippi used to have great success at Dagger's Spring and other points near Clifton Forge. There they made big catches. They went there annually for years. A couple of years ago there was a great diminution of the sport. It was a long day's work with them to catch half a dozen small fish, when they had been in the habit in previous years of bagging forty or fifty big ones between sunrise and sunset. Last year they did not get a bite, and found out why the fish had disappeared. Iron mines had been opened on the river above them, with the result that matter, the presence of which the fish cannot endure, found its way into the river. Therefore the fish migrated. Now, the President, while up there, was reported by both special correspondents and by the Associated Press as casting his fly and pulling out fish just as fast as the most enthusiastic fisherman could desire. These reports are what makes Gen. Hampton doubtful, even suspicious. He said to-day that, from his knowledge of the places where the President was fishing and the existing conditions there, Mr. Cleveland could not possibly get a single strike.

"Perhaps," suggested Mr. Vest, "it is but another illustration of the proverbial 'Cleveland luck.'"

"The President is lucky," replied Gen. Hampton. "He is a lucky and an able man, but despite all that, I will never believe that he was catching fish out of waters where I know there are none. Luck would not enable anybody to do that. The only way that he could catch fish where he fished would be by working a miracle. And able as the President is, I do not believe that he can manipulate miracles."

THE OLD OBSERVER HEARD FROM.

He Will Not Take Our Advice—Here's the Pity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A recent reference to the subscriber in your excellent newspaper would seem to demand a few words of explanation.

An overappreciative "Admirer," surmising that THE SUN'S famous cat has been eating up my letters, begs for their renewal, whereupon you remark: "As he (the 'Old Observer') does not sympathise with our support of Cleveland and Thurman as the regular and unanimously nominated Democratic candidates, he does not exert himself in the study of public questions as he might be likely to do under other circumstances."

The undersigned has no quarrel with THE SUN for its support, but for himself he begs to say that it is just because he has made such a study of public questions that he has been constrained now even more than in 1884 not to support the regularly nominated Democratic candidates. Measures, not men, continues to be his maxim. The fact that the late Dr. Greeley spit upon the platform in the Scott campaign is rather admonitory now; and the allegation that because a weak Administration "made James Longstreet one of its office-holders," therefore "it whitewashed forever rebels, copperheads and all," is a point on which there may be a difference of opinion.

The subscriber continues to believe in the policy of protection, and the impolicy of internal revenue (when not needed), notwithstanding the President's flippant claptrap about "free tobacco and free whiskey."

AN OLD OBSERVER.

GEN. SHERIDAN'S MEMORY DEFENDED.

A Reply to Mr. P. M. Donohoe.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I saw in this morning's SUN a few lines written by Mr. Donohoe attacking Gen. Sheridan. I think it looks small in that gentleman to attack a man after he is dead. Why didn't he say it while Sheridan was alive?

He says "the heralds proclaim him a pious man, or at least a religious one;" and he goes on to show that he was not by disrespect to the Church whose creed he believed. This gentleman is probably a Catholic, and feels jealous and sore to see Sheridan so highly respected after doing, as he claims, injury to the Catholic Church. He does not say what Sheridan ever did to the Church, but he downs him all the same.

He says "his voluble profanity endeared him to all his soldiers." That is as much as to say all his soldiers were profane. Gen. Sheridan had his faults and weaknesses like every other human being, and there is no doubt Mr. Donohoe has his. Gen. Sheridan, with all his faults, made up for them in his virtues. He was only human. As I understand another utterance of his, Gen. Sheridan was a poor soldier. He cannot prove it. He showed pluck and fighting qualities in every battle he was in.

Neither did he profess to be an intellectual leader; as this gentleman says, "he never rose above mediocrity." But he proved himself an intellectual leader as a soldier, and he proved himself, above all, a man.

The American people know the qualities of this man and to whom they are paying their tributes, and they will not let prejudice—one of the lowest passions in the human breast—rise up against a real patriot.

NEW YORK, Sept. 11. CHAUNCEY DITHARS.

Is There a Trick in Scott's Chinese Bill?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The bill in relation to "Chinese persons" (H. of R. bill No. 11,336), introduced on Sept. 3 by Scott of Pennsylvania and passed by the House the same day, and at the present writing pending in the United States Senate, contains a provision that certain unspecified "duties, liabilities, penalties, and forfeitures," prescribed in the act of Congress of 6th May, 1882, shall be "applicable to the provisions of this act." Will you have the kindness to inform your readers what those "duties, liabilities, penalties, and forfeitures" are? And will you further give us your advice and opinion whether a penalty imposed on one offence by one law can be transferred and imposed upon another offence by another law by a mere reference to the first law, and a declaration like this in the second law? Is it not the rule that the penalty must be clearly set forth in the law in which the offence is designated and forbidden? Is it not the rule that penal legislation must be construed strictly in favor of the accused? And ought not this Scott bill to set forth these "liabilities and penalties" by name?

There have been enough Chinese restriction laws and foreign contract laws which do not execute themselves, never have been executed, and never were intended to be. The Scott bill has had a suspicious origin, and has very much the appearance of an election trick. If it were found, after it passed in its present shape, to have repealed the present Chinese restriction act, and yet not to have the effect to impose penalties for breaches of its own provisions, it would be rather an unlucky enterprise for those who got it up. G. J. T.

The Democratic Committee to Make their Fight in the West.

From the New York Times.

CHICAGO, Sept. 11.—Calvin S. Brice, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, will arrive in Chicago Friday morning to commence a new plan of campaign in the Northwestern States. The field of battle is to be transferred to the West, and a desperate effort will be made by the Democrats to carry Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The sinews of war, instead of being thrown into New York and the Eastern States, will be used in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, where, upon the broad platform of the President's message upon the subject of tariff reform, the Democrats believe that they will make immense gains among the agriculturists. Chairman Brice will look over the situation in all of the Northwestern States. The National Committee has been in receipt of requests for help from the states named, but so far has not acted in the matter.

The City's Laborers Paid Off Promptly.

Comptroller Myers, who is at his desk attending to business, in spite of Buffalo conventions, says of a published report that the laborers' pay rolls were being delayed on account of the absence of officials in Buffalo: "The statement is unjust and unfounded. The pay rolls of workmen employed by the city take precedence over all other business in this office, and have done so ever since I have been Comptroller. Under my instructions all other work is suspended in the auditing and pay bureaus when these rolls come in and they are put through. The August pay rolls received the usual prompt attention. They were received here late last Saturday afternoon, and although they were larger than usual, aggregating $187,000, they were audited and certified to the paymaster on Monday. They were paid on Tuesday."

A Window Breaker Sentenced.

Night Watchman Gagin of the Polo grounds, while riding past Mrs. Mary D. Brancard's confectionery store at 2,192 Third avenue in July last, saw a man throw a stone through Mrs. Brancard's window. Gagin got out of the car and caught the man, who said he was James Moore. Moore has been four times in State prison. Judge Martine, in sentencing Moore to 2½ years in State prison yesterday, said he believed some one induced Moore to break the window. At the time the window was broken Mrs. Brancard opposed the early closing movement, and a good many windows of its opponents were mysteriously broken at that time.

MASSACHUSETTS REPUBLICANS.

Gov. Ames and the Old State Officers Renominated with One Exception.

BOSTON, Sept. 12.—Sheltered from a drenching rain, the Republican delegates of Massachusetts met to unite upon a State ticket in Tremont Temple this morning. Prior to the Convention they thronged the Tremont House. The Convention was very largely attended, and was called to order soon after 11 o'clock by Chairman Burden. The Hon. John D. Long was chosen President, and among the Vice-Presidents was Gen. N. P. Banks. Mr. Long was escorted to the platform, and after the applause had subsided delivered a long speech on the issues of the campaign. The platform was then reported and unanimously adopted. The plank on the tariff question is as follows:

We recognize in the approaching election the importance of the issue of protection to American industries, and we uncompromisingly assert our adherence to the American idea of a collection of revenue so levied as to be of the greatest help in the development of American enterprises and the elevation of American labor. The ideal commonwealth is that which is peopled, governed, and adorned by workmen. We, therefore, insist upon that protective policy which shall keep the American market for Americans and prevent the wages of her workmen from being degraded by the competition of the pauper or the slave below the standard which shall enable them to enjoy the comfort and leisure which are becoming and essential to American citizenship.

The plank on the temperance question reads as follows:

It is notorious that the treasury of the Democratic party is largely replenished from the profits of the liquor saloon, the counsels of that party largely directed by it, and the active working forces of the Democratic party made up of the men who are connected with it, while the influence of the Church and the home to which the Republican party looks for support is resisted by it.

We know our enemy. It was natural that the statutes passed by the last Legislature designed to restrain and suppress the traffic in intoxicating drinks should have received the almost unanimous support of the Republican members and the almost unanimous opposition of the Democracy.

We approve the action of the Legislature and repeat the resolution of the Republican Convention of last year, "that, believing that the great question has reached a position where it demands settlement, we favor the submission to the people of an amendment to our Constitution prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors as a beverage," and, in order to accomplish this, we call upon all who are opposed to the political control of the grog shop to unite with the Republican party in securing the election of Senators and Representatives who will vote for the submission of this amendment and for further legislation in accord with this declaration.

A motion to proceed to the nomination of candidates for State officers was then adopted, and the Hon. F. F. Greenhalge of Lowell, in an eloquent speech, presented the name of the Hon. William E. Draper of Hopedale as a candidate for Governor. Mr. Draper's name was received with great applause. Gen. N. P. Banks then took the floor and spoke in favor of the renomination of Gov. Ames, opposing any movement for a change. A formal ballot was taken, which resulted as follows: Whole number, 1,150; necessary for a choice, 576. J. K. C. Sleeper of Cambridge, 1; William F. Draper of Hopedale, 290; Oliver Ames, 859. On motion of the Hon. F. F. Greenhalge the nomination of Mr. Ames was made unanimous.

For electors at large George D. Robinson and William F. Draper were nominated by acclamation. J. Q. A. Brackett was renominated for Lieutenant-Governor by acclamation. Henry B. Pierce for Secretary of State, Charles R. Ladd for Auditor, and A. J. Waterman for Attorney-General, all by acclamation.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot by tellers for a candidate for Treasurer. The ballot resulted as follows: Whole number of votes, 907; necessary to a choice, 484. Sanford Waters Billings, 1; Edward Bridgeman, 1; E. C. Milliken, 106; J. A. Dresser, 125; William E. Blunt, 211; George A. Marden, 523. Mr. Marden was declared the nominee, and his nomination was made unanimous. The Convention then adjourned.

PAT SHEEDY'S BIG FARO SYSTEM.

New York Gamblers Admit that he Has Won $37,000 by it in Ten Days.

Pat Sheedy arrived in town ten days ago from Chicago, where, it is reported, he had his fingers badly singed fooling with the Western tiger, and started in to wrestle with the big New York faro games that he found going in new and unexpected quarters. It was Sheedy's avowed purpose to get even for his Western losses, and as upon a previous experiment when he succeeded in mending the yawning hole in his resources, he adopted that peculiar system against the bank that his friends playfully call the "Boston snaps." He played at the tables of the four biggest games in the town, and the Gotham dealers discovered that the Boston system was cleverer than any they had, and kept steadily losing to their old-time patron.

Sheedy began by taking a cool $5,000 in one of his prolonged battles at a down-town table from Dink Davis, who plays a system himself and made $50,000 by it in not so very long ago. He also hit Al Dams, another well-known dealer, for $10,000.

One night last week while at a game a stranger in the group of players discovered Sheedy's identity, and started in to make exactly the same plays that the Bostonian did. He won two or three times before Sheedy discovered what he was up to, and then Sheedy deliberately played wild. The stranger, who had heard of Sheedy's wonderful luck the previous few days, kept right on copying until he had dropped all his cash and was forced to retire. Then Sheedy returned to his system again, and made the banker tired.

Up to Tuesday night Sheedy was reported to be $37,000 ahead. One house alone had paid out to him $17,000 of winnings.

Sheedy was on Broadway yesterday with his face wreathed with smiles. Many sporting men stopped and spoke to him about his system during his promenade. One of the gamblers whom he had hit hard saw him, too.

"I wonder if Pat'll be fool enough," he said, "to go back to Chicago and drop all this cash again. He seems to be stuck on Chicago, although he can't do anything with faro as it's played there."

TOO MUCH LAW.

The Mayor's Opinion on the Matter of Regulating Electric Currents.

Mayor Hewitt yesterday wrote a reply to A. B. Cornell's letter following up his suggestion that the high tension current electric light wires ought not to be allowed in the city. He wrote:

I infer from your letter of the 10th inst., which I have received, that you misunderstood my phrase that it was premature to discuss the subject of legislation. I do not think any discussion affecting the public interest is premature. All that I meant was that, as the Legislature did not meet until January, any discussion between you and me on the subject could not lead to any immediate action.

As to the controversy between you and the National Electric Light Association, which recently met in this city, I do not see that I am concerned. I am concerned, however, that in proportion to the service rendered there is no more danger from the electric currents than there is from the ordinary operations of society as carried on by steam and horse power. These are all regulated by law, and so are the electric currents and their mode of transmission through cities. So far from there being any deficiency of law on the subject in this city, I think we are suffering at present from too much of it.

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

As an evidence of the interest evinced in the Siedl concerts given during the summer at the Brighton Beach, the Librarian of the Brooklyn Mercantile Library, Mr. Bardwell, states that during the latter part of July and August, and up to the present time, he has been unable to keep up with the demand for books on Wagner, Beethoven, and on music. Orders have been received in great numbers for everything printed on the subject of "Wagner" and the series of histories on "Music and Musicians" has been in constant demand. This is one of the surest tests that the thinking part of the community have been benefited by the educational work done by Seidl at Brighton Beach.

Long Islanders are particularly fond of Biblical names for places, and the fact was amusingly emphasized one day last week on a Brighton Beach train. A passenger greeted an acquaintance who boarded the train at one of the stations with the question:

"Where did you come from, John?"